

**ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
CATHOLIC CHURCH — DECEMBER 21, 2025**

Fourth 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

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

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.

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

The pantry will be closed

December 24, 2025 through January 4, 2026.

We will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026.

For food or financial assistance call 803.642.3211

Open Monday – Thursday 9:00AM – 1:00PM

Closed On Fridays

TOTALS AS OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

ENVELOPE/CASH OFFERTORY DEC. 7 \$ 16,723
ONLINE OFFERTORY DEC. 7 \$ 12,702
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET \$ 2,118,675

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CATHOLIC MISCELLANY \$805
Dec. 14 - Retirement for the Religious

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

DEC. 25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DEC. 28 ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

NOTE: The financial updates for November 14 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 HOURS—SUNDAY, 9:00AM - 1:00PM

There's still time to purchase Fontanini figures, a stained-glass window ornament, a fun family activity, and more. We also have gift cards if you can't think of what to get that special person in your life. Merry Christmas to you and yours! The gift shop will be closed December 27 and 28.



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

+JMJ+

In Joseph's Shadow

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas is just around the corner. The air is full of the good things - and the not-so-good things - we are doing to celebrate the feast. Christmas carols, gifts, joy. Joy? Do we really feel joy these days, or does everything just turn into a few days of distraction in which we forget about our problems, our anxiety and the dissatisfaction of the rest of the year?

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the figure of Mary is present in a very special way. Without her the world could not have been redeemed. Jesus comes into the world through Mary, because she was able to accept with humility that the strength of the Holy Spirit would act on her and make her fertile, causing the Messiah, the Savior, to be conceived within her.

We should do what Mary did, allowing the Holy Spirit to act in us. How often do we put obstacles and not allow him to transform us! How often do we prefer to follow our routine, with our fears and prejudices; we don't approach him with a clean and open heart; we don't know how to show Christ to others! So instead of giving Christ to others, we give our own way of thinking, our quirks or our cowardice. We should ask Mary to help us, so we learn to act like her.

Joseph is at Mary's side. We could say that he is the main character in today's Gospel. Joseph is normally a background character in the story, but today he appears as a man with the strength and confidence to accept the unexpected plans of God, and to act with determination in accordance with God's Will, once he finds out what it is. He makes it possible for God's promises to Israel to be fulfilled. His faith is based on God's word. He trusts in what God has said and believes that God will never break his promises. This is the only way he can follow the path of the Lord, even if it may mean he has to grope in the darkness.

Today's Gospel calls us beyond the superficial aspects of Christmas. The Holy Spirit wants to fill us with his grace, as He filled Mary and Joseph, so that we too might participate in the birth of Christ in the concrete world in which we live. It is a call to believe in the Lord's word and in His promises. He is coming, He is here and He promises us the strength of salvation. His only request is that, with a clean heart, we learn to listen to Him humbly so we can find out what His will is for our lives and what path we must undertake each day. Just as Joseph and Mary did.

A Blessed and Holy Christmas to all!

In Christ's Love,
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 the Adoration webpage at <https://www.stmarys-aiken.org/perpetual-eucharistic-adoration>, or contact one of the Divisional Leaders:

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



Not connected yet? Want to add or change which groups/ministries you want to hear

from or be a part of? Please text AIKEN to the short phone number 84576, or connect with us online at stmaryhelp.flocknote.com (you can text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time). You will receive messages only from those groups or ministries for which you sign up!

Troubleshooting: If you've already signed up but are not receiving emails, add mail@flocknote.com as a new contact so that Flocknote messages will be on your safe sender list and make it to your email inbox.

If you have questions please contact Donna Pierce at piercedin1988@gmail.com

WHEELCHAIR EXPRESS

We need additional Wheelchair Express drivers for **8:30AM and 11:00AM Masses**. Volunteers would rotate with others once every three weeks or so. Wheelchair Express is available for anyone needing wheelchair assistance into the sanctuary and back to their vehicles after Mass on Sundays. Volunteers are present 30 minutes before each of the Masses. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Bobbie or George Sich at 740.981.2961

READINGS FOR Dec. 21 – Dec. 28, 2025

Sunday, Dec. 7 readings begin on **page 120** of the Word & Eucharist books found in the pews.

Sunday: Is 7:10-14	Ps 24:1-7c, 10b
Rom 1:1-7	Mt 1:18-24
Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28	1 Sm 2:1, 4-8
Lk 1:46-56	
Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24	
Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10 and 14	Lk 1:57-66
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16	
Ps 89:2-5, 27 and 29	Lk 1:67-79
Thursday:	
Vigil: Is 62:1-5	Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25	Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6	Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 (Lk 2:11)
Ti 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12	Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12
Ti 3:4-7	Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10	Ps 98:1-6 (3c)
Heb 1:1-6	Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14
Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	
Ps 31:3-4, 6 and 8ab, 16 and 17	Mt 10:17-22
Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4	Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
Jn 20:1a, 2-8	
Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14	Ps 128:1-5
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17	Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

©LPI

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Dec. 21

8:30AM Marguerite Bien
11:00AM Pro Populo
1:00PM Father Richard C. Wilson and Father Michael Ghattas

Monday, Dec. 22

5:30PM Alberto Gonzalez

Tuesday, Dec. 23

5:30PM Joyce Murphy

Wednesday, Dec. 24

4:00PM Audrey Whitney & Larue Cash

6:00PM Beatrice K. Runion

8:00PM Legionarios de Maria

Thursday, Dec. 25

12:00AM Penny Goergen
10:00AM James Hunter

Friday, Dec. 26

5:30PM George Wilson Sr.

Saturday, Dec. 27

8:00AM Thomas Shelley

5:00PM Pat Kruse

Elaine Pivert Smith

Alberto Gonzalez

Juan Maravilla

Sunday, Dec. 28

8:30AM Mary Daly

11:00AM Gary Ware

1:00PM Pro Populo

DEATHS/DIFUNTOS:

November 22—James Donovan

"If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find the time to do it all."

—St. Peter Canisius
Feast Day Dec. 21

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@charlestandiocese.org.

For more information about Confirmation contact Hannah Dickason at 615.638.7137 or hdickason@charlestandiocese.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, January 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)

Are you interested in learning about the Catholic faith? We meet Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:30PM in Mother Teresa Hall. Our next class will be January 6. All are welcome. For more information contact Derrick Huestis at dhuestis@charlestandiocese.org

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Mrs. Hannah Katherine Dickason
hdickason@charlestandiocese.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.

December 21 – Last Confirmation 2 class of the semester

YOUTH MINISTRY

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@charlestandiocese.org

Saints and Liturgy

Christmas is nearly upon us! We will see the colors in the church change from violet, representing the anticipation of the coming of our Lord, to white as we celebrate Jesus being born into our lives. Since the Church celebrates Christmas until the Baptism of the Lord, the color white will continue to be used at Mass until the Baptism of the Lord on January 11.

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, December 21

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

Monday, December 22

9:30AM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	No meeting
11:45AM	Lunch & Learn Book Club	Bosco
4:45PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary

Tuesday, December 23

3:30PM	Grief Share	Mother Teresa
3:30PM	Legion of Mary	Smith Hall
4:45PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary
6:00PM	OCIA	Mother Teresa

Wednesday, December 24

9:30AM	Bible Study	No Meeting
3:00PM	Legion of Mary	Smith Hall Down
4:00PM	Christmas Eve Mass	Church
6:00PM	Christmas Eve Mass	Church
6:00PM	SHE	No meeting
6:00PM	Journey of Hope	No meeting
8:00PM	Christmas Eve Mass in Spanish	Church

Thursday, December 25

12:00AM	Midnight Mass	Church
10:00AM	Christmas Day Mass	Church

Friday, December 26

6:30AM	That Man is You	No Meeting
4:45PM	Confessions	Old St. Mary
5:30PM	Mass	Old St. Mary

Saturday, December 27

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

Sunday, December 28

8:30AM	Mass	Church
9:45AM	Sunday Café	No meeting
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

MUSIC MINISTRY – CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

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, such as Advent, Lent 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 one 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)

ANNUAL (CWA) GAME AND CARD PARTY

Saturday, January 17, 2026 9:30AM - 2:30PM
St. Angela Hall \$15 per person

Enjoy Fellowship - Door Prizes - Breakfast Breads
 Light Lunch for women and men.

Bring your party of 2,3,4 or more & your favorite game: Backgammon, Bridge, Canasta, Chess, Rummy, Mah Jongg, Scrabble, etc. You may reserve a table by **texting** Emily at 803-221-6978 or leave a voicemail for Eva at 803-221-7000 before **January 12, 2026**.

Donations of breakfast breads for morning coffee, cookies for lunch and wrapped door prizes (\$10 maximum) would be greatly appreciated. You can use the following sign-up genius or call Eva Darr at 803-221-7000 and bring items to St. Angela Hall on Friday, January 16, 10:00AM – 4:00PM.

Signup Genius Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4BAFAE29A7F49-61128982-cwacard>

Thank you for helping with this community wide event. 100% of the proceeds benefit ACTS and the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

If you would like to volunteer or have questions,
 Call Eva at 803-221-7000.

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





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)

SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS VACATION

The school office closed for the 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 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!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

If you know of any ill or grieving person in need of a hand-made blanket or shawl, please contact St. Mary's at 803.649.4777. These are lovingly made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry and blessed by our priests. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry, please contact Mary Anne Graff at 803.642.6716. There are lots of materials available to use, so please come and join us.

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.

IN THE HOSPITAL?

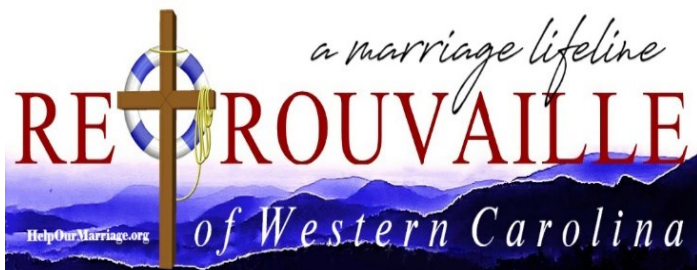
St. Mary's Hospital Ministry strives to bring Holy Communion daily to Catholic patients in the Aiken hospital. If you or a family member are in the hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact the parish office at 803.649.4777. If you are not able to receive Communion, we can still come and pray with you! Because of confidentiality, the hospital cannot tell us you're there without your permission. Please help us bring you the healing power and strength of Jesus!

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



ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS: If you would like to offer a gift of flowers to honor our Lord and someone special to you, contact Colleen Snyder at csnyder@charlestdiocese.org or 518.524.4464. The requested donation is \$300.00 for two arrangements on the altar.

ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

A la sombra de José

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo:

La Navidad está a la vuelta de la esquina. El aire está lleno de las cosas buenas –y de las no tan buenas– que hacemos para celebrar la fiesta. Villancicos, regalos, alegría. ¿Alegría? ¿Realmente sentimos alegría en estos días, o todo se convierte simplemente en unos días de distracción en los que olvidamos nuestros problemas, nuestra ansiedad y la insatisfacción del resto del año?

En este cuarto domingo de Adviento, la figura de María está presente de una manera muy especial. Sin ella el mundo no podría haber sido redimido. Jesús viene al mundo a través de María, porque ella fue capaz de aceptar con humildad que la fuerza del Espíritu Santo actuara en ella y la hiciera fecunda, causando que el Mesías, el Salvador, naciera en su seno.

Debemos hacer lo que hizo María: permitir que el Espíritu Santo actúe en nosotros. ¡Cuántas veces ponemos obstáculos y no le dejamos transformarnos! ¡Cuántas veces preferimos seguir nuestra rutina, con nuestros miedos y prejuicios; no nos acercamos a Él con un corazón limpio y abierto, no sabemos mostrar a Cristo a los demás! Así, en lugar de dar a Cristo a los demás, damos nuestra propia manera de pensar, nuestras rarezas o nuestra cobardía. Debemos pedir a María que nos ayude, para que aprendamos a actuar como ella.

José está al lado de María. Podríamos decir que él es el protagonista del Evangelio de hoy. Normalmente José aparece como un personaje secundario en la historia, pero hoy se presenta como un hombre con la fuerza y la confianza para aceptar los planes inesperados de Dios, y para actuar con determinación conforme a la Voluntad de Dios, una vez que descubre cuál es. Él hace posible que las promesas de Dios a Israel se cumplan. Su fe está basada en la palabra de Dios; confía en lo que Dios ha dicho y cree que Dios nunca romperá sus promesas. Esta es la única manera en que puede seguir el camino del Señor, incluso si eso significa que tenga que avanzar a tientas en la oscuridad.

ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA SIETE, COLUMNA DOS.

“Si tienes demasiado que hacer, con la ayuda de Dios encontrarás tiempo para hacerlo todo.”

*–San Pedro Canisio
Día de fiesta, el 21 de diciembre*

FORMACIÓN CRISTIANA

LAS LECTURAS DE LAS ESCRITURAS DEL 21 de diciembre al 28 de diciembre, 2025

Las lecturas para domingo, el 21 de diciembre comienzan en la **pagina 121** en el libro “Palabra y Eucaristía”

Domingo: Is 7, 10-14 Sal 23, 1-6 Rom 1, 1-7
Mt 1, 18-24
Lunes: 1 Sm 1, 24-28 1 Sm 2, 1. 4-8 Lc 1, 46-56
Martes: Mal 3, 1-4. 23-24 Sal 24, 4-5. 8-10 y 14
Lc 1, 57-66
Miércoles:
Mañana: 2 Sm 7, 1-5. 8-12. 14. 16
Sal 88, 2-5. 27 y 29 Lc 1, 67-79
Jueves:
Vigilia: Is 62, 1-5 Sal 88, 4-5. 16-17. 27. 29
Hch 13, 16-17. 22-25 Mt 1, 1-25 o 1, 18-25
Misa de medianoche: Is 9, 1-6 Sal 95, 1-3. 11-13
Tit 2, 11-14 Lc 2, 1-14
Matutina: Is 62, 11-12 Sal 96, 1. 6. 11-12
Tit 3, 4-7 Lc 2, 15-20
Día: Is 52, 7-10 Sal 97, 1. 2-6 Heb 1, 1-6
Jn 1, 1-18 o 1, 1-5. 9-14
Viernes: Hch 6, 8-10; 7, 54-59
Sal 30, 3-4. 6 y 8. 16 y 17 Mt 10, 17-22
Sábado: 1 Jn 1, 1-4 Sal 96, 1-2. 5-6. 11-12
Jn 20, 1, 2-8
Domingo siguiente: Eclo 3, 2-6. 12-14 Sal 127, 1-5
Col 3, 12-21 o 3, 12-17 Mt 2, 13-15. 19-23

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

CONTINUACIÓN DEL ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

El Evangelio de hoy nos llama a ir más allá de los aspectos superficiales de la Navidad; el Espíritu Santo quiere llenarnos de su gracia como llenó a María y a José, para que también nosotros participemos en el nacimiento de Cristo en el mundo concreto en el que vivimos. Es una llamada a creer en la palabra del Señor, en las promesas del Señor. Él viene, Él está aquí y nos promete la fuerza de la salvación. Su única petición es que, con un corazón limpio, aprendamos a escucharlo con humildad para que cada uno pueda descubrir cuál es la Voluntad de Dios en nuestras vidas, cuál es el camino que debemos emprender cada día. Igual que José y María. ¡Una Navidad Bendita y Santa para todos!
Con todo lo mejor en Cristo,
Padre Wilson

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.

Próximamente: 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 Mary Ellen Jackson al 803.649.4777 ext. 103 o a mjackson@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

DONACIONES DE FLORES PARA EL ALTAR

Las flores del altar pueden ser patrocinadas durante todo el año, excepto durante la Cuaresma, y el costo es \$300 por dos arreglos. Si desea ofrecer un arreglo de flores para honrar a nuestro Señor o a alguien especial para usted, comuníquese con Colleen Snyder at csnyder@charlestandiocese.org or 518.524.4464.

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

21 de diciembre: Última noche juvenil del semestre
28 de diciembre: No hay 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

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



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Sr. Carlos Overstreet, Director
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excelatstmarys.com

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

Oficina escolar cerrada por vacaciones de Navidad

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

Becas de educación de Carolina del Sur

¡Ya está abierto el plazo de solicitud de becas para el curso escolar 26-27! Visite <https://online.factsmgt.com/grant-aid/inst/4QDZ2/landing-page> para solicitarla. Su familia puede tener derecho a recibir 7500 dólares al año por cada estudiante de primaria y secundaria que asista a St. Mary's School. Solicítela cuanto antes para evitar las listas de espera. Envíe un correo electrónico a office@stmaryschoolaiken.com si tiene alguna pregunta o visite www.stmaryschoolaiken.com para concertar una visita.

TIENDA DE REGALOS HORARIO

Todavía hay tiempo para comprar figuras de Fontanini, un adorno para ventanas de vitral, una divertida actividad familiar y mucho más. También tenemos tarjetas de regalo si no se le ocurre qué regalarle a esa persona especial en su vida. ¡Feliz Navidad a usted y a los suyos! La tienda de regalos permanecerá cerrada el 27 y 28 de diciembre.

Domingos de 9:00AM to 1:00PM
y el primer fin de semana de cada mes
después de las misas del sábado a las 5:00PM
y del domingo a la 1:00PM.

Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl

La despensa permanecerá cerrada del
24 de diciembre de 2025 al 4 de enero de 2026.
Reabriremos el lunes 5 de enero de 2026.

¿EMBARAZO INESPERADO?

¡No estás sola! Recursos de ayuda gratuitos:
Ministerio Respeto a la Vida 803.634.3171
Centro de Atención de Embarazo Life Choices
803.648.9890 <https://pregnancyaiken.com>
Birth Right Columbia 803.765.0165
Línea de ayuda 24/7 1.800.550.4900
<https://birthright.org>

EVENTOS PARA LA PROXIMA SEMANA

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

Lunes, 22 de diciembre

4:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
6:00PM	Legión de María	Smith
7:00PM	Pequeña Comunidad	Santa Teresa
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa

Martes, 23 de diciembre

4:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua
6:30PM	RICA	Smith
7:00PM	Posadas	Santa Teresa

Miércoles, 24 de diciembre

4:00PM	Misa de la Nochebuena	Iglesia
6:00PM	Misa de la Nochebuena	Iglesia
8:00PM	Misa de la Nochebuena en español	Iglesia

Jueves, 25 de diciembre

12:00AM	Misa de Medianoche	Iglesia
10:00AM	Misa en inglés	Iglesia

Viernes, 26 de diciembre

4:45PM	Confesiones	Iglesia Antigua
5:30PM	Misa	Iglesia Antigua

Sábado, 27 de diciembre

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

Domingo, 28 de diciembre

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

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.**





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