

October 4, 2026

From Father Kirby...

Happy Sunday, Team Grace! The season of Ordinary Time is all about discipleship. The first and best disciple of the Lord Jesus was the Blessed Mother. During the month of October, the Church encourages us to draw closer to the Lord through Our Lady and her holy rosary. The rosary is a precious gift and treasure of prayer. I encourage everyone to pick up the rosary and pray it often! [Here's a link](#) on how to pray the rosary.

This Sunday, we'll honor the recent Beatification and legacy of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. We'll bless the new Sheen Organ, watch a portion of the Beatification Mass, and have holy cards of the new Blessed in the narthex.

Thank you for your patience this past week as we changed our parish schedule and logistics to accommodate both the installment of our new Sheen Organ and my training with the county. Our new Sheen Organ is now shining in our parish church!

This afternoon, Sunday, October 4, we'll have our annual Blessing of Pets in the pavilion parking lot at 2:00 PM. All pets – great and small – are welcome! Ice cream will be served after the blessing.

Some things happening at the parish this week:

This 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 the 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.

This Tuesday, October 6, at 1:00 PM, we have a gathering of our Saint Paula Dinner for Widows. All widows are invited to come for lunch and fellowship!

This Wednesday, October 7, at 1:00 PM, our Rosarians have their annual retreat. The Rosarians are the men and women who lead our parish public praying of the

holy Rosary. Thank you, Rosarians! Anyone who would like to be a Rosarian is encouraged to reach out to Barbara Bancker at bbbanner@yahoo.com.

This Wednesday evening, October 7, at 7:00 PM, our Peregrine Cancer Support Group will meet. If you are a Catholic Christian and currently fighting cancer (or are in remission), this group is for you.

This Wednesday evening, October 7, at 6:45 PM, our parish Bible Study and Children's Faith Formation resume. We suspended these programs last week to accommodate the installment of our new organ. The programs resume and will continue for the rest of the season.

Next Sunday, October 11, at the beginning of our 11:00 AM Mass, we'll have our annual Rosary Procession. All parishioners are invited to come and honor Our Lady through her holy Rosary. Parishioners are asked to come around 10:45 AM and meet at the flags at the entrance of our campus.

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 Saturday, October 17, at 4:00 PM, the next session of our John Paul II Young Adult Fellowship will meet. The group will participate in Vespers and then move to the Parish Hall for dinner and a talk on faith and finances. All young adults (single and married, 18-35 years old) are invited and encouraged to come!

On Sunday, October 18, we'll once again host two blood buses on campus. As Christians, we honor and serve life. Please sign up to give blood. [Here's the link](#).

On Sunday, October 18, we'll have a parish Food Drive. All parishioners are encouraged to bring one (or some) of the following items with them to Mass: Jiffy corn bread mix; canned tuna; or 64oz juice (in plastic bottles). Please drop off the items at the pavilion before Mass. Members of our Helping Hands ministry will be there to help you.

On Sunday, November 8, at 1:00 PM, the parish is hosting a countywide Veterans Appreciation Meal. The event is free and the meal will be in Thanksgiving-style with turkey and all the fixings. Please invite any veterans you know to come!

Our recently hired Maintenance Assistant needed to resign and pursue some other interests and so we are currently searching for a new Maintenance Assistant. The position can be either heavily part-time or full-time. It includes janitorial, program set-up, and maintenance duties. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Wesley Dry, our Director of Buildings and Grounds: wdry@charlestdiocese.org.

Recently, Bishop Jacques asked me to serve as the new diocesan Director of the Propagation of the Faith. The office is responsible for our diocesan support of the foreign missions. This new assignment will include some additional duties and responsibilities, but nothing that should affect our parish schedule or my pastoral duties here. Please pray for our missionaries and foreign missions!

In the 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 have to 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 these 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: Our Grotto Ad Hoc Committee has limited its focus on one contractor. We're currently evaluating the contractor's plans and seeing if it matches our vision. Once this process is concluded, we'll start the diocesan process to have the contractor approved. More updates will follow.

We are now at **\$750,000** for Phase II. Two large gifts, however, are in transit. I hope to be able to announce these large gifts soon. 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
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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
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