

**ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
CATHOLIC CHURCH — DECEMBER 14, 2025**

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



Gaudete Sunday

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

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. 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
Mrs. Kimberly Gaynor, Administrative Assistant
to Fr. Wilson 803.649.4777 ext. 114
kgaynor@charlestandioocese.org
Mr. Carlos Overstreet, Principal, St. Mary's School
803.649.2071 coverstreet@stmaryschoolaiken.com
Mr. Richard Yarshen, Finance Manager
803.649.4777 ext. 104
ryarshen@charlestandioocese.org
Miss Kara Hartman, Parish Secretary
803.649.4777 ext. 113
khartman@charlestandioocese.org
Mrs. Adriana Galvan, Hispanic Secretary
803.649.4777 ext. 100
agalvan@charlestandioocese.org
Mr. Derrick Huestis
Director of Religious Education
803.649.4777 ext. 103
dhuestis@charlestandioocese.org
Mrs. Hannah Dickason, Director of Youth Ministry
615.638.7137 (c)
hdickason@charlestandioocese.org
Mr. V. Franklin Deese II, Parish Musician
706.550.5047 (c)
fdeese@charlestandioocese.org
Mrs. Colleen Snyder, Sacristan
518.524.4464
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 30, 2025

ENVELOPE/CASH OFFERTORY Nov. 30 \$ 16,723
ONLINE OFFERTORY Nov. 30 \$ 12,702
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET \$ 2,118,675

SPECIAL COLLECTION TODAY

NOV. 30 - CATHOLIC MISCELLANY \$ 805
DEC. 14 - RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

DEC. 21—SOLIDARITY FOR CHURCH IN AFRICA

NOTE: The financial updates for **December 7** 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
 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

We are open after Saturday's Vigil Mass and Sunday from 9AM to 3PM this weekend. Stop by and pick up your favorites and check out our new items.

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 more volunteers for the 11:00AM Mass. For information or to volunteer please contact George or Bobbi Sich at riverhost.rs@gmail.com, 740.981.2961 or 740.935.9713

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!

PASTOR'S CORNER

+JM+

Title: The Greatness of John the Baptist
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, as in last Sunday, the Church familiarizes us with the figure of John the Baptist. He had many disciples and a clear and well-differentiated approach to the people in his life: for the Publicans, for the soldiers, for the Pharisees and Sadducees... His desire was to prepare the way for the Messiah's public life. First, He sent John and Andrew; today He sends others so they could know Him too. They ask Him: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:3). John certainly knew who Jesus was. He himself bears witness to that: "I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'" (Jn 1:33). And Jesus responds with facts: the blind see, the lame walk...

John had a firm disposition about his way of life and about sticking to the Truth, which, eventually, brought imprisonment and martyrdom to him. Even in his prison he expeditiously speaks to Herod. John teaches us how to combine a firm character with meekness: "The one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie" (Jn 1:27); "He must increase; I must decrease." (Jn 3:30) He exults in the fact that Jesus baptizes more disciples than him, as he only considers himself as "The one who has the bride is the bridegroom; the best man." (Jn 3:29)

In short: John teaches us to seriously consider our mission on earth: to be tenacious Christians knowing how to behave as sons of God. We should be asking ourselves: –How did Mary and Joseph prepare themselves for Jesus Christ's birth? How did John prepare Jesus' teachings? How do we prepare ourselves to commemorate Christ's coming, Advent, as well as the second Advent at the end of time? As Cyril of Jerusalem said: "We preach not one advent only of Christ, but a second also, far more glorious than the former. For the former gave a view of His patience; but the latter brings with it the crown of a Divine Kingdom."

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!

If there is an hour that works for you, please visit the Adoration webpage at <https://www.stmarys-aiken.org/perpetual-eucharistic-adoration>, or contact one of the Divisional Leaders below:

MDNT.-6AM Tom Henry 803.642.6893 (no text)
6AM-Noon Ken Boucher 803.226.4639
Noon-6PM Janice Suhrer 803.645.6105
6PM-MDNT. Joan Pate 803.226.0263

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

READINGS FOR Dec. 14 – Dec. 21, 2025

Sunday, Dec. 14 readings begin on **page 116** of the Word & Eucharist books found in the pews.

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10
Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-9
Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19 and 23 Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17
Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6
Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

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HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Dec. 14

8:30AM Pro Populo
11:00AM Larry Ball
1:00PM Fernando
Morales Fajardo

Monday, Dec. 15

5:30PM Sherene Powers

Tuesday, Dec. 16

5:30PM Kenneth Banch

Wednesday, Dec. 17

8:20AM Reid Bohning

7:00PM Alberto Gonzalez

Thursday, Dec. 18

5:30PM Penny Goergen

Friday, Dec. 19

5:30PM Claude Rivard

Saturday, Dec. 20

8:00AM Alberto Gonzalez

5:00PM Donald Lemponen

Carol Reeve

Nader Elraheb

Marion Kloss

Theresa Salierno

Sunday, Dec. 21

8:30AM Marguerite Bien

11:00AM Pro Populo

1:00PM Fr. Richard C.

Wilson & Fr. Michael

Ghattas

DEATHS/DIFUNTOS:

Nov. 18 – Jose Leonardo Sanchez Martinez

Nov. 29 – John Galamback

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00PM – MASS IN ENGLISH

6:00PM – MASS IN ENGLISH

8:00PM – MASS IN SPANISH

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00AM – MIDNIGHT MASS IN ENGLISH

10:00AM – MASS IN ENGLISH



**SPECIAL CONFESSION SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT
DECEMBER 15 - 20, 2025**

Monday, December 15 4:45PM - 5:15PM

Tuesday & Thursday

Dec. 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 *

* **Two priests will be available to hear Confessions**

NO WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will not meet December 17, 24 and 31. Class will resume on Wednesday, January 7 at 9:30 to 11:00AM reading the Dilexit Nos encyclical. May you experience true joy this Christmas season!

CARD AND GAME PARTY JANUARY 17, 2026

Catholic Women's Association (CWA) Card and Game Party. If interested in helping, Please call Eva at 803-221-7000

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Have you recently retired? Does your life seem upside down? A listening ear and someone to walk alongside you may be just what you need to regain peace and joy. St. Mary's has male and female Stephen Ministers here to help. Leaflets are in the back of church with more information about Stephen Ministry and simple instructions on how to get information, or call Mary Ellen Jackson at



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@charlestandioocese.org.

For more information about Confirmation contact Hannah Dickason at 615.638.7137 or hdickason@charlestandioocese.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 December 16, Fr. Wilson will talk about the Eucharist. All are welcome. For information contact Derrick Huestis at dhuestis@charlestandioocese.org

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Mrs. Hannah Katherine Dickason
hdickason@charlestandioocese.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 14 – Youth Night

December 21 – Last Youth Night of the semester

December 28 – No Youth Night

CCD

K-6th grades are held in the St. Mary's School classrooms on Sunday at 9:45am - 10:45am.

Reminder: No classes the Sundays of December 28 and January 4th for Christmas and the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Questions? Contact Derrick Huestis at dhuestis@charlestandioocese.org

MILLIONS OF MONICAS

Join other Catholic women, who, like St. Monica, pray for our children and grandchildren to return to the practice of their Catholic faith. We encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children, and to help our children return to the faith. We will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 1:00PM in Old St. Mary's.

More information about the Sacraments can be found on our parish website:
www.stmarys-aiken.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, December 14

8:30AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Sunday Café	No Meeting
11:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Mass in Spanish	Church

Monday, December 15

9:30AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Smith Hall
11:45AM	Lunch & Learn Book Club	Bosco
4:45PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary

Tuesday, December 16

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 17

8:20AM	Mass	Church
9:30AM	Bible Study	No Meeting
3:00PM	Legion of Mary	Smith Hall Down
5:45PM	Confessions	Church
6:00PM	SHE	No Meeting
6:00PM	Journey of Hope	No Meeting
7:00PM	Mass in Spanish	Church

Thursday, December 18

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

Friday, December 19

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

Saturday, December 20

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

Sunday, December 21

8:30AM	Mass	Church
9:45AM	Sunday Café	No Meeting
11:00AM	Mass	Church
1:00PM	Mass in Spanish	Church

CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH FR. GHATTAS

All are welcome to join the Aiken chapter of Life Runners in singing Christmas carols on Monday, Dec. 15, 6:30PM in The Alley (across from TakoSushi). Christ-centered carols will be sung for about 20 minutes, then we eat 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. To join and get a jersey go to www.liferunners.org. Learn more at our "Aiken Life Runners" Facebook page, or contact Dcn. Bob Pierce bpierce@charlestandioocese.org. Running optional . . . jersey required.

PARISH PERKS!

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

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
To Register Online:

<https://bit.ly/RachelsVineyardDec2024>

Please Contact: Christy 803.554.6088,

Kathy 803.546.6010 or 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@charlestandioocese.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 and contact any of these men:

Scott Recher (recherg@gmail.com)

Brett Dickason (brett.w.dickason@gmail.com)

Billy Swann (eswann3rd@gmail.com)

David Tacchi (dmtac5@gmail.com)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Will be closed December 24, 2025–January 4, 2026

We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026

AA OPEN MEETING

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



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 2026-2027 school year.

Please visit 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

THAT MAN IS YOU (TMIY)

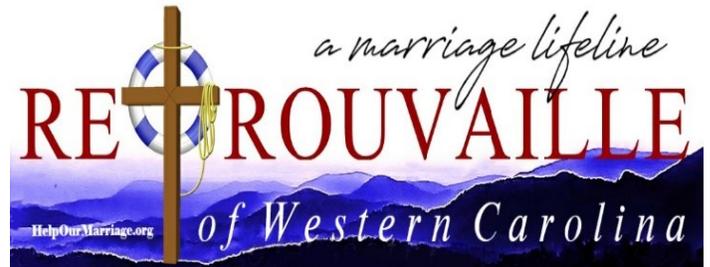
We meet Friday mornings at 6:30AM (doors open at 6:00AM) in Mother Teresa Hall! Join us for "The Light of Men." There is but one source of all light - Jesus! He is the light shattering the darkness of our day. To be in the light is to allow God's light to shine through you and become manifest in abundant virtue. "In Him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1: 4-5). Please contact Chris Ascherman (803-845-0568) or Derron Judd (803-439-2229) for more information!

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. For more information please contact Karen Van Deren at kvanderen@charlestdiocese.org.



Retrouvaille marriage help offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. Retrouvaille offers hope: hope that it is not too late, hope for a different and better marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and, with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored. For over 48 years, Retrouvaille has provided help for marriage problems/difficulties/ crises.

For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program in Charlotte area on January 16-18, 2026 for couples, Email: 3062r@helpourmarriage.org or Call: 727-343-6701 Website: www.HelpOurMarriage.com

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

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.

FIAT HOMESCHOOL CO-OP

Homeschool families are invited to join our monthly meeting this Wednesday, December 17 at 10AM in Mother Teresa Hall. For more information, contact Stephanie Lee at sdzlee87@gmail.com

ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

Título: La grandeza de Juan el Bautista

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Hoy, como el domingo pasado, la Iglesia nos familiariza con la figura de Juan el Bautista. Él tuvo muchos discípulos y un enfoque claro y bien diferenciado hacia las personas de su tiempo: para los publicanos, para los soldados, para los fariseos y saduceos... Su deseo era preparar el camino para la vida pública del Mesías. Primero envió a Juan y Andrés; hoy envía a otros para que también pudieran conocerlo. Ellos le preguntan: "¿Eres tú el que ha de venir, o debemos esperar a otro?" (Mt 11,3). Juan ciertamente sabía quién era Jesús. Él mismo da testimonio de ello: "Yo no lo conocía, pero el que me envió a bautizar con agua me dijo: 'Aquel sobre quien veas descender y permanecer el Espíritu, ése es el que bautiza con el Espíritu Santo.'" (Jn 1,33). Y Jesús responde con hechos: los ciegos ven, los cojos andan...

Juan tuvo una firme disposición respecto a su modo de vida y a mantenerse fiel a la Verdad, lo cual, finalmente, lo llevó al encarcelamiento y al martirio. Incluso en su prisión habla con prontitud a Herodes. Juan nos enseña cómo combinar un carácter firme con mansedumbre: "El que viene detrás de mí, a quien no soy digno de desatarle la correa de su sandalia" (Jn 1,27); "Es necesario que Él crezca y que yo disminuya." (Jn 3,30). Él se regocija en el hecho de que Jesús bautiza a más discípulos que él, pues sólo se considera a sí mismo como "El que tiene a la esposa es el esposo; el amigo del esposo." (Jn 3,29).

En resumen: Juan nos enseña a considerar seriamente nuestra misión en la tierra: ser cristianos tenaces, sabiendo cómo comportarnos como hijos de Dios. Deberíamos preguntarnos: -¿Cómo se prepararon María y José para el nacimiento de Jesucristo? ¿Cómo preparó Juan las enseñanzas de Jesús? ¿Cómo nos preparamos nosotros para conmemorar la venida de Cristo, el Adviento, así como el segundo Adviento al final de los tiempos? Como dijo Cirilo de Jerusalén: "No predicamos sólo un adviento de Cristo, sino también un segundo, mucho más glorioso que el primero. Pues el primero mostró su paciencia; pero el segundo trae consigo la corona de un Reino Divino."

Con todo afecto en Cristo,

Padre Wilson

FORMACIÓN CRISTIANA

LAS LECTURAS DE LAS ESCRITURAS DEL 14 de diciembre al 21 de diciembre, 2025

Las lecturas para domingo, el 23 de noviembre comienzan en la **pagina 117** en el libro "Palabra y Eucaristía"

Domingo:	Is 35, 1-6. 10 Mt 11, 2-11	Sal 145, 6-10	Sant 5, 7-10
Lunes:	Nm 24, 2-7. 15-17	Sal 24, 4-9	Mt 21, 23-27
Martes:	Sof 3, 1-2. 9-13 Mt 21, 28-32	Sal 33, 2-3. 6-7. 17-19 y 23	
Miércoles:	Gn 49, 2. 8- Mt 1, 1-17	Sal 71, 1-4. 7-8. 17	
Jueves:	Jr 23, 5-8 Mt 1, 18-24	Sal 71, 1-2. 12-13. 18-19	
Viernes:	Jue 13, 2-7. 24- Lc 1, 5-25	Sal 72, 3-6. 16-17	
Sábado:	Is 7, 10-14	Sal 23, 1-6	Lc 1, 26-38
Domingo siguiente:	Is 7, 10-14 Rom 1, 1-7	Sal 23, 1-6 (7. 10)	Mt 1, 18-24

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

HORARIO PARA LAS MISAS DE NAVIDAD 2025

24 DE DICIEMBRE, LA NOCHEBUENA

4:00PM MISA EN INGLÉS
6:00PM MISA EN INGLÉS
8:00PM MISA EN ESPAÑOL



25 DE DICIEMBRE, LA NATIVIDAD DEL SEÑOR

12:00AM – MISA DE MEDIANOCHE
10:00AM – MISA EN INGLÉS

Todas las Misas se celebrarán en la iglesia en Fairfield St.

HORARIO ESPECIAL DE CONFESIONES

PARA EL ADVIENTO

DICIEMBRE 15 - 20, 2025



Lunes, Diciembre 15	4:45PM - 5:15PM
Martes y Jueves, Diciembre 16 & 18	4:15PM - 5:15PM *
Miércoles, Diciembre 17	5:45PM - 6:45PM
Viernes, Diciembre 19	4:45PM - 5:15PM
Sábado, Diciembre 20	3:30PM - 4:30PM *

*** Dos sacerdotes estarán disponibles para escuchar confesiones.**

QUINCEAÑERAS

Para registrarse o para más información, por favor comuníquese con **Mary Hernández al 803-522-3988.**

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.

Para más información sobre la Confirmación, contactarse con Hannah Dickason al 615.638.7137 o a 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

Puede encontrar más información sobre los sacramentos en nuestro sitio web parroquial www.stmarys-aiken.org

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

10 de enero 2026 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
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

14 de diciembre – Noche de los jóvenes
21 de diciembre – Última noche jóvenes del año
28 de diciembre – No hay noche para jóvenes.

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

TIENDA DE REGALOS HORARIO

Tenemos calendarios de Adviento, coronas navideñas, tarjetas de Navidad, árboles con adornos, Las Posadas, etc. para que elijas en esta temporada de Adviento.

DURANTE TODO EL MES DE DICIEMBRE, LA MISA EN ESPAÑOL DE LOS MIÉRCOLES SE CELEBRARÁ en la IGLESIA NUEVA, manteniendo el mismo horario habitual.



ESCUELA PARROQUIAL DE SANTA MARÍA
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 St. Mary's.

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 11:30 a.m. 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 visite www.scschoolchoice.com para aplicar. Su familia podría ser elegible para recibir hasta \$7,500 por año por cada estudiante de K-12 para asistir a la Escuela St. Mary's. ¡Aplique temprano!

¿QUIERES OFRECER UNA MISA POR UN SER QUERIDO O POR UNA INTENCIÓN ESPECIAL?

Ofrecer una intención de Misa es una hermosa manera de orar por alguien ya sea por su descanso eterno, por salud, acción de gracias o alguna necesidad particular. Si deseas hacerlo, te pedimos que llames directamente a la oficina parroquial con anticipación para reservar la fecha ya que según el Canon 948 del Código de Derecho Canónico, "se debe aplicar una Misa por una sola intención a la vez". Tu comprensión y colaboración nos ayudan a mantener el debido respeto y orden en la celebración de la Santa Misa.

SOCIEDAD DE SAN VICENTE DE PAÚL

Para alimentos o asistencia financiera, llame al 803.642.3211. Abierto de lunes a jueves de 9:00AM a 1:00PM. Cerrado los viernes.

EVENTOS PARA LA PROXIMA SEMANA

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

Lunes, 15 de diciembre

4:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
6:00PM	Legión de María	Smith

Martes, 16 de diciembre

4:15PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
6:30PM	RICA	Smith
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa

Miércoles, 17 de diciembre

8:20AM	Misa escolar	Iglesia
5:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa
7:00PM	Misa en español	Iglesia

Jueves, 18 de diciembre

4:15PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa

Viernes, 19 de diciembre

4:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Theresa

Sábado, 20 de diciembre

8:00AM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
3:30PM	Confesiones	Iglesia
5:00PM	Misa de Vigilia	Iglesia
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa

Domingo, 21 de diciembre

8:30AM	Misa	Iglesia
11:00AM	Misa	Iglesia
11:00AM	Práctica del Coro	San Miguel
1:00PM	Misa en español	Iglesia
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa

ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS (AA)

1889 Columbia Highway, N. Aiken, SC 29805
Telefono: 214.903.1812
7:00PM Todos los domingos.

¡ACOMPÁÑANOS A LA POSADA PARROQUIAL!

Invitamos a toda la comunidad a celebrar juntos nuestra **Posada Parroquial** el **21 de diciembre a las 2:00 pm**. Habrá **comida** y **bolos/regalitos para los niños**. ¡Te esperamos para compartir un momento de alegría y convivencia!



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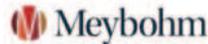
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