

June 7, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! This Sunday, we once again celebrate the Lord's True Presence among us in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Lord Jesus loves us and desires to be with us. Our task is to open our hearts and accept his Presence in our lives.

This 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:

I'd like to encourage all parishioners to generously support our parish *Support Our Seminarians Fund*. We are seeking to raise \$210,000 in support of our diocesan seminarians. Everyone is asked to contribute what they can.

In addition, I renew my appeal to any parishioner who may 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 Tuesday, June 9, at 7:00 PM, we have the next session of our SOAP Work Group. All parishioners are invited to come and label soap and make-up removers that will be placed in areas frequented by those in human trafficking.

This Wednesday, June 10, at 10:30 AM, we have the next gathering of our Eucharistic Kids! All small children and stay-home parents are invited to come for Adoration in the church and playtime in the Parish Hall.

This Friday, June 12, the famed Catholic psychologist and television personality, [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 free. All are welcome!

As academic years conclude 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:

Next Saturday and Sunday, June 13-14, our Mass Intentions will be open for the next program year (July 1 – June 30). Our intentions tend to fill up quickly. If you want a specific day or intention remembered at the altar, please plan to stop by the Reception Area and request your Mass intention. Here is the schedule:

- Saturday, June 13
 - 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM
 - After Vespers - 5:15 PM

- Sunday, June 14
 - 8:00 AM -8:45 AM
 - 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
 - 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

On Saturday, June 13, our Saint Cecilia Girls Choir will be visiting and singing for the residents in several of the care facilities in our territorial parish. *Thank you, Girls Choir!*

Next Sunday, June 14, at our 11:00 AM Mass, our parish will spiritually participate in the Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ by our American Bishops. All parishioners are invited to attend the 11:00 AM Mass and be a part of this Consecration.

Please note that our Monday evening Stations of the Cross will be moving to Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. Our last Stations on Monday will be June 15, and our Tuesday Stations will start on June 23.

On Sunday, June 28, we're 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 **\$720,000** 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

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