

May 31, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This Sunday, we pause and reflect upon the Most Holy Trinity, which is the central mystery of the Christian faith. In reflecting upon the revelation of God, we realize that - in his innermost essence - God is not solitude, but family. He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! And we are made in his image. As baptized Christians, the Holy Trinity dwells in us!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage! We had a beautiful Mass and fellowship. What a blessing that our parish was chosen to be one of the 18 stops of the pilgrimage this summer!

And if the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage wasn't enough, we have sign-ups in the narthex this weekend for our Nocturnal Adoration this Friday and Saturday, June 5-6. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family. Our regular First Friday and First Friday observances are this June 5-6.

Next Sunday, June 7, we'll re-commission and bless the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at our parish. I'm grateful for the service of these men and women to our Eucharistic Lord and to the homebound and those in care facilities.

Also, next 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!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

As we left the Easter Season, we now return to the [Angelus Prayer](#) before Mass. I encourage parishioners to pray the Angelus throughout the day, at home, work, and during recreation.

As we prepare to be a parish with seminarians, we will take on additional expectations. As such, I'd like to highlight some current needs:

- When a young man goes to the seminary for our diocese, he does not pay for the expenses of his formation. It is considered a gift from the Church and is seen as an investment in the formation of the laity. Parishes that have

seminarians, therefore, are asked to contribute generously to the support of our seminarians. As such, we have created a parish Support Our Seminarians Fund and are seeking to raise \$210,000 in support of our diocesan seminarians. We currently have \$60,000 in the fund! Everyone is asked to contribute what they can to this fund. Please mark “Seminarian Fund” on your online giving or on the “memo” line of your check. Thank you in advance for whatever you’re able to give.

- Currently, one of our seminarians is in need of a car. Periodically, there are parishioners who have a used older car and are looking to find a new home for it. If that applies to you and you’d like to give your car to a seminarian, please reach out to me directly. Please note that this would be a direct gift to a seminarian and is not tax deductible.

This Monday, June 1, our daily Mass will be at 5: 15 PM. I’ll be at a county task force meeting in the afternoon. The holy Rosary will still be prayed at 11:00 AM at the Holy Angels Columbarium. Our Prayers for the Poor Souls will be at Noon and our afternoon Adoration will start a little early. There are no afternoon Confessions.

On Monday evening, June 1, at 7:00 PM, we have a session of our monthly Peregrine Cancer Support Group. If you are fighting cancer, or are in remission, this faith-based support group is for you!

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 Friday, June 12, the famed Catholic psychologist, [Dr. Ray Guarendi](#), will be visiting our parish. There is a Sacred Music Concert at 6:30 PM, a talk by Dr Ray on depression and anxiety at 7:00 PM, and then a Fellowship/Book-Signing after the talk. Free copies of Dr Ray’s book, *Thinking Like Jesus: The Psychology of a Faithful Disciple*, will be given out for free. All are welcome!

On Sunday, June 28, we are having a Patriotic Service Sunday. Our patriotic service will include a Food Drive and a Blood Drive.

For the Patriotic Blood Drive, all parishioners who are able, are asked to sign up to give blood. There is a pressing need in our area for blood. Please fulfill your Christian and patriotic duty to serve life by giving blood! [You can sign up here.](#)

For our Patriotic Food Drive, we are asking parishioners to bring one (or some) of the following items: Grits; Instant Potatoes; Canned Potatoes. Please bring these items with you to Mass. You can drop them off at our pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be on site to help you.

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