



ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God
what belongs to God." - Mt 22:21

**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@charlestdiocese.org

Website: www.stmarys-aiken.org

Locations

St. Mary's Church: 138 Fairfield Street 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

Sunday Vigil (Saturday) 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 8:30am - 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. 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@charlestdiocese.org

Mr. Carlos Overstreet, Principal, St. Mary's School

803.649.2071 coverstreet@stmaryschoolaiken.com

Mrs. Colleen Wittenborn, Finance Manager

803.649.4777 ext. 102

cwittenborn@charlestdiocese.org

Mrs. Kara Keenan, Parish Secretary

803.649.4777 ext. 113

kkeenan@charlestdiocese.org

Mrs. Adriana Galvan, Hispanic Secretary

803.649.4777 ext. 100

agalvan@charlestdiocese.org

Mr. Derrick Huestis, Director of Religious Education

803.716.8451 (c)

dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org

Mrs. Hannah Dickason, Director of Youth Ministry

803.508.5881 (c)

hdickason@charlestdiocese.org

Mr. V. Franklin Deese II, Parish Musician

706.550.5047 (c)

fdeese@charlestdiocese.org

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!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

For food or financial assistance call 803.642.3211 or visit their website at Svdpaiken.org

Open Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 1:00pm

Closed On Fridays

TOTALS AS OF SUNDAY OCTOBER 11

Offertory	Oct. 11	\$
Online Offertory	Oct. 11	\$
Total Annual Budget		\$ 2,191,505

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

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.

GIFT SHOP - TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

We continue the celebration of St. Carlos Acutis, whose feast day was last week. Please join us for a book reading after the 8:30 am Mass. This young saint points us to our "highway to heaven." Gift shop open Saturday 5:00pm Vigil Mass; Sunday 9:00am – 1:00pm, and after the 1:00pm Spanish Mass.

CWA LADIES LUNCHEON

Tuesday, October 20

Rosary: 11:30 in New Church

Potluck Lunch: Noon in Mother Teresa Hall

Guest Speaker: Logan Ford, ACTS Executive Director
Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate to ACTS.

Look for a FlockNote email for more details, and the meeting sign-up link.

Please Join Us in Our Season for Good Works!!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and we are again planning to assist those who are less fortunate by providing a Thanksgiving dinner. If you are interested please email or call Joe Tillman at jtill11@verizon.net (410)371-5746 or Jane Phillips-Tillman at tillman3js@live.com (410)241-0647 to receive a family name, size and details. The basket should be dropped off at the rear parking lot of Saint Angela Hall on Saturday, November 21 from 8:00am to 9:30 am. If you cannot shop, monetary donations are always appreciated.

PASTOR'S CORNER

+JM]+

Caesar's or God's

Dear Parishioners,

Today, the Gospel presents for our consideration a "famous" assertion from Jesus Christ: "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." (Mt 22:21)

We would not be able to properly grasp the meaning of this sentence without bearing in mind the context in which Jesus said it: "The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech." (Mt 22:15) But Jesus understood their malice. Thus, Jesus' reply is a calculated one. When they heard it, the Pharisees were surprised, as they did not expect it. If Jesus' answer would have clearly been against Caesar, they might have been able to denounce him; if, on the contrary, Jesus had been in favor of paying the taxes to Caesar, they would have left very pleased with their ruse. But, while not speaking against Caesar, Jesus has relativized his reply: we must return to God what is God's, and God is the Lord of even the powers of this world.

As every other ruler, Caesar cannot exert arbitrary power. Just as the servants of the parable of the talents had to account to their Master for the use given to his money, Caesar's power derives from God. Thus, in St. John's Gospel, Jesus tells Pilate: "You would have no power over me if it had not been given to you from above" (Jn 19:11). Jesus does not want to appear as a political agitator. He simply put things right.

Today's Gospel reading has, at times, been understood to mean that the Church should not "interfere" in political life but should only mind its salvific mission and matters of faith. However, this interpretation is totally false. Dealing with God's matters does not mean to mind only the worship of the Church, but to be also concerned about all people – God's children – and about man's justice. Pretending the Church does not move from the sacristy, while being deaf, blind and mute before the moral and human problems and abuses of our time, amounts to stealing from God what belongs to God. "The tolerance that admits God as it were as a private opinion but refuses him the public domain... is not tolerance but hypocrisy" (Pope Benedict XVI).

"The coin of Caesar is made of gold, on which his image is engraved; the coin of God is man, in whom the image of God is depicted; therefore, give your riches to Caesar and keep the conscience of your innocence for God." (St. Hilary of Poitiers)

All the best...in Christ,

Father Wilson



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN STE CLAIRE CHAPEL

Needing Peace in Your Heart?
Jesus offers it! Be not Afraid!

Sat. 1 am (Fri. night), Mon. 12 Mdnt. and Mon. 1 am (both Sun. night) are all urgent hours. To sign up up for one of these hours, please visit the Adoration webpage at <https://www.stmarys-//aiken.org/perpetual-eucharistic-adoration>, or contact a Divisional Leader:

12 Midnight-6am: Tom Henry 803-618-9086
6am-12 Noon: Ken Boucher 803-226-4639
12 Noon-6pm: Janice Suhrer 803-645-6105
6pm-12 Midnight: Joan Pate 908-447-9715

CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY IS NOW AT ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS!

SATURDAYS AT 7AM SMITH HALL

Catholic in Recovery provides healing from addictions, compulsions, and unhealthy attachments. Meetings combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the sacraments of the Catholic Church. Join others in recovery as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. Confidentiality is protected. For more information visit www.catholicinrecovery.com and contact Jenny T (916) 612-0337 with questions.

WHEELCHAIR EXPRESS

We are in need of additional Wheelchair Express drivers for 8:30 Sunday Mass at the New Church on Fairfield Street. 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

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

St. Mary's annual baby bottle campaign fundraiser, benefitting Aiken's Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center, is ongoing. You can return your baby bottle with donation at any weekend Mass through Oct. 25, or donate online. Please also pray for families: fathers, mothers, and children born and unborn. Questions? Contact Michele Wells at michelewells165@gmail.com.

READINGS FOR OCT. 18- OCT. 25, 2026

Sunday, Oct. 18 readings begin on **page 400** of the Word & Eucharist books found in the pews.

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6	Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
1 Thes 1:1-5b	Mt 22:15-21
Monday: Eph 2:1-10	Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5
Lk 12:13-21	
Tuesday: Eph 2:12-22	Ps 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14
Lk 12:35-38	
Wednesday: Eph 3:2-12	Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Lk 12:39-48	
Thursday: Eph 3:14-21	Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19
Lk 12:49-53	
Friday: Eph 4:1-6	Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6
Lk 12:54-59	
Saturday: Eph 4:7-16	Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5
Lk 13:1-9	
Next Sunday: Ex 22:20-26	Ps 18:2-4, 47 and 51
1 Thes 1:5c-10	Mt 22:34-40

©LPI

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday Oct. 18

8:30am Susan Colombo
11:00am Rosemary Plante
1:00pm Pro Populo

Monday Oct. 19

5:30pm James R. Hunter

Tuesday Oct. 20

5:30pm Bernard Bessette

Wednesday Oct. 21

8:30am

7:00pm

Thursday Oct. 22

5:30pm Josie Donlon

Friday Oct. 23

5:30pm Bette O'Leary

Saturday Oct. 24

8:00am Walter & Veronica Lepianka

5:00pm Mary P. O'Reilly (L)

Margaret Lung

Elizabeth Rubery

Patricia Hanlon

Kevin Peters

Timothy Fitzpatrick

Sunday Oct. 25

8:30am Pro Populo

11:00am Hager Family

1:00pm Joel Antonio Reyes-Torres

DEATHS/DIFUNTOS

Sep. 24 - Mary B. Barnett

ALTAR FLOWER GIFTS

If you would like to offer a gift of flowers to honor our Lord and someone special to you, contact the parish office at kkeenana@charlestandiocese.org or 803.649.4777. The requested donation is \$300.00 for two arrangements on the altar.

FUNERAL MASSES & LITURGIES

For all funeral Masses & Liturgies celebrated at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, a licensed funeral home must be involved in coordinating the care and transportation of the deceased and in assisting with the funeral arrangements. It is necessary that families select the funeral home they wish to use.

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, November 15, 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. Two years of Faith Formation classes are required to satisfy the attendance policy. The 2 year process for First Communion begins in 1st grade, and the 2 year process for Confirmation begins in 7th grade. Catholic children registered at St. Mary's school are automatically enrolled in the sacramental program through the school. You can register and pay the fee at the parish office; registration forms can be found at <https://www.stmarys-aiken.org/ccd>

If you have further questions, contact Derrick Huestis at dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org

HOLY MATRIMONY

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

ANOIDING 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 November 7 at 11:00am 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

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (OCIA)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic, or are you an adult missing your sacrament of confirmation? OCIA classes have now begun for those seeking to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation. We are meeting at Mother Teresa Hall, 125 Union St SE at 6pm weekly. For questions, contact our DRE, Mr. Derrick Huestis, at dhuestis@charlestdiocese.org

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact: Mrs. Hannah Dickason
hdickason@charlestdiocese.org
803.508.5881

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

October 11 - Fraternus and Fidelis

October 12 - Youth Group: Fellowship Night

October 14 - Young Disciples

October 18 - Fraternus and Fidelis

October 19 - Youth Group: Night of Prayer (Adoration and Confession)

October 21 - Young Disciples

October 25 - Fraternus and Fidelis

October 26 - Youth Group: Theology of the Body

October 28 - Young Disciples

ST. JOHN PAUL II (1920–2005)

Born Karol Wojtyla in Poland, secretly studied for the priesthood during World War II and was ordained in 1946. Elected pope in 1978, he made evangelization a focus of his papacy and traveled the world to share the Gospel. After surviving an assassination attempt, he forgave his attacker. Despite declining health, he continued his ministry until his death in 2005. He was canonized in 2014.

More information about the Sacraments can be found on our parish website:

www.stmarys-aiken.org

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday Oct. 18

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

Monday, Oct. 19

9:30am Prayer Shawl Ministry	Smith Hall
1:00pm Rosary Makers	Mother Teresa Hall
4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church

Tuesday, Oct. 20

3:30pm Legion of Mary	Smith Hall
4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church

Wednesday, Oct. 21

8:30am Mass	Church
3:00pm Legion of Mary	Smith Hall Down
5:45pm Confessions	Church
7:00pm Mass in Spanish	Church

Thursday, Oct. 22

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

Friday, Oct. 23

4:45pm Confessions	Old Church
5:30pm Mass	Old Church

Saturday, Oct. 24

8:00am Mass	Old Church
3:30pm Confessions	Church
5:00pm Vigil Mass	Church

Sunday, Oct. 25

8:30am Mass	Church
9:45am Sunday Cafe	Mother Teresa Hall
11:00am Mass Bilingual	Church

PARISH PERKS!

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

ROSARY MAKERS

If you are interested in joining our group to make rosaries for the church, chapel, nursing homes, and overseas missions, please contact Doug McGuinness at dpmcg871@gmail.com or Sue Bursey at sbchamois@gmail.com. We meet every third Monday of the month in Mother Teresa Hall at 1:00 PM.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

We will NOT meet this week, October 21. Join us again on Wednesday October 28, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, in St. Michael Hall. Contact Martha: whittimp@gmail.com or 865-599-8473

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY:

The Thursday Bible Study started back for the fall! We are reading the very short Gospel of Mark, followed by the very deep Gospel of John. Come join us in Smith Hall Thursdays 11:15 - 12:15. Questions? contact Mary Ellen Jackson at mep.graigue@gmail.com

PRIEST RETREAT

From **Monday October 26** through **Thursday October 29**, we will have no priests available. There will be no daily Mass during this time.

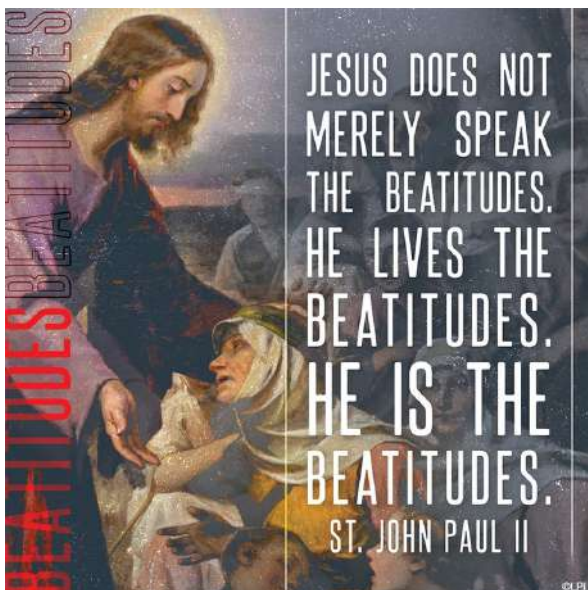
ST. MARY'S HOMEBOUND MINISTRIES

If you or a loved one is unable to come to Mass – whether temporarily (at least 3 weeks) or a more extended illness – and you'd like to see about one of our EMs for the Homebound bringing you Holy Communion, please call the parish office at 803-649-4777 (Ext. 1) or Donna Pierce at 803-552-7714. Your assigned EM can bring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament weekly, accommodating your schedule as much as possible. It does not have to be on Sunday.

For Catholics hospitalized at ARMC, our EMs bring Holy Communion every day of the week! If you are unable to receive Communion a particular day, e.g. because of restrictions for tests, they are happy to still come and pray with you and for you. Please call the office (803-649-4777) or Donna Pierce (803-552-7714) if you are hospitalized for any length of stay. **If you do not call us, our EMs will not know you're in the hospital!**

For more information, please visit the HB Ministries website at

<https://www.stmarys-aiken.org/communion-to-homebound>.





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)

SAVE THE DATE FOR #IGIVECATHOLIC

St. Mary's School will once again be participating in #iGiveCatholic the Nation-Wide Day of Giving on Giving Tuesday which falls on Tuesday, Dec. 1 this year. Thank you for your continued support!

OUR AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM IS IN FULL SWING!

Students are exploring new interests and building valuable skills through a variety of fun, hands-on classes including Bridge, Sewing, Art, Chess, Drama, and more. Thank you to our talented instructors and supportive families for making these opportunities possible as we continue to enrich the St. Mary's experience beyond the school day.



HOLIDAY HAM DINNER – TUESDAY, NOV. 10

The Catholic Women's Association will host the Annual Holiday Ham Dinner on Tuesday, November 10, at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., in St. Angela Hall. The dinner is FREE, but tickets are needed and can be picked up at the parish office, starting October 20. A delicious meal, featuring Baked Ham Slices, Scalloped Potatoes, Cheesy Pineapple Casserole, Green Beans, and Glazed Carrots, with a Dinner Roll, will be served. Desserts will be provided by the ladies of the parish and CWA Members. Please consider bringing a dessert to share.

Would you like to join in on the HOLIDAY FUN? Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve the meal, and to provide assistance throughout the evening. Many hands make light work! Please consider helping by contacting Chris Jakubec at 847-212-8252, or cjakubec@aol.com.

JOURNEY OF HOPE DIVORCED CATHOLIC PROGRAM

All are invited to attend – Wednesday's 10/7-12/16,
2026

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

PLEASE JOIN THIS ENCOURAGING PROGRAM OF
STRENGTH & HOPE

<https://web4u.forms-db.com/view.php?id=2764513>

A FRANCISCAN MINUTE FOR THE JUBILEE

"Spiritual joy arises from purity of the heart and
perseverance in prayer."

The Secular Franciscans meet the 3rd Monday
@6:15PM in St. Michael's Hall.

JOB OPENING: ADMINISTRATIVE ASST. TO PASTOR

We are looking to hire someone to work as the Administrative Assistant to the Pastor in the Parish Office. Responsibilities of that position include: assisting Father Wilson with his calendar, meetings and appointments; assisting with marriage preparation, initial paperwork, coordinating marriage preparation; coordinating funerals, working with the families of the deceased; assisting couples with Decrees of Nullity; coordinating special events for the Pastor; and other duties as assigned. This is a forty hour per week position. We welcome applicants who are organized, dependable, compassionate, and able to work professionally and confidentially in a parish setting. Job applications are available at the Parish Office. Please submit your resume along with your job application.

THANK YOU! COOKIES FOR KAIROS

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the recent Kairos short course in Christianity at Broad River Correctional Institution, which is outside of Columbia. The Holy Spirit showed up in a big way thanks to your prayers and cookies.

PRO-LIFE BOOTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Receive a FREE PASS to the Western Carolina State Fair and FREE PARKING when you volunteer to staff the Aiken County Citizens For Life booth. No experience needed. Booth set-up is Thurs. 10/15, 10-3; booth take-down is Mon. 10/26, 10-3. Booth hours during the fair are Mon-Fri 5-7 and 7-9, and Sat-Sun 12-2, 2-4, 4-6, 6-8. Allow 15 minutes to park and pass security. Clear bags/purses only. Address: Western Carolina State Fair, 561 May Royal Drive, Aiken. Call Debbie Baer at (803) 295-7897 to sign up.

MILLIONS OF MONICAS

Are you a mother, grandmother, aunt, or Confirmation sponsor? Please join with other Catholic women who, like St. Monica, pray together for our children 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, October 21st 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.

ESPACIO DE NUESTRO PÁRROCO

Del César o de Dios

Queridos feligreses:

Hoy, el Evangelio nos presenta para nuestra reflexión una afirmación “famosa” de Jesucristo: «Den al César lo que es del César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios» (Mt 22,21).

No podríamos comprender adecuadamente el significado de esta frase sin tener presente el contexto en que Jesús la pronunció: «Entonces los fariseos se retiraron y se pusieron de acuerdo para sorprender a Jesús en alguna palabra» (Mt 22,15). Pero Jesús conocía su malicia. Por eso, su respuesta fue cuidadosamente calculada. Al escucharla, los fariseos quedaron sorprendidos, pues no esperaban una contestación así. Si la respuesta de Jesús hubiera sido claramente contraria al César, podrían haberlo denunciado; y si, por el contrario, hubiera estado a favor de pagar los impuestos al César, se habrían quedado muy satisfechos con su trampa. Sin embargo, sin hablar contra el César, Jesús relativiza la cuestión: debemos devolver a Dios lo que es de Dios, y Dios es el Señor incluso de los poderes de este mundo.

Como cualquier otro gobernante, el César no puede ejercer un poder arbitrario. Así como los servidores de la parábola de los talentos tuvieron que rendir cuentas a su señor por el uso que hicieron de su dinero, también el poder del César proviene de Dios. Por eso, en el Evangelio de San Juan, Jesús le dice a Pilato: «No tendrías ninguna autoridad sobre mí si no te hubiera sido dada de lo alto» (Jn 19,11). Jesús no quiere aparecer como un agitador político. Simplemente pone las cosas en su justo lugar.

El Evangelio de hoy, en ocasiones, ha sido interpretado como si significara que la Iglesia no debería “interferir” en la vida política, sino limitarse únicamente a su misión salvadora y a los asuntos de la fe. Sin embargo, esta interpretación es totalmente falsa. Ocuparse de las cosas de Dios no significa atender solamente al culto de la Iglesia, sino también preocuparse por todas las personas, hijos e hijas de Dios, y por la justicia humana. Pretender que la Iglesia no salga de la sacristía, permaneciendo sorda, ciega y muda ante los problemas morales y humanos y los abusos de nuestro tiempo, equivale a quitarle a Dios lo que le pertenece. «La tolerancia que admite a Dios como una opinión privada, pero le niega el ámbito público... no es tolerancia, sino hipocresía» (Papa Benedicto XVI).

«La moneda del César es de oro y lleva grabada su imagen; la moneda de Dios es el hombre, en quien está impresa la imagen de Dios. Por tanto, den sus riquezas al César y conserven para Dios la conciencia de su inocencia» (San Hilario de Poitiers).

Que Dios los bendiga.

En Cristo,

Padre Wilson.

FORMACIÓN CRISTIANA

LAS LECTURAS DE LAS ESCRITURAS DEL 18 DE OCTUBRE AL 25 DE OCTUBRE, 2026

Las lecturas para domingo, el 18 de octubre comienzan en la **pagina 401** en el libro “Palabra y Eucaristía”

Domingo: Is 45, 1. 4-6	Sal 95, 1 y 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10
1 Tes 1, 1-5	Mt 22, 15-21
Lunes: Ef 2, 1-10	Sal 99, 1-2. 3. 4. 4-5
Lc 12, 13-21	
Martes: Ef 2, 12-22	Sal 84, 9-10. 11-12. 13-14
Lc 12, 35-38	
Miércoles: Ef 3, 2-12	Is 12, 2-3. 4. 5-6
Lc 12, 39-48	
Jueves: Ef 3, 14-21	Sal 32, 1-2. 4-5. 11-12. 18-19
Lc 12, 49-53	
Viernes: Ef 4, 1-6	Sal 23, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6
Lc 12, 54-59	
Sábado: Ef 4, 7-16	Sal 121, 1-2. 3-4. 4-5
Lc 13, 1-9	
Domingo siguiente: Ex 22, 20-26	Sal 17, 2-4. 47 y 51
1 Tes 1, 5-10	Mt 22, 34-4

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

¡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!

RETIRO DE LOS SACERDOTES

**DEL LUNES 26 DE OCTUBRE AL JUEVES 29 DE OCTUBRE,
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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: **8 de Noviembre 2026**

Registro requerido.

Contacto: **Reyna Salas – 404.886.5653**

SAGRADA COMUNIÓN Y CONFIRMACIÓN

Estos increíbles sacramentos nos alimentan y fortalecen en nuestra fe católica para que podamos vivir como «la luz del mundo» (San Mateo 5:14).

Importante: Los padres y los hijos deben estar inscritos en la parroquia de St. Mary's y asistir fielmente a la Santa Misa los domingos y en los Días Santos de Precepto.

Se requieren dos años de clases de Formación en la Fe para cumplir con la política de asistencia.

- El proceso de dos años para la Primera Comunión comienza en 1.º grado.
- El proceso de dos años para la Confirmación comienza en 7.º grado.

Los niños católicos inscritos en la escuela St. Mary's son inscritos automáticamente en el programa sacramental a través de la escuela.

Puede inscribirse y pagar la cuota en la oficina parroquial. Los formularios de inscripción están disponibles en:

Para más información sobre contactarse con

Derrick Huestis 803-716-8451 o

dhuestis@charlestondiocese.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. 100

Próxima Fecha de Bautismo en Español

14 de noviembre 2026 a las 11:00am en la iglesia Nueva.

- 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 Adriana Galvan al 803.649.4777 x 100

¿INTERESADO EN CONVERTIRSE EN CATÓLICO?

¿Está interesado en convertirse en católico, o es un adulto que aún no ha recibido el sacramento de la confirmación? Las clases de RICA comenzarán en agosto para aquellas personas que desean convertirse en católicas y recibir los sacramentos de iniciación.

Favor de Contactar a

Derrick Huestis 803-716-8451

Ministerio Juvenil Católico

Contacto: Sra. Hannah Katherine Dickason

Correo electrónico:

hdickason@charlestondiocese.org

Teléfono: 615-638-7137

Para más información sobre la Confirmación, el Ministerio Juvenil y nuestro calendario completo de eventos, visite nuestro sitio web o comuníquese con Hannah Dickason.

18 de octubre – Fraternus y Fidelis

19 de octubre – Grupo Juvenil: Noche de oración (Adoración y Confesión)

21 de octubre – Jóvenes Discípulos

25 de octubre – Fraternus y Fidelis

26 de octubre – Grupo Juvenil: Teología del Cuerpo

28 de octubre – Jóvenes Discípulos

Quinceañeras

Las próxima Clase de Preparación para quinceañeras se llevará a cabo el **18 de Octubre y 25 de Octubre** a las 10:00am en el Salón Smith el piso de arriba. Para más información favor de comunicarse con **María Hernández 803-522-3988.**

TIENDA DE REGALOS HORARIO

Domingos de 9:00am to 1:00pm y el primer fin de semana de cada mes después de las misa del sábado a las 5:00pm y del domingo a la 1:00pm.



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)

¡Vamos, Santos!

¡El equipo de voleibol Saints de St. Mary's School viajará el próximo fin de semana a Charleston para participar en el Torneo Juvenil de Voleibol de la Diócesis de Charleston! ¡Por favor, oren por un viaje seguro! ¡Mucho éxito, Santos!

Reserve la fecha para #iGiveCatholic

St. Mary's School participará nuevamente en #iGiveCatholic, el Día Nacional de Donaciones que se celebra el Martes de Giving Tuesday, 1 de diciembre de este año. ¡Gracias por su continuo apoyo!

¡Nuestro Programa de Enriquecimiento Después de Clases está en pleno desarrollo!

Nuestros estudiantes están descubriendo nuevos intereses y desarrollando habilidades valiosas a través de una variedad de clases divertidas y prácticas, incluyendo Bridge, Costura, Arte, Ajedrez, Teatro y mucho más.

Gracias a nuestros talentosos instructores y a las familias que nos apoyan por hacer posibles estas oportunidades, mientras continuamos enriqueciendo la experiencia de los estudiantes de St. Mary's más allá del horario escolar.



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 la oficina parroquial.

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, 18 de Octubre

8:00am Misa en inglés Iglesia
11:00am Misa en inglés Iglesia
1:00pm Misa español Iglesia

Lunes, 19 de Octubre

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

Martes, 20 de Octubre

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

Miércoles, 21 de Octubre

8:30am Misa Iglesia
6:15pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua
7:00pm Misa en español Iglesia Antigua

Jueves, 22 de Octubre

4:45pm Confesiones Iglesia Antigua
5:30pm Misa Iglesia Antigua
7:00pm Grupo de Oracion Iglesia Antigua
7:00pm RICA Salón Madre Teresa

Viernes, 23 de Octubre

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

Sábado, 24 de Octubre

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

Domingo, 25 de Octubre

8:30am Misa Iglesia
11:00 Misa-Billingue Iglesia
12:00pm Picnic Parroquial Salon St Angela

¿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.



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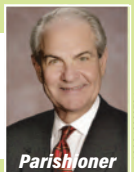
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