

July 26, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! We continue our walk through Ordinary Time. For the last several weeks, we've gone over various aspects of our Faith. For this Sunday, I'd like for us to return to a deep dive in the Sacred Scriptures. This Sunday, we'll review how the Church selects the Sunday readings and see what the Word of God has to say to us today!

This Sunday, July 26, in honor of Saints Joachim and Anne, we are happy and honored to offer a special blessing to all our grandparents! Thank you for the love and selfless service you give to your families!

This Sunday in the narthex, we have signups for the Saint Cecilia Girls Choir. All girls and young women of the parish are invited to join the choir and serve the Lord and our parish through sacred song.

This Sunday, July 26, is a Fellowship Sunday. Everyone is invited to join us around 12:15 PM for donuts and fellowship.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This week, our parish seminarians are at the annual Seminarian Gathering in Charleston. The men will have Mass with the Bishop, and he'll formally bless their cassocks. Please pray for Noah, Zach, and London!

Seminarian Review: In this third of three installments on our parish seminarians, I'd like to highlight Zach Savage. Zach comes from a large family and has eight siblings. He graduated from Legion Charter School this past May and has served our parish altar since he was twelve years old. Zach was a student athlete and played basketball, soccer, and lacrosse. He enjoys camping, playing the guitar, listening to music, and spending time with friends. Zach previously worked at Emilio's Pizza Kitchen before joining our parish staff this summer as a Maintenance Assistant/Master of Ceremonies. Please pray for Zach as he prepares to leave for seminary to actively discern God's will. The parish will host a Farewell Fellowship for Zach and our other seminarians next Sunday, August 2, at 12:15 PM.

This Tuesday evening, July 28, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Deacon Tom Heath will host a formation night entitled, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About

Annulments.” Everyone is invited to come and learn about the Church’s discernment and pastoral care in the annulment process.

This Thursday, July 30, I’m taking a vacation day and will be away with family to celebrate my mother’s 70th birthday! There will be no morning Confessions, no Noon Mass, and no Fellowship. Morning Prayer (Lauds), Adoration, the Rosary, and the Saint Josephine Novena (at Noon) will still be offered. *Please say a prayer for my mom!*

Please note that the actual first Saturday in August is August 1, and so – as is our custom here – we’ll move our First Saturday observances to the following week, August 7-8, so that our First Friday and First Saturday are together.

Next Sunday, August 2, we’ll offer our annual blessing of students to all those who are preparing to begin or continue their studies this Fall.

The parish is offering three one-time \$5,000 Catholic Education Grants to assist parents in sending their children to a Catholic School, a Christian School (where no Catholic equivalent is available), or a school for special needs (i.e., deaf, autistic, etc.). Any active parishioner is qualified to apply for one of the grants. Grants will be given based on financial need and involvement in parish life. If you’d like to apply, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org. Inquiries will be received until July 27.

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:

On Monday, August 3, our daily Mass will be at 9:15 AM (and not Noon). I’ll be in Lancaster for county meetings. Our Prayers for the Poor Souls in Purgatory will be at Noon, and our afternoon Adoration will begin a little earlier. There are no afternoon Confessions.

On Sunday, August 9, we’ll have parish-wide School Supply Drive. All parishioners are asked to bring one (or more) of the following items with them to Mass: book bags, glue sticks, and dry erase markers. Parishioners can drop off the items at the pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands Ministry will be on-site to help you.

On Sunday, August 9, we will once again host two blood buses. Please sign-up now to give blood and save lives. [Here's the link to sign up.](#)

Please note that the Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption, August 15, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. Since the holy day falls on a Saturday, the US Bishops have dispensed the obligation.

I'm happy to announce that the parish is launching the new Guadalupe Discipleship Group this Fall. The group is for young women in 8th – 12th grade. It will meet monthly on Sundays from 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM. The first meeting of the group is Sunday, August 16. For more information, please reach out to Katie Jasinski at katie.jasinski08@gmail.com.

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: Our Grotto Ad Hoc Committee, which consists of parishioners who are skilled in different areas of construction, met and are in the processing of selecting our proposed contractor for the grotto project. Once we've selected a contractor, we'll start the diocesan process to have the contractor approved. More updates will follow.

We are now at **\$730,000** 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