

September 13, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time is an opportunity for renewal and recommitment to Jesus Christ. We are disciples of the Lord. Are we faithfully following him?

This Sunday, September 13, around 12:15 PM, we're having a modified Fall Festival. The festival will be a parish barbeque lunch, with sides and games. *Everyone is invited!*

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Our Mass tomorrow, Monday, September 14, will be at 9:15 AM (and not 12 Noon). *Please note, however, that our campus doesn't open until 9:00 AM.* I'll be away attending a meeting of the Lancaster SC Mental Health Task Force. There are no Confessions in the afternoon. Our Prayers for the Poor Souls of Purgatory will be at 12 Noon, and our afternoon Adoration will start a little early (right after the purgatory prayers).

Tomorrow, Monday, September 14, from 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Deacon Doc is starting up our parish Book Club. For this season the group is reading *Introduction to the Devout Life* by Saint Francis de Sales. All are welcome!

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 tomorrow, Monday, September 14. *All loved ones are invited.* For more information, please reach out to Sue Garera at SGarera@charlestdiocese.org.

This Thursday, September 17, from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, the parish is honored to host a Police Officer Appreciation Luncheon. Over 50 police officers from throughout South Carolina will be participating in the event. We are grateful for our police officers and pray for their safety and protection!

Due to the Police Officer Appreciation Luncheon, we will not have Fellowship this Thursday afternoon, September 17.

This coming Saturday, September 19, our parish lectors will be assembling for their annual Fall Workshop. Please pray for our lectors as they pray together and work to improve their ministry of the proclamation of God's Word.

Also, this coming Saturday, September 19, all young adults (ages 18-35, single and married) are invited to attend our new John Paul II Young Adult Fellowship. The fellowship begins with Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM. After Solemn Vespers, the group will meet in the parish kitchen. Chef Mark Moreno, who is a parishioner and one of the senior chefs at Steak 48, will do a cooking class with us while sharing his testimony.

Next Sunday, September 20, from 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM, our Guadalupe Discipleship Group is meeting. The group is for young women (grades 8-12) who want to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus.

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:

As the parish continues to grow, we've added some additional members to our staff:

- *We welcome Tony Pasquarelli* back to staff as our Logistics Coordinator. Tony assists with the cleanliness and well-being of our church building. Tony answers to Wesley Dry, our Director of Buildings and Grounds.
- *We welcome Angela Martin* as the new Choirmaster of our Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir. Angela will work with the young women in the choir and their families. Angela answers to Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Music.
- *We welcome Justin Ruh* as our new Maintenance Assistant. Justin will assist Wesley in the care and upkeep of our campus and church building.

As we welcome new members to the staff, [here is the summary](#) of our current staff members and their principal duties.

In speaking about staff, there is one additional position that I am working to fill. We need an additional staff member to assist with volunteer recruitment, processing, and training. The position will also involve promoting, maintaining, and growing our parish ministries. Applicants must be practicing Catholics, work well with others, skilled at multitasking, and attentive to details. The position can be heavy part-time

or full-time. If anyone is interested, please send a cover letter and resume to me at Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org.

Our Charitable Fund has grown and so we recently issued charitable grants to different entities: \$10,000 was given to our sister parish, Saint Catherine's in Lancaster, for service and outreach to our Spanish-speaking Catholics and \$5,000 was given to the Winthrop Catholic chaplaincy.

On Tuesday – Saturday, September 22-26, I'll be in Saint Louis for the Beatification of Fulton Sheen. There will be no public Masses or Confessions on these days. Our regular Morning Prayer (Lauds), Evening Prayer (Vespers), Adoration, holy Rosary, and other devotionals will all be prayed as normal. Please check the [public calendar](#), however, since some of the times might be slightly adjusted.

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