

August 9, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time is a summons to rededicate ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We are invited to once again say in our hearts and show by our lives that Jesus Christ is Lord. Have we surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ? What are we holding back?

Today, 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.

This Sunday, August 9, we're also hosting two blood buses. Please sign-up now to give blood and save lives. [Here's the link to sign up.](#)

This Sunday, August 9, 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 our Lord and our parish through sacred song.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Tuesday, August 11, at 7:00 PM, our SOAP Work Group will meet and wrap soap and/or make-up removers that will be placed in areas frequented by those in human trafficking.

This Thursday, August 13, our daily Mass will be at 9:15 AM (and not 12 Noon). I'll be away at a deanery meeting that afternoon. Morning Prayer (Lauds) will still be prayed at 10:00 AM, morning Adoration will be offered as usual, the holy Rosary will be prayed at 11:30 AM, and our weekly Novena to Saint Josephine Bakhita will be prayed at 12 Noon. There are no morning Confessions and no afternoon Fellowship.

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.

Next Saturday, August 15, there will be no afternoon Confessions. I'll be with Bishop Jacques at Saint Mary's Parish in Rock Hill for an event and meetings. We will still, however, have Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM.

I'm happy to announce that the parish is launching the new Guadalupe Discipleship Group next Sunday, August 16, from 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM. The group will provide discipleship training within the feminine genius for young women in the 8th – 12th grade. For more information, please reach out to Katie Jasinski at katie.jasinski08@gmail.com.

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:

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@charlestdiocese.org.

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@charlestdiocese.org.

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, 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 **\$740,000** 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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