

June 28, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time is a summons to recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ. We must declare in our hearts and announce to the world that Jesus Christ is Lord. Such a declaration demands a specific way of life. It is a path of discipleship. We follow the Lord, not ourselves or any ideology of our fallen world. *Jesus Christ is Lord!*

This Sunday before all our Masses, we'll show a brief video from our Bishop on the nation's 250th birthday.

This Sunday is also a *Patriotic Service Sunday* for our parish. Our service will include:

- Sign-ups for our next Nocturnal Adoration this July 3-4. It will be a Patriotic Nocturnal Adoration. Everyone is invited to come and pray for our nation. May God continue to bless and protect the United States of America!
- 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.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'm happy to announce that we have collected the \$210,000 in support of our seminarians! *Thank you, Team Grace!* The funds will now be transferred to the diocesan Seminarian Fund.

As we move forward, we're going to keep our parish *Support Our Seminarians Fund* as an on-going, year-round fund. And so, as we go through the year, you're always welcome and encouraged to make a donation in support of our seminarians.

This Friday, July 3, at 7:00 PM, we have our First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. Please note the Mass is at 7:00 PM. The holy Rosary is prayed before the Mass at 6:30 PM. Confessions are heard after the Mass until Midnight. Adoration begins after the Mass and continues through the night until 10:20 AM on Saturday.

This Saturday morning, July 4, is First Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our First Saturday observances include: Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM; the holy Rosary at 10:30 AM; the Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM; and our intercessory prayer teams and monthly Parish Brunch after the Healing Mass. All are welcome!

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@charlestandiocese.org.

Last 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.

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:

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.

The nine-day preparation for investiture (or devotional re-investiture) in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel begins on July 8. There are many resources to make this preparation, including a book I wrote for Sophia Press, [A Journey to Mount Carmel: A Nine-Day Preparation for Investiture in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady](#).

Team Grace, our nation is receiving a great birthday gift from the Holy Spirit! In the coming year, as we celebrate our 250 th birthday as a nation, Venerable Fulton Sheen
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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

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