

September 6, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time continues and its call for us to deepen in our discipleship is unrelenting. Are we working to become better disciples of the Lord every day? Are we saying “yes” to him in all the areas of our life?

Thank you to everyone who offered prayers and good wishes, cards, and gifts for my tenth anniversary as pastor. I’m humbled and grateful for your support! I’m also very grateful to everyone who visited our Ministry Fair and signed up for new ministries. Thank you for your commitment to the work of the Gospel!

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This Monday, September 7, the parish campus and church will be closed for Labor Day. There is no public Mass. All events are suspended. May God bless our nation and keep our workforce strong!

This 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.

This 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 this Tuesday, September 8. For more information, please reach out to Deacon Heath: tomheath@charlestandiocese.org.

Starting this 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.

Our SOAP Work Group will resume this Tuesday, September 8, from 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Parishioners are invited to come and help label soap and make-up removers that will be placed in areas frequented by those in human trafficking.

This Wednesday, September 9, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, our Eucharistic Kids! is starting back up. Young children and stay-home parents are invited to come for Adoration in the church and then playtime in the Parish Hall.

This Wednesday, September 9, at 6:45 PM, our parish Bible Study will start back up. This season we begin the Book of Numbers. The first fifteen minutes of the study is for prayer and then instruction begins at 7:00 PM. All are welcome!

This Wednesday, September 9, from 6:45 PM – 8:00 PM, we're very happy to launch our Children's Faith Formation program (2nd – 12th grade)! Children are invited to come and learn about our faith. In order for a child to be in the program, at least one parent must also stay for adult formation. Our faith is a family affair! If parents have not already signed up their children, they can do so [through our parish website](#).

This Thursday, September 10, from 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM, our Women's Faith Study is starting back up. For this season, the women will study about the holy angels. All women of the parish are invited!

This 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!

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

Next 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!*

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:

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.

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