

May 24, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Pentecost, Team Grace! Today, the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles and Our Lady. At our Baptism and Confirmation, we also had a “Pentecost moment.” The Spirit comes in power. He fills our hearts and helps us declare that Jesus Christ is Lord. The Spirit is always at work within us. We are called to listen for his voice and follow his promptings in all we say and do.

Thank you to everyone who wore red on this Pentecost Sunday!

Team Grace, it’s good to be back! I had a wonderful pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, but there’s no place like home. You were missed! It’s very good to be back!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Tomorrow, Monday, May 25, is Memorial Day. It is a solemn day of remembrance for all Americans. For Memorial Day, Confessions will be heard from 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM, Mass is at 11:00 AM, and then a Memorial Procession to the Holy Angels Columbarium and a Blessing of the Memorial Wreath will follow Mass. After the blessing, we’ll have a Patriotic Fellowship at the columbarium. *All are welcome!*

In observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, the parish campus will be open only for Confessions, the Memorial Mass and Fellowship. All other events are suspended.

This Tuesday, May 26, at 7:00 PM, we have the next session of our SOAP Work Group. All parishioners are invited to come and help label soap and make-up removers that will be placed in areas frequented by those enslaved in human trafficking.

This Saturday, May 30, we’re very honored to host the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage! Mass will begin at 10:30 AM, followed by an indoor Eucharistic Procession. Lunch and fellowship will follow the Mass. *Please arrange to carpool as best you can.*

This Saturday, May 30, after Vespers at 4:00 PM, we’ll offer a Blessing of Saint Dymphna to all those who suffer with mental or emotional challenges.

As we near the end of an academic year and many people begin their summer travels, I want to remind everyone of our grave obligation to attend Sunday Mass. As you travel, I recommend using one of the many digital services that indicate local Mass times, such as [Catholic Mass Times](#). *As you travel, be sure to make it to Sunday Mass!*

The [calendar for the program year](#) 2025/2026 is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all our events and programs for the year. This is posted for your reference and information.

Some other events I'd like to highlight:

On Sunday, June 7, we'll have our annual Corpus Christi Procession after our 11:00 AM Mass. An ice cream social will follow after the procession. All are welcome!

Team Grace, our nation is receiving a great birthday gift from the Holy Spirit! In the coming year, as we celebrate our 250th birthday as a nation, Venerable Fulton Sheen will be beatified on American soil in late September! Fulton Sheen was (and is) a noted preacher and teacher of our Faith. We need his message today!

Our Bishop has asked our parish to take the lead and organize the diocesan pilgrimage to Saint Louis for the Beatification Mass! In response to this summons, we have [this pilgrimage](#) planned. Everyone is invited! I hope many of you can come on the pilgrimage!

Grotto Update: We have been evaluating several contractors. The list started with over 20 and moved to about 8. We are now seriously looking at two contractors. Once our contractor is selected, they will go through the diocesan approval process. Wesley Dry, our Director of Buildings and Grounds, is heading up this effort. He has a committee of parishioners who are skilled in different areas of construction assisting him. It's our hope to have a contractor selected by July and then begin the diocesan process as soon as possible. More updates will follow.

We are now at **\$710,000** for Phase II. Phase Two of Mary's Grotto will enlarge the size of the Grotto, extend its height, and add a large patio area with an outdoor altar in front of the Grotto. As we move forward, I ask for your continued support of our "Capital Projects." I would like for us to have additional funds in case we exceed the original cost projections of Mary's Grotto. If we don't use the collected funds, we'll roll the funds over to some of our other capital projects.

As a reminder, our parish staff can be readily reached via email. [Here is the staff directory.](#)

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

In Christ,

Father Jeffrey Kirby

Very Rev. Jeffrey F. Kirby, STD, VF
Pastor/Dean of Rock Hill Deanery
www.frkirby.com