

June 21, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As we make our way through Ordinary Time we pause today and express gratitude to our fathers. We thank our fathers for the love and selfless service they give to their families. *Thank you, Dads!*

At the end of our Masses this Sunday, we'll offer a blessing to all fathers. *Happy Father's Day!*

Team Grace, I'm very happy to announce that a third son of our parish has been accepted to the seminary! London Shirley went in front of the Seminary Admissions Board this past week and was accepted by Bishop Jacques. *Congratulations, London!*

London, Noah, and Zach will head out this August for Saint Joseph's Seminary in Covington, Louisiana. Please remember each of them in your prayers. I'll post more information about our seminarians as August approaches.

I'd like to encourage all parishioners to generously support our parish *Support Our Seminarians Fund*. Everyone is asked to contribute what they can!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

The parish has a full-time employment/ministry opportunity. We are currently looking for a Business Manager with bookkeeping and operational skills. Here's the [profile of the position](#). If anyone is interested in applying, please send your resume directly to me: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestandioocese.org.

This past week, after increasing our familiarity with the prayer, we started singing the *Our Father* in Latin at our daily Masses. As you come to daily Mass, please take a sheet with the English/Latin version of the prayer. Please also note that the Latin version of the *Our Father* can be found in the *Liturgy of the Hours* book that is sent to you monthly.

Starting this Monday, June 22, our parish campus and church building will close at 5:00 PM. We attempted to have the campus and church open longer, but it didn't seem to catch on. We'll wait for a while and try again down the road.

This Tuesday, June 23, I'll be in Charleston for diocesan meetings. Father Nicholas Kramer will be visiting the parish again and covering the Noon Mass and afternoon Confessions. Please note that there are no morning or evening Confessions. Confessions will only be heard after Mass.

Starting this Tuesday, June 23, our weekly Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

On Tuesday evening, June 23 at 7:00 PM, we have the next session of our SOAP Work Group. Parishioners are invited to come and label bars of soap and make-up removers that will be placed in areas frequented by people stuck in human trafficking.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this Saturday, June 27 at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come to this peaceful, prayerful protest against abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Next 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.

The [calendar for the program year 2026/2027](#) 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:

Our next Nocturnal Adoration on July 3-4 will be a Patriotic Nocturnal Adoration. Everyone is invited to come and pray for our nation as we celebrate her 250th birthday! May God continue to bless and protect the United States of America!

Since July 4 falls on a Saturday, our parish will observe the holiday on Monday, July 6. There is no public Mass. All events are suspended.

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: Currently, 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 the end of next month and then start the diocesan process as soon as possible. More updates will follow.

We are now at **\$725,000** 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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