November 1, 2026

From Father Kirby…

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! Today, we pause Ordinary Time and celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. On this high holy day, we remember all the blessed souls in heaven. We are also reminded of our own baptismal vocation to holiness. Our task in this life is to work out our salvation in Jesus Christ so that one day we can dwell with him in eternal glory!

The month of November is the devotional month of the dead. We are invited to remember, pray, and make sacrifices for the faithful departed, especially our own beloved dead.

This Sunday in the narthex, we have free copies of the preparation book for the Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The preparation begins on November 5. Everyone is invited to make (or renew) the Consecration on the Immaculate Conception (December 8).

This Sunday in the narthex, we have sign-ups for our Nocturnal Adoration this coming Friday – Saturday, November 6-7. Please be generous with your time and give an hour of prayer to the Lord and your parish family.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

We congratulate and pray for Gabriel and Kylie Wolfe, who were married in our parish this past week. May God bless them and their new life together!

The Book of the Dead has been placed by the baptismal font. The faithful are invited to write the names of their deceased loved ones in the book. Those written in the Book of the Dead can be from any time period (and not just the past liturgical year). Those written in the Book of the Dead will be remembered in our Masses throughout November.

The feast of All Souls is tomorrow, Monday, November 2. Our Mass schedule includes a 7:30 AM Quiet Mass in the church, a 12 Noon Mass at the Holy Angels Columbarium with the Blessing of Niches, and a 7:00 PM Mass with the Reading of Names in the church.

Anyone attending the Noon Mass tomorrow, November 2, is reminded to bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

After the Noon Mass tomorrow, November 2, at the Holy Angels Columbarium, we'll have a Thanksgiving-style Meal of the Dead in the parking lot near the columbarium. All are welcome!

By ancient tradition, the collection on All Souls and the envelopes for All Souls go directly to the pastor. This is the only time a collection goes directly to the priest. The reason for this arrangement is because the pastor will offer prayers and private Masses for the names written on the All Souls envelopes throughout the coming liturgical year. All checks should be made out to *Our Lady of Grace*. Please note that All Souls donations are not tax-deductible.

This Wednesday, November 4, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM, we have the next monthly gathering of our Peregrine Cancer Support Group. If you're a Catholic who is fighting cancer, or are in remission, this support group is for you.

As a community announcement: From November 4 – 8, The Wall That Heals, which is the mobile version of the Vietnam Memorial, will be at the Springdale Recreation Complex in Lancaster. I want to encourage all parishioners and families to visit the wall while it's in our area. Here is more information.

This Friday, November 6, 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 also begins after the Mass and continues through the night until 10:20 AM on Saturday.

This Saturday morning, November 7, 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!

Next Sunday, November 8, we'll offer a blessing to all our veterans. Thank you for your service to our nation.

Next Sunday afternoon, November 8, at 1:00 PM, the parish is hosting a countywide Veterans Appreciation Meal. The event is free. The meal will be Thanksgiving-style

with turkey and all the fixings. Please invite any veterans you know to come! Here's a flyer for the event.

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 Tuesday, November 10, we are extending our daily Adoration on Tuesdays. Adoration will be in the morning from 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM and then from 12:45 PM until around 6:55 PM. Adoration will now extend the throughout the entire day. I encourage all the faithful to come and adore the Lord!

In light of recent national events, the parish is hosting a morning gathering of young mothers on Saturday, November 14, from 8:30 AM – 12 Noon. The event will start with breakfast and then consist of three round-table style conversations on postpartum depression, depressive mood, stress, anxiety, anger management, and any other topics that might come up. The conversations will be facilitated by a bi-lingual licensed counselor from Guadalupe Counseling. All young moms are invited! *Please note that this event is for young moms with newborns and/or small children at home.*

For the season of Advent, we're going to make the following changes to our liturgical and devotional life as a parish:

- Starting Saturday, November 28, we will have a Holy Hour of Adoration from 4:00 – 5:00 PM. Adoration will start with Solemn Vespers. Confessions will move to the Adoration time and be heard from 4:00 PM – 4:45 PM (and will no longer be heard at 3:00 PM). Our Saturday evening Fellowships will be suspended.

In some other news: this coming year, I'll be hosting two different pilgrimages:

In March, Pope Leo XIV is meeting with all the Missionaries of Mercy in Rome. As a Missionary of Mercy, I plan to attend this gathering. But I've decided not to go by myself! I'll be hosting a pilgrimage to Rome and Malta around this gathering. If anyone would like to come to Rome and Malta, please find the details here.

In June, I'll be taking some vacation time and going on pilgrimage to Ireland and Medjugorje. I've been wanting to go back to Ireland and offer Mass at the holy places there (especially at Knock and on one of the historic Mass Rocks), and I've always wanted to go to Medjugorje, but I didn't want to go until the Church endorsed pilgrimages there. This past year, that endorsement was given and so I look forward to visiting and offering Mass there. If you're also interested in a pilgrimage to Ireland and Medjugorje, you can find the details here.

Grotto Update: We are now at **$760,000** for Phase II. Two large gifts, however, are in transit. I hope to be able to announce these large gifts soon. Our committee has narrowed things down to one contractor and we have initiated the approval process with the diocese!

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