

August 16, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time marches on and calls us to pause and recommit ourselves to Jesus Christ. Are we seeking to live our lives for the Lord? Have we surrendered all things to him?

This Sunday, in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our parish faith formation for children. All children, grades 2-12, are welcome! Sign-ups can also be done through our parish website. [Here's the link.](#)

I'm happy to announce that the parish is launching the new Guadalupe Discipleship Group today, 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.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Wednesday, August 19, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, the parish is hosting another Meet-and-Greet for our Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). The OCIA is the process someone goes through to be baptized or that a non-Catholic baptized person goes through to be received into the fullness of the Church. There is no commitment. The evening is a casual event to learn about the process and ask any questions you have about the Catholic Church. All are welcome! For more information, email Deacon Binh at bdavis@charlestandiocese.org.

This Thursday morning, August 20, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, we have the next gathering of our Gianna Caregiver Support Group. This is a monthly group for any Catholic who is providing or managing the care of an adult loved one. For more information, please reach out to Ellen Belk at keepinmindinc@gmail.com. Please note: the support group meets on the third Thursday of every month.

Our next Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility is this Saturday, August 22, at 8:30 AM. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come and pray for the protection of all children and the end of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Next Sunday, August 23, around 12:15 PM, we have one of our regular Fellowship Sundays. All are invited to come for donuts and fellowship!

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 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 afterwards 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, on August 30, we're going to have a Ministry Fair after the 11:00 AM Mass. The various ministries will be represented, and parishioners are encouraged to learn about and sign up for new ministries and opportunities to serve.

On Tuesday, September 8, from 10:30 – 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@charlestdiocese.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.

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.

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!

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

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