

September 20, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! As Mother Church highlights our call to faithful discipleship in the season of Ordinary Time, this week she gives us a shining example of someone who loved and selflessly served the Lord Jesus. This week, in Saint Louis, Archbishop Fulton Sheen will be beatified! Through his beatification, we are invited to become spiritual friends with him and to become even more convicted by him of what it means for us to follow the way of the Lord Jesus. *Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!*

This week, I'll be away for the Beatification Mass and celebrations. Deacon Heath and several parishioners will also be at the festivities. And Monty Bennett, our Director of Sacred Music, is serving as one of the organists for the Beatification Mass! Yes, Team Grace, we're going to be all over this Beatification Mass!

And it gets better! Through Monty's contacts in musical circles, we were given the first opportunity to purchase the new organ that was built for the Beatification Mass. Yes, after the Mass in Saint Louis, the organ is going to be packed up and shipped right here to Indian Land, South Carolina!

Our current organ was already previously owned when we purchased it. It's been good to us, but it's been having periodic problems. It's been on our mind to look for a new organ for some time, and – providentially - this opportunity has opened up! The new organ will cost us \$143,000. We have the funds in our parish accounts to cover this expense. If any parishioners, however, would like to make donations to lessen this expense, please reach out to me directly: Jeffrey.kirby@charlestdiocese.org.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Today, 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.

This Tuesday – Saturday, September 22-26, while I'm in Saint Louis for the Beatification of Fulton Sheen, *there will be no public Masses or Confessions*. 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.

This Wednesday evening, September 23, at 6:45 PM, we will still have our adult Bible Study on the Book of Numbers. I'll pre-record the lesson and have it played for the study. All are welcome!

Next Saturday, September 26, at 8:30 AM, we will have our monthly Prayer Outreach at the local abortion facility. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to join in this peaceful, prayerful protest against the horror of abortion. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC.

Next Saturday, September 26, there will be no Confessions. However, we will still pray Formal Vespers at 4:00 PM followed by Fellowship.

Next Sunday, September 27, at our 11:00 AM Mass, the Saint Cecilia Girls' Choir are returning from their summer hiatus and will be leading us in sacred song. Thank you, Girls' Choir!

Next Sunday, September 27, after the 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have one of our periodic Fellowship Sundays. Please come and join your fellow parishioners for donuts and conversation.

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:

We are currently in need of 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@charlestandiocese.org.

Our new Fulton Sheen Organ will be arriving on Monday, September 28. The workers will need several days to install the organ and adjust our speakers and sound system. As such, we will need to slightly adjust our parish logistics and schedule. In particular, the Blessed Sacrament will be moved into a place of repose in the main

sacristy. Rooms 1 and 2 of the Parish Hall will be temporarily transformed into “The Chapel.” We will have the Liturgy of the Hours, Mass, Adoration, the holy Rosary, and all of our devotions in the temporary Chapel. For safety reasons, there will be no admittance into the main church. While this will pose a slight inconvenience for us, it is a small price to pay for having such a refined, beautiful, and historically significant organ at our parish! *Thanks be to God!*

In addition to the above, I’ll be in Charleston for diocesan meetings on Monday, September 28. Father Nicholas Kramer will offer our Noon Mass and hear Confessions after Mass. Confessions will be heard face-to-face in our Administrative Office, which will become a temporary “Reconciliation Room.”

On Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29 and 30, I’ll be in local meetings that require my attendance. As such:

- Our Mass on Tuesday, September 29, will be at 5:15 PM.
- Our Mass on Wednesday, September 30, will be at 12:15 PM.
- There will be no *morning Confessions* on these days.
- Confessions will be heard on Wednesday afternoon and Tuesday and Wednesday evening.
- All other events will be at their regular times, except our afternoon Novena will be moved to 12 Noon on Tuesday and our afternoon Adoration on Tuesday will start a little early (right after the novena prayers).

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 **\$750,000** 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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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