

**ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH — DECEMBER 7, 2025**

*second sunday of*  
**ADVENT**



# WELCOME TO ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PARISH

## PARISH OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

We welcome all who are visiting. If you attend regularly and consider St. Mary Help of Christians your parish, we encourage you to register as a member. You may fill out and submit the form online, or print the form from the website and return it to the parish office.

### CONTACT US

St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church  
Parish Office:  
203 Park Avenue SE, Aiken, SC 29801  
803.649.4777  
parishofficestmaryaiken@charlestandioocese.org  
Website: [www.stmarys-aiken.org](http://www.stmarys-aiken.org)

### LOCATIONS

St. Mary's Church: 138 Fairfield St. SE  
Old St. Mary's: 125 Park Ave. SE  
Ste Claire Chapel: 125 Park Ave. SE

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday  
8:30AM - 12NOON & 1:00PM - 4:30PM  
Closed for lunch from 12NOON - 1:00PM  
Wednesday: 8:30AM - 1:30PM  
(By appointment only after 1:30PM on Wednesdays)

### HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil 5:00PM - Church  
Sunday 8:30AM, 11:00AM - Church  
Domingo Misa en español, 1:00PM - Iglesia

### WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 5:30PM - Old St. Mary's  
Wednesday 8:20AM - Church  
Miércoles 7:00PM - Old St. Mary's  
Thursday Nursing Home 10:00AM  
Saturday Morning Mass 8:00AM - Old St. Mary's

### CONFESSIONS

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 4:45 - 5:15PM - Old St. Mary's  
Wed. 6:15 - 6:45PM - Old St. Mary's  
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30PM - Church

**PERPETUAL ADORATION** - Ste Claire Chapel

**ROSARY** - Before Daily Mass

**LIVE STREAM MASS (ON YOUTUBE)**

Sunday 11:00AM Mass

### SUNDAY HOMILIES ONLINE

Audio versions of all the weekend homilies are available on St. Mary's website at [www.stmarys-aiken.org](http://www.stmarys-aiken.org). Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on "Listen to Homilies".

**NURSERY** - Available during 8:30 & 11:00AM Sunday Masses in Mother Teresa Conference Room - Ages 6 months to less than 5 years.

The Most Rev. Jacques E. Fabre-Jeune, CS  
Bishop of Charleston

### PARISH CLERGY

Very Rev. Richard C. Wilson, VF, Pastor  
Rev. Michael Ghattas, Parochial Vicar

Dcn. Alejandro Leguizamon      Dcn. Al Matousek  
Dcn. Robert Pierce              Dcn. Stephen Platte

### STAFF

Mr. Patrick Wray, Director of Administration  
803.649.4777 ext. 112  
[pwrap@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:pwrap@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mrs. Kimberly Gaynor, Administrative Assistant  
to Fr. Wilson 803.649.4777 ext. 114  
[kgaynor@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:kgaynor@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mr. Carlos Overstreet, Principal, St. Mary's School  
803.649.2071 [coverstreet@stmaryschoolaiken.com](mailto:coverstreet@stmaryschoolaiken.com)  
Mr. Richard Yarshen, Finance Manager  
803.649.4777 ext. 104  
[ryarshen@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:ryarshen@charlestandioocese.org)  
Miss. Kara Hartman, Parish Secretary  
803.649.4777 ext. 113  
[khartman@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:khartman@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mrs. Adriana Galvan, Hispanic Secretary  
803.649.4777 ext. 100  
[agalvan@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:agalvan@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mr. Derrick Huestis  
Director of Religious Education  
803.649.4777 ext. 103  
[dhuestis@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mrs. Hannah Dickason, Director of Youth Ministry  
615.638.7137 (c)  
[hdickason@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:hdickason@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mr. V. Franklin Deese II, Parish Musician  
706.550.5047 (c)  
[fdeese@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:fdeese@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mrs. Colleen Snyder, Sacristan  
518.524.4464  
[csnyder@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:csnyder@charlestandioocese.org)

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

For food or financial assistance call 803.642.3211  
Open Monday – Thursday 9:00AM – 1:00PM  
Closed On Fridays

## TOTALS AS OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

ENVELOPE/CASH OFFERTORY Nov. 23 \$ 16,632  
ONLINE OFFERTORY Nov. 23 \$ 14,937  
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET \$ 2,118,675

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS –  
Nov. 23 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL \$ 5,660

### UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception  
Dec. 14–Retirement Fund for Religious

NOTE: The financial updates for **November 30** were not available at the time the bulletin was sent to print.

### HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR ONLINE GIVING WITH OUR PARISH?

Here are some ways Online Giving benefits you:

- Secure and Confidential – Adheres to banking security standards
- Flexible – Start, stop, or change your contributions at any time
- Simple to sign up on St. Mary's website:
  1. Go to [www.stmarys-aiken.org](http://www.stmarys-aiken.org)
  2. Click on "GIVING", then "SUNDAY OFFERTORY"
  3. Make your selections
  4. Special collection choices can be made online
- Contribute via direct withdrawal or credit online

If you need assistance, or to discontinue online giving, please call 1.800.348.2886. The Parish Finance Council recommends monthly frequency for the Sunday offering to minimize transaction fees.

### GIFT SHOP - SHOP FONTANINI THIS WEEKEND

Come see our beautiful Fontanini nativity village at the gift shop! Many beautiful items are available for gift giving this season. Grace your home as you prepare for Christ our King! Hours Sunday 9:00AM - 1:00PM, also after the Saturday 5:00PM Vigil Mass and the Sunday Spanish Mass 1:00PM

### AA OPEN MEETING

AA open meeting at 7:00AM Sunday thru Friday in Smith Hall, Downstairs (next to Old St. Mary's church). Newcomers are welcome!

### WHEELCHAIR EXPRESS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Wheelchair Express is available for those who need help from curb to pew at 8:30AM and 11:00AM Sunday Masses. We especially need volunteers for the 11:00AM Mass. Please contact George or Bobbi Sich at [riverhost.rs@gmail.com](mailto:riverhost.rs@gmail.com) or 740.981.2961 or 740.935.9713 for information or to volunteer.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

+JMJ+

God asks us to change our lives

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year at this time of Advent we remember the words of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his paths!" The paths are our ways of thinking, our ways of behaving, our ways of living.

What does it mean to "convert"? The term "conversion" means accepting the fact that we have taken the wrong path; it means recognizing our limits and entrusting our salvation to God. It is not simply about remorse and about lamenting our past; it is about positively committing to do what God asks of us. If you want to follow Jesus Christ, you must empty yourself, creating space for Him within you. To convert means to change the way we think and the direction we are going in life. Dare to challenge the hierarchy of values that guides your actions! Throw down the walls that separate you from others!

God offers salvation to all those subject to sin, and all of us are sinners. Who among us can say he always does what is right and never fails to do what he is supposed to? If we accept salvation, the first thing God asks is that we leave sin behind and strive always to do what is right and to avoid what is wrong, and to live for others. This is the only way we can live out the new commandment, the commandment of love without limits, where love of God and love of neighbor are one and the same.

If we do not want this transformation of our lives to be superficial or illusory, we should begin with a serious reflection on the kind of life we are living. **How are we living?** We are surrounded by a particular kind of lifestyle that invades everything, and maybe we have adopted it ourselves: consumerism! We end up believing that the most important thing in life is to possess things, to have it all easy and comfortable, and to satisfy our every instinct. Just look at the verbs that dominate our conversations: to have, to gain, to invest, to consume. And so, our lives are ruled more and more by egotism and materialism.

The Nativity that happened two thousand years ago, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, was nothing less than the beginning of a new age. And yet it was not the final word. There is only one good way to prepare for Jesus' birth in our heart: to leave it pure and full of grace, like the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is why it is so important for us to receive the sacraments in this time of Advent: confession - the sacrament of forgiveness, and reconciliation - the sacrament of purity. May this be our prayer!

All the best in Christ,  
Father Wilson



**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC  
ADORATION  
IN STE CLAIRE CHAPEL USE**

Put Jesus first on your calendar with a weekly holy hour!

To find an hour that works for you, please visit: <https://www.stmarysaiken.org/perpetualeucharistic-adoration>, or contact one of the Divisional Leaders:

12 mdnt-6am Tom Henry 803-642-6893  
[tphenr@bellsouth.net](mailto:tphenr@bellsouth.net)

6am-12 noon Ken Boucher 803-226-4639  
[kboucher@atlanticbb.net](mailto:kboucher@atlanticbb.net)

12 noon-6pm Janice Suhrer 803-645-6105  
[jcskid.suhrer@gmail.com](mailto:jcskid.suhrer@gmail.com)

6pm-12 mdnt Joan Pate 803-226-0263  
[jandjpate@gmail.com](mailto:jandjpate@gmail.com)

Hours in Need (although all hours are available)

MON: 1AM

TUES:

WED: 2AM; 3AM; 1PM; 11PM

THU: 1AM; 2AM

FRI: 3AM

SAT: 1AM; 2PM; 4PM; 6PM

SUN: 2AM; 3AM

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IS A HOLY DAY OF  
OBLIGATION MONDAY, DECEMBER 8**

6:30AM Mass in English in Old St. Mary  
**All other Masses are in our church on Fairfield St.**

8:20AM School Mass in English with  
Wheelchair Express is available

12:00PM Mass in English

7:00PM Mass in Spanish/Misa en español

**CONFESSIONS WILL NOT BE HEARD.**

**SPECIAL CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT  
DECEMBER 8 - 20, 2025**

Monday, December 8	<b>No Confessions</b>
Tuesday & Thursday December 9 & 11	4:15PM - 5:15PM *
Wednesday, Dec. 10	5:45PM - 6:45PM *
Friday, December 12	4:45PM - 5:15PM
Saturday, December 13	3:30PM - 4:30PM *
Monday, December 15	4:45PM - 5:15PM
Tuesday & Thursday December 16 & 18	4:15PM - 5:15PM *
Wednesday, Dec. 17	5:45PM - 6:45PM *
Friday, December 19	4:45PM - 5:15PM
Saturday, December 20	3:30PM - 4:30PM *

**READINGS FOR Dec. 7 – Dec. 14, 2025**

Sunday, Dec. 7 readings begin on **page 112** of the Word & Eucharist books found in the pews.

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
	Rom 15:4-9	Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20	Ps 98:1-4
	Eph 1:3-6, 11-12	Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11	Ps 96:1-3 and 10, 11-13
	Mt 18:12-14	
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31	Ps 103:1-4, 8 and 10
	Mt 11:28-30	
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20	Ps 145:1 and 9-13
	Mt 11:11-15	
Friday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab	
	Jdt 13:18-19	Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11	Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
	Mt 17:9a, 10-13	
Next Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10	Ps 146:6-10
	Jas 5:7-10	Mt 11:2-11

©LPI

**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sunday, Dec. 7**

8:30AM The Godbee  
Family (L)

11:00AM Larry Ball  
1:00PM Pro Populo

**Monday, Dec. 8**

6:30AM Ann Marie  
McLaughlin

12:00PM Mary Frances  
Myers

7:00PM

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**

5:30PM Kerrick S. Preston

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**

8:20AM Sherene Power

7:00PM Ysaura Reyes-  
Magañal

**Thursday, Dec. 11**

10:00AM Cumberland  
Ray Demasters

**Thursday, Dec. 11 (cont.)**

5:30PM Gary Ware

**Friday, Dec. 12**

5:30PM Our Lady of  
Guadalupe

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

8:00AM Helen H. Conroy  
5:00PM James Baker

Tommy Oates  
Betty Hunter

John Bowers  
Phyllis Spitale

Rusty Sanders

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

8:30AM Pro Populo

11:00AM Larry Ball

1:00PM Fernando Morales  
Fajardo

**DEATHS/DIFUNTOS:**

Nov. 14 – Michael Vermilye

Nov. 15 – Penny Lynn Bliss

Nov. 18 – Jose Leonardo Sánchez Martinez

Nov. 27 – Donald Michael Hodgkins

**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8  
in observance of the  
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.  
We will reopen at 8:30AM Tuesday, December 9.**

## SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

### HOLY BAPTISM

The birth of your child is such a gift! Let St. Mary's parish help you give the gift of new birth through the waters of Holy Baptism. For a child to receive Baptism at St. Mary's, please note that at least one parent must be a practicing Catholic, regularly attend Holy Mass, participate in the life of the parish, and be registered at St. Mary's at least three months prior to requesting the date for Baptism. In this, you become part of our wider parish family! Parents must attend our Baptismal Preparation session prior to the Baptism. The next session is **Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 10:00AM** in Smith Hall. Registration is necessary so that we can prepare for you. Please contact Chris Ascherman at 803.845.0568. Godparents are encouraged to attend a Baptismal Preparation session as well. Since godparents promise to help raise your child in the practice of the Catholic faith, godparents must be practicing Catholics at whatever parish they attend.

### HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION

These incredible Sacraments nourish and strengthen us in our Catholic faith so that we can live as "the light of the world" (St. Matthew 5:14). *Please note:* Parents and children must be registered with St. Mary's and faithfully attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. Children who are not enrolled in our Catholic school must attend a minimum of two years of Christian Formation classes and satisfy the attendance policy.

For more information about First Holy Communion contact Derrick Huestis at 803.649.4777 ext. 103 or [dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org).

For more information about Confirmation contact Hannah Dickason at 615.638.7137 or [hdickason@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:hdickason@charlestdiocese.org).

### HOLY MATRIMONY

Congratulations! The world truly needs strong, faithful couples. Our parish stands ready to help prepare you for your life together in Christ. The Diocese of Charleston **requires a minimum of six months preparation** for the Sacrament of Marriage. Please contact us as soon as you are engaged so that we can share your joy and begin the process of reserving a date for your special day. Please understand that not all dates at the church may be available. For information, call 803.649.4777 ext.114 to leave a message for Kimberly Gaynor.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Are you seriously ill, facing surgery, or of advanced age? Receive grace and strength from the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the Church's Sacrament of healing. Call 803.649.4777 ext. 113.

### NEXT SCHEDULED BAPTISM DATE (ENGLISH)

Saturday, Jan. 3, 11:00AM in Old St. Mary Church on Park Avenue. **Note the change in location.**

- Baptism preparation class must have been completed.
- All paperwork must be submitted to the office one month prior to the date of Baptism.

For more information or to schedule a Baptism, please call the parish office at 803.649.4777

### ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

Interested in learning about the Catholic faith? We meet Tuesdays at 6:00-7:30PM in Mother Teresa Hall. On Dec. 9, Dcn. Steve Platte will speak about Law and the Ten Commandments. All are welcome. For more information contact Derrick Huestis at [dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org)

### CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Mrs. Hannah Katherine Dickason  
[hdickason@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:hdickason@charlestdiocese.org)  
615.638.7137

For more details about Confirmation, Youth Ministry, and our full calendar of events, please visit our website or contact Hannah Dickason.

### FORMATION

Confirmation 1 meets Tuesday evenings  
Confirmation 2 meets Sunday mornings.  
See our website or contact Hannah Dickason for our calendar.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

December 6,7 – Cookie Fundraiser with the CWA  
December 7– Youth Night

### CCD

K-6th grades are held in the St. Mary's School classrooms on Sunday at 9:45–10:45AM. Reminder:  
Contact Derrick Huestis at [dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org)

### Saints and Liturgy

We are now in a new liturgical year in the Church! The liturgical year begins with Advent where we await the coming of our Lord at Christmas. The liturgical colors used at Mass are purple which signifies penance, sacrifice, and preparation. This is a time to prepare for Christ to enter into our lives through receiving the sacrament of reconciliation and offering the sacrifice of our time and resources in charitable giving and service. On Wednesday of this week, we celebrate St. Francis Xavier, priest and co-founder of the Jesuit missionary order who worked along side St. Ignatius of Loyola.

More information about the Sacraments can be found on our parish website:  
[www.stmarys-aiken.org](http://www.stmarys-aiken.org)

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Sunday, December 7

8:30AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Sunday Café	Mother Teresa
11:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Mass in Spanish	Church

### Monday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

No confessions today

6:30AM	Mass	Old St. Mary
8:20AM	School Mass	Church
9:30AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Smith Hall
11:45AM	Lunch & Learn Book Club	Bosco
12:00NOON	Mass	Church
7:00PM	Bilingual Mass	Church

### Tuesday, December 9

3:30PM	Grief Share	Mother Teresa
3:30PM	Legion of Mary	Smith Hall
4:15PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary
6:00PM	OCIA	Mother Teresa

### Wednesday, December 10

8:20AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Bible Study	St. Michael Hall
3:00PM	Legion of Mary	Smith Hall Down
6:00PM	SHE	<b>No meeting</b>
6:00PM	Journey of Hope	St. Michael Conf
5:45PM	Confessions	Church
7:00PM	Mass (Bilingual)	Old St. Mary

### Thursday, December 11

11:15AM	Bible Study	Smith Hall Down
4:15PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary

### Friday, December 12

6:30AM	That Man is You	Mother Teresa
4:45PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary

### Saturday, December 13

8:00AM	Mass	Old St. Mary
3:30PM	Confessions	Church
5:00PM	Vigil Mass	Church

### Sunday, December 14

8:30AM	Mass	Church
9:45AM	Sunday Café	Mother Teresa
11:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Mass in Spanish	Church

## PARISH PERKS!

Join us for coffee and fellowship after the Sunday 8:30AM Mass in St. Michael Hall

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The St. Vincent de Paul Society pantry will be closed December 24, 2025 through January 4, 2026. We will reopen Monday, January 5, 2026.

## RACHEL'S VINEYARD POST ABORTION HEALING RETREAT

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, a post abortion retreat for women and men who want to find peace and closure from their abortion experience. December 19-21, 2025, in the Fort Mill area. [Rachelsvineyard.org](http://Rachelsvineyard.org)

To Register Online:

<https://bit.ly/RachelsVineyardDec2024>

Please Contact: Christy 803.554.6088,

Kathy 803.546.6010 or [Grace4Healing@gmail.com](mailto:Grace4Healing@gmail.com)

## MUSIC MINISTRY

We are always looking for willing voices to help praise our Lord. If you are unable to make a full commitment to the choir, please reach out to Frank to see if a limited time engagement, like perhaps Advent, or some other short period when you could serve. If you're interested or have questions, please contact Frank Deese, Parish Musician at [fdeese@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:fdeese@charlestdiocese.org).

If you think you can sing, you probably can!

## FRATERNUS IS NOW AT ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS!

We are seeking faithful, committed men to join our Fraternus Squad! Fraternus is a Catholic brotherhood of men dedicated to growing in virtue, deepening our faith, and strengthening our calling as fathers and leaders. We currently meet on a monthly basis, building the foundation of this ministry in our parish as we seek to add our boys and young men into the fold in the near future. For more information, please visit [fraternus.org](http://fraternus.org) and contact one of the following men:

Scott Recher at [recherg@gmail.com](mailto:recherg@gmail.com)

Brett Dickason at [brett.w.dickason@gmail.com](mailto:brett.w.dickason@gmail.com)

Billy Swann at [eswann3rd@gmail.com](mailto:eswann3rd@gmail.com)

David Tacchi at [dmtac5@gmail.com](mailto:dmtac5@gmail.com)

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH FR. GHATTAS

All are welcome to join the Aiken chapter of Life Runners in singing Christmas carols on Monday, December 15, at 6:30PM in The Alley (across from TakoSushi). Christ-centered carols will be sung for about 20 minutes, and then we will go for dinner at Mellow Mushroom. Family, friends, and guests are welcome. If you have not yet joined, please try to wear a matching royal blue shirt. Learn more at our "Aiken Life Runners" Facebook page, [www.liferunners.org](http://www.liferunners.org), or contact Deacon Bob Pierce at [bpierce@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:bpierce@charlestdiocese.org). To join and get a jersey go to [www.liferunners.org](http://www.liferunners.org). Running optional . . . jersey required.



**ST. MARY'S PARISH SCHOOL**  
 118 York Street SE, Aiken, SC 29801  
 Mr. Carlos Overstreet, Principal  
 Ph: 803.649.2071 Fax: 803.643.0092  
 excelatstmarys.com

Office Hours: 7:30AM to 3:30PM Monday–Friday  
 (when school is in session)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Day of Giving! We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to St. Mary's School. You can continue to follow our progress and see the current total raised by visiting our page at #iGiveCatholic: <https://www.igivecatholic.org/organization/stmaryschoolaiken>. If you missed the online giving window, cash or check donations can still be accepted through December 9 and will count toward our final total. Thank you again for supporting our parish school!

**SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION**

The school office will close for Christmas Break on December 19 at 11:30AM and will reopen on Monday, January 5.

**SC EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarship applications are now open for the 26-27 school year!

Please visit [www.scschoolchoice.com](http://www.scschoolchoice.com) to apply. Your family may be eligible for a \$7,500 per year per K-12 student in your family to attend St. Mary's School. Apply early!

**DEAR PARISHIONERS**

If you receive emails or texts sent in my name or other parish and school staff, asking for financial help in one form or another, please know that neither I, nor any parish employee, will ever ask you for donations of any kind via social media. Please do not respond to any message that you may receive. Thank you and God bless, Fr. Wilson

**HOME SCHOOL MONTHLY MEETING**

Homeschool families are invited to join our monthly meeting next **Wednesday, December 17 at 10:00AM** in Mother Teresa Hall. For more information, contact Stephanie Lee at [sdzlee87@gmail.com](mailto:sdzlee87@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOMEBOUND MINISTRY!**

We are in need of more Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to bring the best Gift ever (Jesus!) to our parish family members who are homebound. To volunteer in this rewarding ministry, either as an EM or as a Friendship Minister, please contact Donna Pierce at [piercedin1988@gmail.com](mailto:piercedin1988@gmail.com) or 803-552-7714. Necessary training is given to all volunteers.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

The group is open to all grieving people in our community, regardless of religious affiliation.

Tuesdays, 3:30–5:00PM in Mother Teresa Hall  
 (125 Union Street, SE)

The registration form is available at St. Mary's parish office or you can register at [www.griefshare.org/find\\_a\\_group](http://www.griefshare.org/find_a_group). For more information please contact Karen Van Deren at [kvanderen@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:kvanderen@charlestdiocese.org).

**REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE**



Retrouaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) simply means 'rediscovery'.

The program offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10's of 1000's headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Retrouaille is not a sensitivity group, not a seminar, not a social gathering, but is anchored in Christian reconciliation, communication and healing. For confidential information about, or, to register for the program beginning with a weekend on Jan. 16-18 in the Charlotte area, contact Bill and Lyn Folsom at email: [3062ac@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:3062ac@helpourmarriage.org); visit the web site at [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 727.343.6701.

**GLUTEN INTOLERANCE AND HOLY COMMUNION**

St. Mary's makes every effort to accommodate and normalize the experience of receiving Holy Communion for the faithful. For those who cannot consume gluten, we welcome you to receive Holy Communion in a safe, sensitive, and compassionate manner. For more information, please contact Karen Van Deren at [kvanderen@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:kvanderen@charlestdiocese.org)

If you are visiting St. Mary's and require a low-gluten host for medical reasons, please see a Mass Coordinator or usher prior to Mass. We are only able to accommodate those that need a low-gluten host for medical reasons and not from dietary preference.

**CARD AND GAME PARTY JANUARY 17, 2026**

Catholic Women's Association (CWA) will sponsor their annual Card & Game Party, Jan. 17. If interested in helping, call Eva at 803-221-7000.

"Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."  
 - Immaculate Conception Holy day, December 8



## ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

Título: Dios nos pide que cambiemos nuestras vidas  
Queridos hermanos en Cristo:

Cada año, en este tiempo de Adviento, recordamos las palabras de Juan el Bautista: "¡Preparen el camino del Señor! ¡Hagan derechos sus senderos!". Los caminos son nuestra manera de pensar, nuestra manera de actuar, nuestra manera de vivir.

**¿Qué significa "convertirse"?** El término "conversión" significa aceptar que hemos tomado el camino equivocado; significa reconocer nuestros límites y confiar nuestra salvación a Dios. No se trata simplemente de arrepentirse y lamentar nuestro pasado; se trata de comprometerse positivamente a hacer lo que Dios nos pide. Si quieres seguir a Jesucristo, debes vaciarte de ti mismo, creando espacio para Él dentro de ti. Convertirse significa cambiar nuestra forma de pensar y el rumbo de nuestra vida. ¡Atrévete a desafiar la jerarquía de valores que guía tus acciones! ¡Derriba los muros que te separan de los demás!

**Dios ofrece la salvación a todos los que están sujetos al pecado**, y todos somos pecadores. ¿Quién de nosotros puede decir que siempre hace lo correcto y nunca deja de hacer lo que se supone que debe hacer? Si aceptamos la salvación, lo primero que Dios pide es que dejemos atrás el pecado y nos esforcemos siempre por hacer lo correcto, evitar lo incorrecto y vivir para los demás. Solo así podemos vivir el mandamiento nuevo, el mandamiento del amor sin límites, donde el amor a Dios y el amor al prójimo son uno y el mismo. Si no queremos que esta transformación de nuestras vidas sea superficial o ilusoria, deberíamos comenzar con una reflexión seria sobre el tipo de vida que llevamos. **¿Cómo vivimos?** Estamos rodeados de un estilo de vida particular que lo invade todo, y tal vez lo hayamos adoptado nosotros mismos: ¡el consumismo! Terminamos creyendo que lo más importante en la vida es poseer cosas, tenerlo todo fácil y cómodo, y satisfacer todos nuestros instintos. Basta con observar los verbos que dominan nuestras conversaciones: tener, ganar, invertir, consumir. Y así, nuestras vidas se rigen cada vez más por el egoísmo y el materialismo. La Natividad de hace dos mil años, cuando Jesús nació en Belén, fue nada menos que el comienzo de una nueva era. Y, sin embargo, no fue la última palabra. Solo hay una buena manera de prepararnos para el nacimiento de Jesús en nuestro corazón: dejarlo puro y lleno de gracia, como el corazón de la Santísima Virgen María.

*EL ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO CONTINÚA EN LA COLUMNA DOS DE ESTA PÁGINA 9*

## FORMACIÓN CRISTIANA

### LAS LECTURAS DE LAS ESCRITURAS DEL 7 de diciembre al 14 de diciembre, 2025

Las lecturas para domingo, el 23 de noviembre comienzan en la **pagina 113** en el libro "Palabra y Eucaristía"

Domingo:	Is 11, 1-10	Sal 71, 1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17
	Rom 15, 4-9	Mt 3, 1-12
Lunes:	Gn 3, 9-15. 20	Sal 97, 1-4
	Ef 1, 3-6. 11-12	Lc 1, 26-38
Martes:	Is 40, 1-11	Sal 95, 1-3 y 10. 11-13
	Mt 18, 12-14	
Miércoles:	Is 40, 25-31	Sal 102, 1-4. 8 y 10
	Mt 11, 28-30	
Jueves:	Is 41, 13-20	Sal 144, 1 y 9. 10-13
	Mt 11, 11-15	
Viernes:	Eclo 24, 23-31	Gal 4, 4-7
	Lc 1, 39-48	
Sábado:	Eclo 48, 1-4. 9-11	
	Sal 79, 2 y 3. 15-16. 18-19	Mt 17, 10-13
Domingo siguiente:	Is 35, 1-6. 10	Sal 145, 6-10
	Sant 5, 7-10	Mt 11, 2-11

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Las intenciones para las Misas diarias se encuentran en la pagina tres (3)

### INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN DE LA BIENAVENTURADA VIRGEN MARÍA LUNES 8 DE DICIEMBRE ES UN DÍA SANTO DE OBLIGACIÓN

#### HORARIO PARA LAS MISAS:

6:30AM Misa en inglés en la iglesia Antigua

**Todas las demás misas se celebrarán en la iglesia de Fairfield Street.**

8:20AM Misa escolar en inglés

12:00PM Misa en inglés

7:00PM Misa en español

**No habrá confesiones.**

### NOVENA DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE Y LAS POSADAS

Iglesia te invita a participar en un momento especial de oración durante la Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y las Posadas. Te animamos a rezar el Rosario por tu familia y unirte con otras familias en este tiempo de fe, esperanza y unidad. Puedes registrarte individualmente o en grupo familiar. Si deseas, puedes traer algo para compartir, pero lo más importante es la oración y la unión familiar. Reserva tu día para que oremos por tu familia. Contacto: Nery Reyes - 803-292-5354

## SAGRADO SACRAMENTOS

### SANTO BAUTISMO

¡El Bautismo es un regalo de vida nueva!  
Para bautizar en Sta. María, al menos uno de los padres debe ser católico practicante, asistir a Misa y estar registrado en la parroquia por lo menos 3 meses antes de pedir fecha. Ambos padres deben tomar clases pre-bautismales. Los padrinos deben ser católicos practicantes.

Próximas clases: 4 y 11 de enero 2025  
Registro requerido.

Contacto: Reyna Salas - 404.886.5653

### SAGRADA COMUNIÓN Y CONFIRMACIÓN

¡Los Sacramentos fortalecen nuestra fe!  
Padres y niños deben estar registrados en Sta. María y asistir fielmente a Misa.  
Niños fuera de la escuela católica deben completar al menos dos años de formación cristiana y cumplir con la asistencia.

Para más información sobre la Primera Comunión, contactarse con Derrick Huestis al 803.649.4777 ext. 103 o a [dhuestis@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestandiocese.org).

Para más información sobre la Confirmación, contactarse con Hannah Dickason al 615.638.7137 o a [hdickason@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:hdickason@charlestandiocese.org)

### SANTO MATRIMONIO

¡Felicidades! El mundo realmente necesita parejas fuertes y fieles en Cristo. La Diócesis de Charleston requiere una preparación mínima de seis meses para el Sacramento del Matrimonio, así que comuníquese con nosotros tan pronto como se comprometa para que podamos compartir su alegría y comenzar el proceso de reservar una fecha para su día especial. Para registrarse y obtener más información por favor comuníquese con Sonia Jimenes 803.508.5370

### UNCIÓN DE ENFERMOS

¿Está gravemente enfermo, se enfrenta a una cirugía o es de edad avanzada? Reciba la gracia y la fuerza del Sacramento de la Unción de los Enfermos, el Sacramento de sanación de la Iglesia. Comuníquese con 803.649.4777 ext. 113

### LEGIÓN DE MARÍA

Invita a toda la comunidad a participar en la Entronización del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en sus hogares. Esta hermosa devoción nos ayuda a acercarnos más al corazón de Jesús y a vivir nuestra fe en familia. ¡Anímate a preparar tu hogar para recibir al Sagrado Corazón! Para más información communicate con Mary Hernandez 803-522-3988

### PRÓXIMA FECHA DE BAUTISMO EN ESPAÑOL

13 de diciembre 2025 a las 11:00AM en la iglesia antigua en Park Avenue. **Tenga en cuenta el cambio de ubicación.**

- Las clases de preparación para el bautismo deben haber sido completadas
- Toda la documentación deben presentarse en la oficina un mes antes de la fecha del bautismo.

Para obtener más información o si desea programar un bautismo, llame a la oficina parroquial al 803.649.4777

### RITO DE INICIACIÓN CRISTIANA PARA ADULTOS (RICA) LOS MARTES A LAS 7:00PM

Todos están invitados a las Clases de RICA. Nos reunimos los martes en el Salón Smith Hall a las 7:00PM. Para más información, contacte a Omar o Mercedith Cardona 706.231.5253. Este espacio está abierto a toda la comunidad.

### MINISTERIO CATÓLICO PARA JÓVENES

Contacto: Sra. Hannah Katherine Dickason  
[hdickason@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:hdickason@charlestandiocese.org)  
615.638.7137

Para más detalles sobre la Confirmación, el Ministerio Juvenil y nuestro calendario completo de eventos, por favor visite nuestro sitio web o contacte a Hannah Dickason.

### FORMACIÓN

Confirmación 1 se reúne los martes por la tarde y Confirmación 2 los domingos por la mañana. Pueden consultar nuestro calendario en la página web o comunicarse con Hannah Dickason.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

6 y 7 de diciembre: Recaudación de fondos con galletas con la CWA  
7 de diciembre: Noche Juvenil

### CCD

Las clases de CCD de 4° a 6° grado se llevan a cabo en las aulas de la Escuela St. Mary los domingos de 9:45 a 10:45AM. ¡Esperamos verlos entonces! ¿Preguntas? Contacte a Derrick Huestis en [dhuestis@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestandiocese.org)

### TIENDA DE REGALOS – COMPRA FONTANINI ESTE FIN DE SEMANA

¡Venga a ver nuestro hermoso belén Fontanini! Tenemos muchos artículos hermosos disponibles para regalar en estas fiestas. ¡Decore su hogar mientras se prepara para la llegada de Cristo Rey! Horario: domingo de 9AM a 1PM y después de la misa de vigilia del sábado a las 5:00PM y de la misa dominical en español a la 1:00PM

**DURANTE TODO EL MES DE DICIEMBRE, LA MISA EN ESPAÑOL DE LOS MIÉRCOLES SE CELEBRARÁ EN LA IGLESIA NUEVA, MANTENIENDO EL MISMO HORARIO HABITUAL.**



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118 York Street SE, Aiken, SC 29801  
Sr. Carlos Overstreet, Director  
803.649.2071 Fax: 803.643.0092  
excelatstmarys.com

Horario de Oficina: 7:30AM a 3:30PM lunes a viernes  
(cuando la escuela está en sesión)

### ¡Gracias por su apoyo!

¡Gracias a todos los que participaron en nuestro Día de Donaciones! Estamos profundamente agradecidos por su generosidad y compromiso con la Escuela Santa María. Pueden seguir nuestro progreso y ver el total recaudado visitando nuestra página en #iGiveCatholic:

<https://www.igivecatholic.org/organization/stmaryschoolaiken>.

Si se perdieron la ventana de donaciones en línea, todavía se aceptan donaciones en efectivo o cheque hasta el 9 de diciembre, y se contarán para nuestro total final. ¡Gracias nuevamente por apoyar a nuestra escuela parroquial!

### Cierre de la oficina escolar por vacaciones de Navidad

La oficina de la escuela cerrará por las vacaciones de Navidad el 19 de diciembre a las 11:30AM y reabrirá el lunes 5 de enero.

### Becas educativas de Carolina del Sur

¡Las solicitudes para becas están abiertas para el año escolar 26-27! Por favor para aplicar visite [www.scschoolchoice.com](http://www.scschoolchoice.com). Su familia podría ser elegible para recibir hasta \$7,500 por año por cada estudiante de K-12 para asistir a la Escuela Santa María. ¡Aplique temprano!

### SOCIEDAD DE SAN VICENTE DE PAÚL

La despensa de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl permanecerá cerrada del 24 de diciembre de 2025 al 4 de enero de 2026. Volveremos a abrir el lunes 5 de enero de 2026.

### CONTINUACIÓN DEL ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

Por eso es tan importante que recibamos los sacramentos en este tiempo de Adviento: la confesión, el sacramento del perdón, y la reconciliación, el sacramento de la pureza. ¡Que esta sea nuestra oración!

Les deseo lo mejor en Cristo,  
Padre Wilson

## EVENTOS PARA LA PROXIMA SEMANA

### Domingo, 7 de diciembre

8:30AM	Misa	Iglesia
11:00AM	Misa	Iglesia
11:00AM	Práctica del Coro	San Miguel
1:00PM	Misa en español	Iglesia
6:30PM	Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Santa Teresa

### Lunes, 8 de diciembre **La Inmaculada Concepción** **NO HAY CONFESIONES**

6:30AM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
8:20AM	Misa escolar	Iglesia
12:00PM	Misa	Iglesia
6:00PM	Legión de María	Smith
6:30PM	Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Santa Teresa
7:00PM	Misa bilingüe	Iglesia
7:00PM	Pequeña Comunidad	Santa Teresa

### Martes, 9 de diciembre

4:15PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
6:30PM	RICA	Smith
6:30PM	Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Santa Teresa

### Miércoles, 10 de diciembre

8:20AM	Misa escolar	Iglesia
5:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia
6:30PM	Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Santa Teresa
7:00PM	Misa en español	Iglesia

### Jueves, 11 de diciembre

4:15PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
6:30PM	Novena de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Santa Teresa

### Viernes, 12 de diciembre

4:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa en inglés	Iglesia Antigua
6:00PM	Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe	Iglesia
7:00PM	Misa en español	Iglesia

### Sábado, 13 de diciembre

8:00AM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
3:30PM	Confesiones	Iglesia
5:00PM	Misa de Vigilia	Iglesia

### Domingo, 14 de diciembre

8:30AM	Misa	Iglesia
11:00AM	Misa	Iglesia
11:00AM	Práctica del Coro	San Miguel
1:00PM	Misa en español	Iglesia

**LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL ESTARÁ CERRADA EL LUNES 8 DE DICIEMBRE CON MOTIVO DE LA FIESTA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCIÓN. VOLVEREMOS A ABRIR A LAS 8:30AM DEL MARTES 9 DE DICIEMBRE.**



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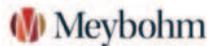
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