

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON



St. Mary Catholic Church

Served by the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri



902 Crawford Road • P.O. Box 11982 • Rock Hill, SC 29731 • Office: 803-329-1008
Office hours: 9:00 am-12:30 pm Monday-Friday stmaryrh@charlestdioocese.org Website: www.stmarysrh.org

Mass Times

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:00 am, Church
Fridays: 9:30 am, Chapel
Holy Day Masses: To be announced

Holy Hour of Prayer

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30 pm, Chapel

Sunday Rosary (Church)

7:30-7:45 am
9:30-9:45 am (led by the Legion of Mary)

Reconciliation

Sundays: 9:15-9:45 am or by appointment

 facebook.com/stmaryrhsc/

Pastor

Fr. Agustín Guzmán, C.O., 803-627-5297
aguzman@charlestdioocese.org

Deacons

- Rev. Dr. Terrence R. Chisolm (Pastoral Associate), 803-517-2894
tchisolm@charlestdioocese.org

- Rev. Walt Hollis, 843-295-9192
walthollis67@yahoo.com

Faith Formation (Grades 1-8)

Anna Caldwell, 803-322-4548
acaldwell@charlestdioocese.org

Sacramental Preparation

Please contact a Deacon

Director of Religious Education

Kristen Wood, 803-487-5088
kristen.wood@charlestdioocese.org

Bulletin Editor

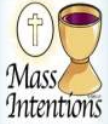
Maryanne Genus, 803-517-5048
maryanne@stmarysrh.org

All bulletin announcements must be in the office by note or email by Friday at 9:00 am for the following week's Sunday (space permitting).

Diocesan Victim Assistance

Kristin Eyre
843-856-0748 / 800-921-8122

December 15, 2024 - Third Sunday of Advent



8 am: Pro Populo
 10 am: Rose Zontek, RIP
 12/20, 9:30 am: Edward Turpin, RIP

Please pray for our St. Mary Sick List: Pamela Arciniega, Debbie Caiola, Fulvio Cangiano, Michael Caracappa, John Carr, Eileen Cline, Charles (Chuck) Dilworth, Maryellen Dilworth, Irene Dionne, Joan Elizabeth Doherty, Cathy Doty, Delores Dubisz, Donna Dumont, Shirley Dye, John Ellis, Frantz Etienne, Donna Fitzwilliam, Grace Flenniken, MaryPat Harvey, Barbara Hollis, Walt Hollis, Rose Hunt Samuda, Arlene Iannone, Jackie Jones, Trent Jurosko, Annette Kaczanowski, Tony Keys, Misty Konow, Olive Kulesa, Frankie Mignano, Leigh Morin, Tony Motola, Kathy Murphy, Patty Placke, Bob Preusser, Walter Ratliff, Gary Redding, Dorothy Rumerich, Marie Ryan, Michael Sampere, Dave Shiple, Jeffrey Sligh, Murrie Smith, John Spencer-Coombs, Stacy Spinnato, Jackie Finley Thomas, Carla Thomason, Paul Wagner, Henry Walton.

Please pray for our St. Mary's Military Soldiers: Michael Abowd, Chris Colgrove, Caleb Cook, Dominic Cruz, Daniel Esposito, Jon Immel, Garrison Jackson, Jr., Christopher Laurencio, Sean Merrill, Erin Mugan, Scott Starr.

Please pray for our St. Mary's Military Families: Roy & Tommie Blake, Jonathan & Julie Cook, Nina Gibson, Chris & Diane Laurencio, Bruce & Mary Rose Randall, Vickie Starr, Krisanne Walker.

New Culture of Life Committee



A new Culture of Life Committee is organizing at St Mary's and is welcoming interested parishioners. The ministry's focus is promoting human dignity from conception to natural death. If you have ideas on how to enact this mission, or want to participate in any way, please contact **Katie Bessman**, St. Mary

Culture of Life Coordinator, at 360-449-2942 or katiebessman@gmail.com.

Prayer shawls provide warm hugs

Cold temperatures are here, and the Prayer Shawl ministry has beautiful handmade shawls to provide for anyone who needs warmth, comfort, support, or just to know that someone cares and is praying for them. These also can make lovely Christmas gifts. Request a shawl by contacting the Parish office or text/call **Nancy Scholl** at 863-287-1649 to schedule a pickup time.



WEEKLY COLLECTION December 1, 2024

Offering	\$6,731.75
Online Giving	\$2,877.40
Building Fund	\$463.00
Parking Lot	\$1,000.00
St. Mary Outreach	\$5,475.00
Christmas	\$50.00
Flowers	\$75.00
Christmas Meal	\$50.00
Food Pantry	\$456.00
Kerosene	\$450.00

Today's Readings Year C: Sunday Cycle Cycle I: Weekday



First Reading — Zep 3:14-18a
Psalm — Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
Second Reading — Phil 4:4-7
Gospel — Lk 3:10-18

Weekly Readings

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sgs 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest deadline is next Sunday!

The deadline for entries in the Knights of Columbus *Keep Christ in Christmas* poster contest is next Sunday, **Dec. 22** after the 10 am Mass. Children ages 5-14 must draw a Christmas picture featuring Christ on 11 x 17 poster board. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners. Entry forms are located on the Knights of Columbus information table in the Gathering space.



The rebirth of hope



You might hear it in a sales pitch for buying into solar panels. Or in a conversation about a new diet plan. Or an over-the-fence conversation about a new landscaper.

It's the question "What should you do now? Call an 800 number? Tap your text icon? Whatever you do, do it now before it's too late!

The avid fans of the Baptist felt the pressure to act. John had preached so well and wisely. His topic was exhilarating and his enthusiasm catching. He charged people to reform and be ready to greet the longed-for Messiah because he is coming! In their excitement, people mistakenly thought that maybe John himself was "the One."

John knew that nonsense had to stop. It is a tribute to John's humility that he did it as fast as he could. "No, I am not him. More than that, I'm not even worthy to untie the man's sandal straps." He never let on that he had Jesus' special favor as a cousin. Later, we know that Jesus would pay John quite the compliment.

Today's Scriptures together speak of joy as the perfect reaction to the good news of the Savior's arrival. Of course, the way of His coming was not expected. There was no mounting of a stallion or a large assembly of troops. Certainly, no triumphant banners fluttering in the breeze.

Instead, He would be gently humble and strongly self-assured, bringing with Him a baptism with "the Holy Spirit

and fire." He would separate the wheat from the chaff and burn away the latter with a catching fire. Such descriptions left the people confused and not a little disappointed, considering what the long wait did to change the concept of Messiah into a military hero. What John was saying was startling. But it was also compelling. But they didn't flee the scene because John had an inherent magnetism. What he had to say was altogether new. It challenged their preconceptions of the Messiah. John spoke of an interior renewal that would lead one away from sinful ways.

There was also a resounding note of joy in John's message. Sharp contrast to their disillusion because of the long wait for relief from oppression. So many years they and their children had asked: "Where is God?"

To be frank, we've often asked ourselves that question. The devil seems to be in control of our world too. Aren't fellow Christians being persecuted in parts of our world? Aren't the jabs of sarcasm still aiming our way as they were for the early Christians reasons to doubt our faith? Isn't the relentless push to justify abortion on demand and the unchallenged indulgence in pornography simply evil with another name?

Those are just two reasons why we must turn to the gospel message of joy that comes with the approach of Christmas. It is the rebirth of hope. It is the powerful antidote to pessimism. It is the call to childlike trust because it's all about the birth of a holy Child. We can enjoy a rosy outlook (like the color of the vestments today) because we have the best Truth to believe in.

God love you and give you His peace.

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



New Year's retreat

Jesus used questions to promote healing, forgive the past, repair brokenness, and instill hope. The retreat, "Questions Jesus Asks You

for the New Year", will invite you to answer the same life-altering questions. There will be five engaging reflections: Mass, Confession, Matins, Vespers, and Adoration. Plus, there will be plenty of time to reflect upon the New Year in our sacred spaces while enjoying the fireplace in our lounge or exploring the beautiful grounds of the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. The retreat will be held two nights: **Dec. 30-Jan. 1**. As a special treat, there will be a New Year's Eve banquet with traditional festivities. The last 2 years have sold out, so register now at:

catholicconference.org/new-years

For more information, email info@catholicconference.org or call 828-327-7441.



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 of 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. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems/difficulties/crises.

For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program in the Charlotte area on **Jan. 24-26** for couples, email 3062r@helpourmarriage.org or call 727-343-6701. Website: www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

St. Mary Ministries and Outreach

ALTAR SERVERS: Call the Parish Office at (803) 329-1008

ARCHIVES: Grace Flenniken, Jim Avery, Danise Simpson. Call the Parish Office for contact info

BAKHITA ARTS CENTER: Sula Pettibon, (803) 981-4769, bakhitaarts902@gmail.com

BEREAVEMENT: Contact Deacon Terrence Chisolm (803-517-2894 / tchisolm@charlestandioocese.org) or Deacon Walt Hollis (843-295-9192 / walthollis67@yahoo.com)

BIBLE STUDIES: Ellie Martinson, (803) 324-1018

CHOIR: Sarah Chisolm, (803) 328-8588

CULTURE OF LIFE COMMITTEE: Katie Bessman, (360) 449-2942, katiebessman@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Bruce Randall, (803) 327-3325, brandall@comporium.net

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE: Rev. Dr. Terrence R. Chisolm, (803) 517-2894, tchisolm@charlestandioocese.org

FLOWER COMMITTEE: Robyn Boxie, (808) 271-7143, robboxie@hotmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Robert Bathalter, (859) 240-4950, robert.bathalter@yahoo.com

LECTORS: Danise Simpson, (803) 524-1492, dsimpson@rhmail.org

LEGION OF MARY: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm at the Rock Hill Oratory, Faber Hall, John Tyszka, (860) 881-5793, john_tyszka56@gmail.com

MEDIA: Rev. Dr. Terrence R. Chisolm, (803) 517-2894, tchisolm@charlestandioocese.org

ROSARY & CONFRATERNITY SOCIETY: 1st Sunday of the month at 11:15 am. Gwen D. Finley, (803) 322-3344, gwendfinley@yahoo.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Kristen Wood - Director):

FAITH FORMATION (Grades 1-8): Anna Caldwell, (803) 322-4548, acaldwell@charlestandioocese.org

YOUTH MINISTRY (Grades 9-12): Kristen Wood, (803) 487-5088, kristen.wood@charlestandioocese.org

O.C.I.A. (formerly R.C.I.A.): Kristen Wood, (803) 487-5088, kristen.wood@charlestandioocese.org

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Judith Varin, (803) 479-5094, judyvarin@gmail.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY: Barbara Belle, (937) 684-5680, msbarbelle@yahoo.com

SR. FRANCIS SARING SHAWL MINISTRY: 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, Fellowship Hall, Nancy Scholl, (863) 287-1649, nscholl79@gmail.com

ST. MARY OUTREACH PROGRAM: Open Tuesday & Thursday 9-11:30 am, Bannon Hall. Deacon Walt Hollis, (843) 295-9192, walthollis67@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP: Deek Alexander, (803) 366-5864, deekalexander@comporium.net

ST. MARY'S PANTRY: Thursdays from 11:30 am-12:30 pm at Bannon Hall. Bettye Finley, (803) 329-1008, betfinley41@gmail.com

ST. MARY QUILTERS: Mondays 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Mary Bell, (803) 389-0912

USHERS / HOSPITALITY: Allen Chisolm (803) 328-8588, chisolm@comporium.net; Willie Crank (803) 327-9839, wacrank@comporium.net

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST: 2nd Saturday from 8-10 am in Fellowship Hall. Regeana Phillips, (803) 370-8999, regeanap@yahoo.com

Diocese of Charleston links:

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Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline: 877-558-0333
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233
National Dating Abuse Hotline: 866-331-9474
Local Shelter: Pilgrims' Inn: 803-327-4227



Our Food Pantry is always in need of canned and packaged goods, cash, and plastic grocery bags. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated.



Holy Hour of Prayer

Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 pm - Chapel



November Family of the Month!

Congratulations to the **Kingsley & Udodilim Okonkwo Family** for being St. Mary's Family of the Month for November. The award was presented by Knights of Columbus Grand Knight, Robert Bathalter, at the 10 am Mass on November 24.



SMO receives county grant!

York County Councilman, **William "Bump" Roddey** presents a grant check for \$3,000 to St. Mary Outreach to help aid the ministry with its tireless and wonderful service to the community. Many thanks to this dedicated group for doing the Lord's work!



A gift for our Oratorians!



During this Christmas season, let us pause and acknowledge our Oratory priests and brothers! Since 1934, they have served and led the Church here in the greater Rock Hill/York County area, preaching the faith, tending the poor, and bringing us Christ. We are truly blessed to have them. We encourage all area parishioners to show thanks for our Oratorian priests and brothers with a gift of generosity. The Friends of The Oratory thanks you!

Log onto the website at rockhilloratory.org and click on Contact/Donate to share a credit card gift, or mail your check made out to:

Friends of the Oratory
PO Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Meetings /events dates requested for 2025 church calendar

Attention ministry heads and event planners:

For 2025 planning, please submit your regular ministry meeting dates & times or special event requests to **Pam Dennis** at pdennis@charlestondiocese.org. Pam manages the monthly church calendar and your cooperation helps prevent double-booking or scheduling conflicts. Thanks!

Sunday, December 15 *Third Sunday of Advent*

8:30-9:45 am - Faith Formation, Cenacle
 NO Youth Ministry

Monday, December 16

NO Parish Pastoral Council meeting this month

Wednesday, December 18

5:30-6:45 pm - O.C.I.A., Cenacle

7-8:30 pm - Youth Ministry, Cenacle

Sunday, December 22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest entries due!

8:30-9:45 am - Faith Formation, Cenacle

Tuesday, December 24 & Wednesday, December 25

Parish office closed

See Christmas Mass schedule below

Sunday, December 29 *Hat Sunday NO Chat & Chew*

Weekly events:

Sundays (9-10 am) Bible study, Fellowship Hall

Mondays (9 am-1 pm) Quilters, Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays (6:30 -7:30 pm) Holy Hour of Prayer, Chapel;

(6:30 pm) Legion of Mary, RH Oratory-Faber Hall

Fridays (10 am) Bible study, Fellowship Hall; (1:30 pm) Dominoes, Bakhita Room

Calendar



Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm - Children's Mass

9:00 pm - Christmas Vigil

Wednesday, December 25

8:00 am

10:00 am

Tuesday, December 31

6:00 pm - Vigil

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

9:30 am

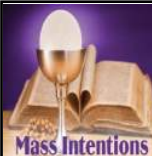


Hat Sunday is coming!

St. Mary's festive **Hat Sunday** will be held **December 29**. Sponsored by the Rosary & Confraternity Society, all ladies of the parish are cordially invited to wear their favorite hat to the 8 am and 10 am Masses!

11th Annual Benefit Dinner!

Mark your calendar for Fat Tuesday, **March 4, 4-10 pm** at Texas Roadhouse (2367 Dave Lyle Blvd)! **Gift cards are now on sale after Mass**. St. Mary receives 10% of all gift card sales and 10% of all St. Mary dinners sales when a flier displaying a special barcode is presented to your server that evening (**be sure to get a copy when you purchase your gift card**). Make plans to attend this annual tradition with your fellow parishioners!



Mass intentions for 2025

The calendar for 2025 Mass intentions is now open. Please contact the Parish office at stmaryrh@charlestondiocese.org or 803-329-1008 to schedule your requested intentions for the Friday and Sunday Masses.

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