

August 30, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The call of the Lord Jesus is a life-long call. We are continually invited to renew and go deeper in our commitment to him. How are we doing in this continual work? Are we responding to the call of the Lord Jesus and surrendering our lives to him?

This Sunday, August 30, I celebrate my tenth anniversary as the pastor of Our Lady of Grace! The 11:00 AM Mass will be a Mass of Thanksgiving. There will be a fellowship after Mass and I'm happy to give blessings to parishioners and families of the parish.

In honor of my anniversary, I want to highlight the ministries and service opportunities here at our parish. And so, this Sunday, August 30, we're also going to have a Ministry Fair after the 11:00 AM Mass. The various ministries will be represented. Parishioners are encouraged to come and learn about - and sign up for - new ministries and service opportunities. As a part of the Ministry Fair, we'll also have an ice cream truck, pretzel and cotton candy truck, hot dogs, and cake! All are welcome!

In the narthex this Sunday, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday and Saturday, September 4-5. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and our parish family.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'd like to welcome Tiffanie Susinski to our parish staff. Tiffanie comes on board as our new Parish Comptroller. In this capacity, Tiffanie will conduct and supervise the financial, Human Resources, and other administrative areas of our parish. *Welcome, Tiffanie!* Please reach out to Tiffanie if you have any questions about your tithe or other financial matters.

I want to thank Brock Conner for his service to the parish as our Business Manager. Brock is leaving our staff to pursue some other opportunities. We wish him the best in his future endeavors!

This Tuesday, September 1, our new Stabat Mater Prayer Group is meeting. It is a closed prayer group of the mothers of the seminarians of our deanery. Please join

your prayers to those of these holy women as they pray for their sons who are actively discerning God's will.

This Wednesday, September 2, there will be no morning Confessions. We'll have a guest priest for the Noon Mass and afternoon Confessions. I'll be in Charleston for diocesan meetings but will be back in time for evening Confessions.

This Friday, September 4, at 7:00 PM, we have our First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. 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, September 5, is our observance of the 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 [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, September 7, the parish campus and church will be closed for Labor Day. There is no public Mass. All events are suspended. May God bless our nation and keep our workforce strong!

On Tuesday, September 8, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, our Resurrection Bereavement Group will begin. The Resurrection Bereavement Group is a ten-session, faith-based program that walks people through the delicate process of grieving the loss of a loved one. For more information, contact Sue Garera at sgarera@charlestdiocese.org.

On Tuesday, September 8, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, our Mother Drexel Stitch and Chat resumes. The group is open to all registered parishioners, who are interested in crochet, knitting, or any needlework. All experience levels welcome. For more information, contact Patti Bennett – pbennett5678@gmail.com

This Fall, Deacon Tom Heath will continue his deep dive into the spiritual treasury of the Church. For the Fall, the Deacon will explore Fulton Sheen's teachings on victory over vice. The Deacon's course will consist of ten sessions on Tuesdays from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, and will start on Tuesday, September 8. For more information, please reach out to Deacon Heath: tomheath@charlestandiocese.org.

Starting on Tuesday, September 8, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, the parish will host a weekly session of Soul Core, which is a Christ-centered practice that integrates physical movement, mental reflection, and spiritual devotion through the Rosary. For more information, contact Jamie Reidy jamielreidy@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, September 9, at 6:45 PM, our parish Bible Study will start back up. This season we begin the Book of Numbers. The first fifteen minutes of the study is for prayer and then instruction begins at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

On Friday evening, September 11, at 6:30 PM, the parish will host a countywide *We Will Never Forget* Ecumenical Prayer Service. We'll pray for God's blessings on our country and commemorate the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our nation. The service is open to the public. Please invite your friends, co-workers, and neighbors to come and pray for our homeland. A *Celebrate America Fellowship* will follow the prayer service. All are welcome!

Please promote the prayer service in your neighborhoods, workplaces, among your circle of friends, and through other outlets. [Here is a flyer](#) that can help in promoting the event.

Starting this Fall, two nurses of our parish will be facilitating a new Calcutta Loved Ones Support Group for the loved ones of those who have addictions (alcoholism, drugs, pornography, gambling, shopping, etc.). The group will meet for thirteen consecutive sessions on Mondays at 2:00 PM starting September 14. All loved ones are invited. For more information, please reach out to Sue Garera at SGarera@charlestandiocese.org.

Grotto Update: Our Grotto Ad Hoc Committee, which consists of parishioners who are skilled in different areas of construction, is still assessing proposed contractors 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 **\$745,000** 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

Our parish is blessed to have three young men in the seminary. Please remember Noah Rusciolelli, London Shirley, and Zach Savage in your prayers. The seminarians can be reached via mail at: Saint Joseph’s Seminary College, 75376 River Road, Saint Benedict, LA 70457
--