

**August 23, 2026**

***From Father Kirby...***

*Happy Sunday, Team Grace!* The season of Ordinary Time summons us to evaluate our discipleship to Jesus Christ and recommit ourselves to his Lordship. We are called to declare and to live by the truth: Jesus Christ is Lord!

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

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.](#)

Some things happening at the parish this week:

I'm grateful to the *Lancaster News* for running a recent article on our three seminarians. [Here's the link](#) to the article. A hard copy of the article can also be found on our bulletin board in the hallway.

This Tuesday, August 25, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Deacon Heath will host a one-session formation night on *How to Pray the Liturgy of the Hours*. If you need help, or have questions, navigating the orange book that's sent to you every month, this formation night is for you!

This Wednesday, August 26, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Deacon Binh is hosting a one-time formation night on *Understanding Mary Through the Bible*. The Deacon is responding to multiple different questions about Mary and her place in the plan of salvation and in our lives of faith. All are welcome!

Next 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, next 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.

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 Tuesday, September 1, our new Stabat Mater Prayer Group is meeting. The group consists of the mothers of the seminarians of our deanery. Please spiritually join these holy women as they pray for their sons who are actively discerning God's will.

On Monday, September 7, the parish campus and church will be closed for Labor Day. There is no public Mass. All events are suspended.

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@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:sgarera@charlestandiocese.org).

On Tuesday, September 8, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, our Mother Drexel Stich and Catch 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

*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  
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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