

September 27, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! It was a tremendous blessing to be at the Beatification Mass of Fulton Sheen this past week. What a joy it is for us to now have a new declared Blessed in heaven interceding and befriending us! With gratitude for all the graces, it's good to be home! *Blessed Fulton Sheen, pray for us!*

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday-Saturday, October 2-3. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family.

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

This Sunday, 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.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

Our new "Fulton Sheen Organ" will be arriving tomorrow, 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 for this coming week. Also, 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 this 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 this Tuesday, September 29, will be at 5:15 PM.
- Our Mass this Wednesday, September 30, will be at 12:15 PM.
- There will be no *morning Confessions* on these days.
- Confessions will be heard this Wednesday afternoon and Tuesday and Wednesday evening in our temporary Reconciliation Room.
- Due to the workers in the main church for the organ installment, we will not have faith formation this Wednesday evening (September 30).
- We will still have Vespers and OCIA this Wednesday evening.
- All other events will be at their regular times, except our afternoon Novenas will be moved to 12 Noon on Tuesday and our afternoon Adoration on Tuesday will start a little early (right after the novena prayers).

This Tuesday, September 29, from 1:00 PM - 2:45 PM, we'll have the first session of our Senior Game Day. All senior parishioners are invited to come for games and fellowship!

This Friday, October 2, at 7:00 PM, we have our First Friday Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart. The holy Rosary is prayed before the Mass at 6:30 PM. Confessions are heard after the Mass until Midnight. Adoration begins after the Mass and continues through the night until 10:20 AM on Saturday.

This Saturday morning, October 3, is our observance of the First Saturday in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our First Saturday observances include: Confessions from 9:00 AM – 10:20 AM; the holy Rosary at 10:30 AM; the Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 AM; and our intercessory prayer teams and monthly Parish Brunch after the Healing Mass. All are welcome!

This coming Saturday, October 3, we will observe the ancient Franciscan custom of the Transitus during Solemn Vespers at 4:00 PM. All are invited to come, pray the psalms, and observe the solemn remembrance of the holy death and passing into eternal life of Saint Francis of Assisi. A Fellowship will follow Vespers.

Next Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 PM, we'll have our annual Blessing of Pets in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. The blessing will be at the pavilion. All pets – large and small – are welcome!

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 Monday, October 5, our daily Mass will be at 9:15 AM (and not Noon). I'll be attending the Lancaster SC Mental Health Task Force. Our Prayers for the Poor Souls in Purgatory will be at Noon, followed by Adoration. There are no Confessions in the afternoon.

On Monday afternoon, October 5, we'll host the Mental Health Task Force on our parish campus. We welcome to leaders of various nonprofits and outreaches that help those with mental or emotional challenges! These partnerships confirm our commitment to work together in improving the well-being of those around us.

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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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