



# ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,  
he found him and said, "Do you believe in the  
Son of Man?" - Jn 9:35

## WELCOME TO ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS 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 Street  
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 - Iglesia Antigua  
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** - St. Claire Chapel

**Rosary** - Before Daily Mass

### Pre Recorded Mass (On YouTube)

Sunday 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. 102  
[ryarshen@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:ryarshen@charlestandioocese.org)  
Mrs. Kara Keenan, Parish Secretary  
803.649.4777 ext. 113  
[kkeenan@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:kkeenan@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  
803.716.8451 (c)  
[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)

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

For food or financial assistance call 803.642.3211  
or visit their website at  
[https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/urla=https%3a%2f%2fsvdpaiiken.org&c=E,1,0gzNrDkMP5E\\_xFSdHuUWlOmpUoPFX6G1LHwaBL1fjMzzPExpMBFNf4VIGjA\\_n2jiEYhm19qJQ2CauhzZGmSavi-2dG8h01WAu913JME\\_fy0enppZQ7uP1Tiqw,,&typo=1](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/urla=https%3a%2f%2fsvdpaiiken.org&c=E,1,0gzNrDkMP5E_xFSdHuUWlOmpUoPFX6G1LHwaBL1fjMzzPExpMBFNf4VIGjA_n2jiEYhm19qJQ2CauhzZGmSavi-2dG8h01WAu913JME_fy0enppZQ7uP1Tiqw,,&typo=1)  
Open Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm  
Closed On Fridays

## TOTALS AS OF SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

Offertory	Mar. 1	\$ 30, 132
Online Giving	Mar. 1	\$ 16, 288
Offertory	Mar. 8	\$ 62, 438
Online Giving	Mar. 8	\$ 23, 417
Total Annual Budget		\$ 2,118,675

### 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 at — [www.stmarys-aiken.org](http://www.stmarys-aiken.org)

1. Click on “GIVING”, then “SUNDAY OFFERTORY”
2. Make your selections
3. 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.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will have stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent through Good Friday. It will be after 5:30pm Mass at Old St. Mary's.



### GIFT SHOP—WE ANTICIPATE EASTER!

This is our midpoint for Easter and preparation time for First Penance, Holy Communion, and Confirmations. We're celebrating our candidates, too! Visit the gift shop Sunday 9:00am – 1:00pm; after the Wednesday 8:20 am school children's Mass during February and March.

### AA OPEN MEETING

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

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CWA) ENGRAVED BRICK PROGRAM

We have an on-going engraved brick program to benefit the CWA Kitchen fund. Order forms are in the parish office or call Claire at 803.270.0887 (leave a message). Thank you for your support.

## PASTOR'S CORNER

+JMJ+

Coming out of the darkness

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent — also called rose or “laetare” (rejoice) Sunday— the entire liturgy invites us to experience a deep joy, a great exultation, because Easter is getting nearer.

Jesus was the cause of great joy for the man who had been blind from birth, and who received his eyesight from Him along with the gift of spiritual light. The blind man believed and he received Christ's light. On the other hand, the Pharisees, so engulfed in their own wisdom and beliefs, remained blinded because of the hardness of their hearts and their sins. In fact, “the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight.” (Jn 9:18)

Yes, we need Christ's light to see reality in our lives! Without the light of faith, we would be almost blind. We have been bestowed with Christ's light, and we need our life to go on being illuminated by His light. Even more so, His light must shine through our actions so that it may appeal to those who are still unaware of Christ's light and love. All this suggests our need for conversion and personal growth in charity, especially in this time of Lent. Saint Leo the Great exhorts us: “Although, it is always good to exercise ourselves in the virtue of charity, these days of Lent invite us to, in a more urgent manner.”

One thing can move us away from the light and joy Jesus Christ gives us, and this is sin: trying to live far from the Lord's light. Unfortunately, many — at times, even ourselves — go deeply down this dark and gloomy road until we lose light and peace. Out of his own experience, Saint Augustine claimed that there is nothing unhappier than the happiness of those who sin. “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” (1 John 1:8)

Easter is getting nearer and the Lord wants to communicate to us all the joy of His Resurrection. May we prepare ourselves to receive and celebrate it. “Go wash...” (Jn 9:7), Jesus tells us. We are called to wash in the purifying waters of the Sacrament of Penance! If we do that, we shall again find His light and His joy and accomplish our best preparation for the Easter celebrations.

All the best...in Christ,  
Father Wilson

**PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION  
IN STE CLAIRE CHAPEL**



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

To try a holy hour, please visit the Adoration webpage at <https://www.stmarysaiken.org/perpetualeucharisticadoration>, or contact Lori Rainchuso at [larue150@yahoo.com](mailto:larue150@yahoo.com).

**Hours in Need** (although ALL hours are available)

MON: 1 am; 3 am

TUES: 12 Mdnt; 3 am

WED: 12 Mdnt; 2 am; 3 am

THU: 1 am

FRI: 3 am; 7 am

SAT: 3 am; 4 pm; 6 pm; 10 pm

SUN: 2 am; 3 am; 6 am; 11 am; 6 pm

**SOCIAL MEDIA SCAMS TO BE AWARE OF**

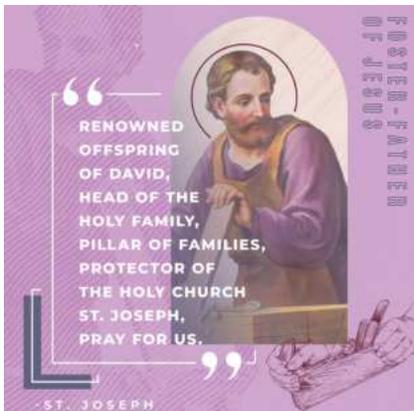
If you receive emails or texts sent in my name or other parish/school staff, asking for financial help in one form or another, please know that neither I, nor any parish employee, will ever ask you for donations of any kind via social media. Please do not respond to any message that you may receive.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

**KERMES**

The parish community is invited to participate in the Kermes, where we will have Mexican snacks: tacos, tamales, tostadas, sopas, salads, ceviche tostadas, fruits, desserts, and aguas frescas. From 12:00pm until 4:00pm in Saint Angela Hall. Next date is Sunday April 12

**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.



**READINGS FOR MARCH 15 - MARCH 22, 2026**

Sunday, March 15 readings begin on **page 184** of the Word & Eucharist books found in the pews.

Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a	Ps 23:1-6
	Eph 5:8-14	Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
Monday:	Is 65:17-21	Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
	Jn 4:43-54	
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12	Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
	Jn 5:1-16	
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15	Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18
	Jn 5:17-30	
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16	
	Ps 89:2-5, 27 and 29	Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
	Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	
Friday:	Wis 2:1a, 12-22	Ps 34:17-20, 21 and 23
	Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20	Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12
	Jn 7:40-53	
Next Sunday:	Ez 37:12-14	Ps 130:1-8 Rom 8:8-11
	Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45	

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**HOLY MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sunday Mar. 15**

8:30am Ashley Zejewski  
11:00am Pro Populo  
1:00pm Felipe Viera  
Camacho

**Monday Mar. 16**

5:30pm Paul J.  
Goldschmidt

**Tuesday Mar. 17**

5:30pm Pasquale Crea

**Wednesday Mar. 18**

8:20am Roland C. More  
7:00pm Eusebia Dawa

**Thursday Mar. 19**

5:30pm Dr. Charlie  
Timmerman

**Friday Mar. 20**

5:30pm Lois Gniazdowski

**Saturday Mar. 21**

8:00am Peter Toscano  
5:00pm Lois Gniazdowski  
Jenn Hall (L)  
Mary O'Conner (L)  
Benny Clayton  
Christopher Gasilorek

**Sunday Mar. 22**

8:30am Ashley Zejewski  
11:00am Michael Poth  
1:00pm Pro Populo

**DEATHS / DIFUNTOS**

Feb. 25 - Carol Park

Mar. 4 - Patricia Hanlon

As we continue our Lenten journey,  
Please depart in silence after the dismissal.  
Please wait to leave until the priest and ministers  
have departed.

Try to maintain a quiet reflection  
within the body of the church.

Thank you.

## 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, March 22, 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 class 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 AND 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 [hdickason@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:hdickason@charlestdiocese.org) or 615.638.7137.

### 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)

Next Baptism is April 4 in New St. Mary Church on Park Avenue.

- 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 6:00pm – 7:30pm in Mother Teresa Hall. All are welcome. For more information contact Derrick Huestis at [dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org) 803-716-8451.

### 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

March 29 – No Class

### YOUTH MINISTRY

March 15 – Youth Night

March 18 – Young Disciples

March 22 – Youth Night

March 25 – Young Disciples

March 29 – Youth Night

### CCD

K-6th grades are held in the St. Mary's School classrooms on Sunday at 9:45am – 10:45am. We are in need of substitute teachers. If you are a in good standing with the Church and would like to help, contact Derrick Huestis at 803-716-8451 or [dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org)

Merciful God,

On this day of Lent, we come before You with humble hearts. We remember that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, yet in Your mercy, You breathe into us the breath of life. Turn our hearts from sin and toward Your light. Cleanse us from all that keeps us far from You and renew in us a steadfast spirit. May our fasting open us to compassion, our prayers draw us closer to Your heart, and our acts of love bring hope to the world. As we begin this Lenten journey, walk with us in the wilderness, strengthen us in our weakness, and lead us to the joy of Easter morning.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, March 15

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

### Monday, March 16

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	Smith Hall
11:45am Lunch & Learn Book Club	Bosco
1:00pm Rosary Makers	Mother Teresa
4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church

### Tuesday, March 17

3:30pm Legion of Mary	Smith Hall
4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church
6:00pm OCIA	Mother Teresa

### Wednesday, March 18

6:30 am Mass	Old Church
8:20am Mass	Church
9:30am Bible Study	St. Michael Hall
3:00pm Legion of Mary	Smith Hall Down
6:00pm SHE	Mother Teresa
5:45pm Confessions	Church
7:00pm Spanish Mass	Church

### Thursday, March 19

11:15am Thursday Bible Study	Smith Hall
4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church

### Friday, March 20

4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church
6:15pm Station of the Cross	Old Church

### Saturday, March 21

8:00am Mass	Old Church
4:45pm Confessions	Church
5:00pm Vigil Mass	Church

### Sunday, March 22

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

### EXTENDED CONFESSION TIMES BEFORE EASTER

Tuesday 17	4:15pm - 5:15pm
Wednesday 18	5:45pm - 6:45pm
Thursday 19	4:15pm - 5:15pm
Tuesday 24	4:15pm - 5:15pm
Wednesday 25	5:45pm - 6:45pm
Thursday 26	4:15pm - 5:15pm

**\*There will be two priests  
hearing confessions on these days\***

## 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](mailto:fdeese@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. Our mission is to encounter God through prayer for ourselves and our children, to grow in holiness and humility, and to help our children return to the faith. We will meet on Wednesday, MARCH 18th at 1:00 pm in Old St. Mary's. If you have not signed up for Flocknote, please do so, and join the Millions of Monicas group to receive a monthly reminder of our prayer meeting.

### 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 these 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)

### AOH (ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS)

First Meeting in St. Michael Hall on Thursday, March 19, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Any questions, please contact Paul Gaynor at 908.692.9547.

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We meet Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:00am in St. Michael Hall. Bring a Catholic Bible and join us as we study the Letter to the Hebrews. For more information contact Martha Whittingham, 865- 599-8473 or [whittimp@gmail.com](mailto:whittimp@gmail.com)



## St. Mary's Parish School

118 York Street SE, Aiken, SC29801  
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)

### ST. MARY'S SCHOOL DINNER AND AUCTION

It's your last chance to buy tickets for our PTO's annual Dinner and Auction on March 14 at the Reserve. This year's event will be an unforgettable 1920s Speakeasy Mystery Gala. Tickets can be purchased through Wednesday. Go to [Your paragraph text](#) for more information or contact [pto@stmaryschoolaiken.com](mailto:pto@stmaryschoolaiken.com).

### ST. MARY'S ROBOTICS TEAM WINS REGIONAL COMPETITION



Recently our St. Mary's Robotics Team competed in a VEX Robotics Competition in Lexington, SC. They placed first in the skills challenge and going undefeated, they brought home the championship trophy, securing them a spot at the South Carolina State VEX Robotics Tournament held this coming weekend. Join us in congratulating our team and praying for their safe travels. Go Saints, Go Paddy!

### SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN (SHE)

Season 4 runs through March 25 on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30pm. In a world where the prevalence of darkness often seems overwhelming, it's easy to feel discouraged, fearful, or even weighed down by the struggles of our culture. Yet, Scripture offers us a powerful image of light that not only calls us to turn to Christ in our need for conversion but also reminds us that He has already won the victory. This season, we are invited to embrace the light of Christ, allowing it to penetrate every corner of our lives and shine brightly into the world, bringing hope and transformation to all we encounter. Join us as we ask the Lord to Restore us to His Radiance as a light to our families, friends, and the world. All women are welcome. Register at

<https://programs.paradisusdei.org/join/532A7B>

*"May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the word of God direct us."*

*- St. Patrick  
Feast Day March 17*

### LADIES LUNCHEON & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Catholic Women's Association (CWA) invites all women of the parish to COME PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, on Tuesday, March 17, at 11:30 am in the Church, followed by a potluck LADIES LUNCHEON and a special Marian presentation by Joan LaBone. Please look for a Flocknote email that contains the sign-up link for the luncheon and more information about the meeting. Or contact Janiece at 803-270-1119. Happy Lent!

### HOW TO SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE

Using your cell phone, text AIKEN to 84576 or connect with us online at [stmaryhelp.flocknote.com](http://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! Be sure to fill in our contact information.



### 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 May 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 for couples, Email: [billynfolson@gmail.com](mailto:billynfolson@gmail.com) ( 3 L's in a row) or Call: 727-343-6701 Website: [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

### ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Required Altar Server Training for Servers on Wednesday, 3/25/26, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. If you cannot attend, please reach out to Paul V. Gaynor, the Altar Server Ministry Coordinator, at [paulvjg324@gmail.com](mailto:paulvjg324@gmail.com) or 908.692.9547. (Lead Servers and Server Educators are also welcome.)

## ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

Saliendo de la oscuridad

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, Hoy, el cuarto domingo de Cuaresma –también llamado domingo de rosa o “Laetare” (alégrate)– toda la liturgia nos invita a experimentar una profunda alegría, una gran exultación, porque la Pascua se acerca.

Jesús fue causa de gran alegría para el hombre que había sido ciego de nacimiento y que recibió de Él la vista, junto con el don de la luz espiritual. El hombre ciego creyó y recibió la luz de Cristo. Por otro lado, los fariseos, tan envueltos en su propia sabiduría y creencias, permanecieron ciegos a causa de la dureza de sus corazones y de sus pecados. De hecho, “los judíos no creían que él hubiera sido ciego y que hubiera recibido la vista” (Jn 9,18).

Sí, necesitamos la luz de Cristo para ver la realidad en nuestras vidas. Sin la luz de la fe, estaríamos casi ciegos. Hemos sido bendecidos con la luz de Cristo, y necesitamos que nuestra vida continúe siendo iluminada por su luz. Aún más, su luz debe brillar a través de nuestras acciones para que pueda atraer a aquellos que aún no conocen la luz y el amor de Cristo. Todo esto nos recuerda nuestra necesidad de conversión y crecimiento personal en la caridad, especialmente en este tiempo de Cuaresma. San León Magno nos exhorta: “Aunque siempre es bueno ejercitarnos en la virtud de la caridad, estos días de Cuaresma nos invitan a hacerlo de una manera más urgente”.

Hay algo que puede alejarnos de la luz y de la alegría que Jesucristo nos da, y eso es el pecado: intentar vivir lejos de la luz del Señor. Desafortunadamente, muchos –a veces incluso nosotros mismos– recorreremos profundamente este camino oscuro y sombrío hasta perder la luz y la paz. Desde su propia experiencia, San Agustín afirmaba que no hay nada más infeliz que la felicidad de aquellos que pecan. “Si decimos que no tenemos pecado, nos engañamos a nosotros mismos y la verdad no está en nosotros” (1 Jn 1,8).

La Pascua se acerca y el Señor quiere comunicarnos toda la alegría de su Resurrección. Preparémonos para recibirla y celebrarla. “Ve a lavarte...” (Jn 9,7), nos dice Jesús. Estamos llamados a lavarnos en las aguas purificadoras del sacramento de la Penitencia. Si lo hacemos, volveremos a encontrar su luz y su alegría y realizaremos la mejor preparación para las celebraciones de Pascua.

Con mis mejores deseos... en Cristo,  
Padre Wilson.

## FORMACIÓN CRISTIANA

### LAS LECTURAS DE LAS ESCRITURAS DEL 15 DE MARZO AL 22 DE MARZO, 2026

Las lecturas para domingo, el 15 de marzo comienzan en la [pagina 185](#) en el libro “Palabra y Eucaristía”

Domingo:	1 Sm 16, 1b. 6-7. 10-13	Sal 22, 1-6
	Ef 5, 8-14	Jn 9, 1-41 o 9, 1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38
Lunes:	Is 65, 17-21	Sal 29, 2 y 4. 5-6. 11-13
	Jn 4, 43-54	
Martes:	Ez 47, 1-9. 12	Sal 45, 2-3. 5-6. 8-9
	Jn 5, 1-16	
Miércoles:	Is 49, 8-15	Sal 144, 8-9. 13-14. 17-18
	Jn 5, 17-30	
Jueves:	2 Sm 7, 4-5. 12-14. 16	Sal 88, 2-5. 27 y 29
	Rom 4, 13. 16-18. 22	Mt 1, 16. 18-21. 24 o Lc 2, 41-51
Viernes:	Sab 2, 1. 12-22	Sal 33, 17-21 y 23
	Jn 7, 1-2. 10. 25-30	
Sábado:	Jr 11, 18-20	Sal 7, 2-3. 9-12
		Jn 7, 40-53
Domingo siguiente:	Ez 37, 12-14/Sal 129, 1-8	
	Rom 8, 8-11	Jn 11, 1-45 o 11, 3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

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

### ¿ERES NUEVO EN LA PARROQUIA?

¡Te damos la bienvenida a la familia de Santa María!  
Te invitamos a registrarte y ser parte activa de nuestra comunidad. Al hacerlo, podrás crecer con nosotros en el amor y conocimiento de Jesucristo, a través de la celebración fiel de los sacramentos y el estudio de la Palabra de Dios.  
Pide un formulario al equipo de hospitalidad y tráelo el próximo domingo,  
o si prefieres, puedes registrarte en línea desde nuestra página web.

## 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.

Próxima clase: **17 de Mayo 2026**

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 at 803.649.4777 ext. 103 or dhuestis@charlestonepiscopal.org.

Para más información sobre la Confirmación, contactarse con Hannah Dickason al 615.638.7137 o a hdickason@charlestonepiscopal.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

### CCD

Las clases de CCD de 4º a 6º 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@charlestonepiscopal.org 803.716.8451

### QUINCEAÑERAS

Quinceañeras Para registrarse o para más información, por favor comuníquese con Mary Hernández al 803-5223988.

### Próxima Fecha de Bautismo en Español

11 de Abril 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@charlestonepiscopal.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

1 de marzo: retiro de confirmación

### Youth Ministry

4 de marzo – Jóvenes discípulos

4 de marzo – Adoración y confesión juvenil

7-8 de marzo – ¡Por favor, recen por todos nuestros adolescentes, acompañantes y clérigos que asisten a la DYC (Conferencia Juvenil Diocesana) en Columbia!

11 de marzo – Jóvenes discípulos

### ¡UNIDOS EN ORACIÓN!

Te invitamos a ser parte del Grupo de Oración que se reúne todos los jueves a las 7:00pm en la Iglesia Antigua.

Este es un espacio especial donde nos unimos como comunidad para orar, reflexionar y fortalecer nuestra relación con Dios.

- Ven con un corazón dispuesto a recibir bendiciones.
  - No importa si es tu primera vez, todos son bienvenidos.
  - Un momento para la paz y la esperanza.
- ¡Te esperamos con los brazos abiertos!



## 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)

### CENA Y SUBASTA DE LA ESCUELA ST. MARY'S

¡Es tu última oportunidad para comprar boletos para la Cena y Subasta anual del PTO el 14 de marzo en The Reserve! El evento de este año será una inolvidable Gala Misteriosa estilo Speakeasy de los años 1920. Los boletos se pueden comprar hasta el miércoles.

Para más información, visita <https://smaikengala.com/> o contacta a [pto@stmaryschoolaiken.com](mailto:pto@stmaryschoolaiken.com).

### EL EQUIPO DE ROBÓTICA DE ST. MARY'S GANA COMPETENCIA REGIONAL

Recientemente, el equipo de Robótica de St. Mary's compitió en una competencia VEX Robotics en Lexington, SC. Obtuvieron el primer lugar en el desafío de habilidades y, al mantenerse invictos, se llevaron el trofeo de campeonato, asegurando así su lugar en el Torneo Estatal VEX Robotics de Carolina del Sur que se llevará a cabo este próximo fin de semana.

Únete a nosotros para felicitar a nuestro equipo y orar por un viaje seguro.

¡Vamos Saints, vamos Paddy!

### VIA-CRUSIS

Acompáñanos a rezar el Santo Viacrucis este viernes a las 7:00 de la tarde en la Iglesia Antigua.

Caminemos juntos en este tiempo de Santa Cuaresma, reflexionando sobre la pasión de Cristo.

### HORARIOS EXTENDIDOS DE CONFESIONES ANTES DE PASCUA

MARTES 17 — 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

MIÉRCOLES 18 — 5:45 PM - 6:45 PM

JUEVES 19 — 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

MARTES 24 — 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

MIÉRCOLES 25 — 5:45 PM - 6:45 PM

JUEVES 26 — 4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

**\*HABRÁ DOS SACERDOTES ESCUCHANDO CONFESIONES EN ESTOS DÍAS.\***

## EVENTOS PARA LA PROXIMA SEMANA

### Domingo, 15 de marzo

8:30am Misa Iglesia  
11:00am Misa Iglesia  
11:00am Practica del Coro San Miguel  
1:00pm Misa en español Iglesia  
**7:00pm Retiro Cuaresmal Iglesia Antigua**

### Lunes, 16 de marzo

4:45pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua  
5:30pm Misa Iglesia Antigua  
6:00pm Legión de María Smith  
**7:00pm Retiro Cuaresmal Iglesia Antigua**  
7:00pm Pequeña Comunidad Santa Teresa

### Martes, 17 de marzo

4:15pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua  
5:30pm Misa Iglesia Antigua  
**7:00pm Retiro Cuaresmal Iglesia Antigua**

### Miércoles, 18 de marzo

8:20am Misa Iglesia  
5:45pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua  
7:00pm Misa en español Iglesia

### Jueves, 19 de marzo

4:15pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua  
5:30pm Misa Iglesia Antigua  
7:00pm Grupo de Oración Iglesia Antigua

### Viernes, 20 de marzo

4:45pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua  
5:30pm Misa Iglesia Antigua  
7:00pm Santo Viacrucis Iglesia

### Sábado, 21 de marzo

8:00am Misa Iglesia Antigua  
3:30pm Confesiones Iglesia  
5:00pm Misa de Vigilia Iglesia

### Domingo, 22 de marzo

8:30am Misa Iglesia  
11:00am Misa Iglesia  
11:00am Practica del Coro San Miguel  
1:00pm Misa en español Iglesia

**¡ES HOY!**

**-Retiro de Cuaresma-**  
Dcn. Philippe Dubourdieu



**Domingo 15, Lunes 16  
y Martes 17 de marzo  
7:00 PM  
Iglesia Antigua**

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para la Pascua

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