

## 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](mailto:stmaryrh@charlestdioocese.org) Website: [www.stmarysrh.org](http://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/](https://facebook.com/stmaryrhsc/)

### Pastor

Fr. Agustín Guzmán, C.O., 803-627-5297  
[aguzman@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:aguzman@charlestdioocese.org)

### Deacons

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

- Rev. Walt Hollis, 843-295-9192  
[walthollis67@yahoo.com](mailto:walthollis67@yahoo.com)

### Faith Formation (Grades 1-8)

Anna Caldwell, 803-322-4548  
[acaldwell@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:acaldwell@charlestdioocese.org)

### Sacramental Preparation

Please contact a Deacon

### Director of Religious Education

Kristen Wood, 803-487-5088  
[kristen.wood@charlestdioocese.org](mailto:kristen.wood@charlestdioocese.org)

### Bulletin Editor

Maryanne Genus, 803-517-5048  
[maryanne@stmarysrh.org](mailto: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 22, 2024 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**



8 am: Pro Populo  
10 am: Domingo Rodriguez, 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, Rose Hunt Samuda, Arlene Iannone, Jackie Jones, Trent Juroscio, 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, 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 Muga, 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](mailto:katiebessman@gmail.com).

### New Year's retreat

The retreat, "Questions Jesus Asks You for the New Year", will invite you to answer life-altering questions. There will be five engaging reflections: Mass, Confession, Matins, Vespers, and Adoration plus 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 to include a New Year's Eve banquet with traditional festivities. Register now at [catholicconference.org/new-years](http://catholicconference.org/new-years). For more info, call 828-327-7441 or email [info@catholicconference.org](mailto:info@catholicconference.org).



### WEEKLY COLLECTION December 8, 2024

Offering	\$8,783.00
Online Giving	\$2,121.90
Building Fund	\$140.00
Parking Lot	\$700.00
St. Mary Outreach	\$1,215.00
Mass Intentions	\$5.00
Flowers	\$50.00
Soup Kitchen	\$1,000.00
Food Pantry	\$80.00
Kerosene	\$1,600.00
Christmas	\$20.00

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

**First Reading** — Mi 5:1-4a  
**Psalm** — Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
**Second Reading** — Heb 10:5-10  
**Gospel** — Lk 1:39-45



### Weekly Readings

**Monday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk 1:57-66  
**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79  
**Wednesday 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  
**Wednesday Night:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
**Wednesday Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14  
**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18  
**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:41-52



### Mass intentions for 2025

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



# Weaving the Christmas connection



Christmas is all about connections. When you stop and think about it there are many. There are the personal ones, of course. And then there are the biblical ones. The latter come from God the Holy Spirit, and they complete the picture.

The personal connections, I trust, are those happy memories of past Christmases, when we were “young and foolish” as the song says.

Perhaps it was our first encounter with Santa, when we walked nervously toward the smiling gentleman with our list of wants and desires lined up in memory. Usually, a photo was taken of that event, which found its way into the family album. Today’s photos likely wind up on a phone collection.

Or maybe it was that Christmas when the one toy we really wanted stayed hidden for a while until Mom or Dad prompted us to look behind the tree.

Or maybe it was the Christmas eve you proposed to the girl of your dreams and offered her a ring that sparkled almost as much as her eyes when she said “Yes!”

I must give a nod here to the strong possibility of a possibly unhappy Christmas memory because the big day came too close to the funeral of a beloved parent. That one happened to my beloved Mom when she was a little girl.

The biblical Christmas connections are those annual scenes and memorable words that come around each year, often enriched with our personal meanings. For example, there is that visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth which highlights the Blessed Mother’s charity and concern. Something we have come to depend on also as our life moves on.

Underneath that obvious one is the deeper Scriptural message about the two baby boys awaiting their birth. These cousins will be connected more powerfully than usual. John the Baptist is connected spiritually with all the great prophets who preceded him in the Old Covenant times. John is the last of their kind, and he connects the New Covenant with the Old. John will also be the precursor of Jesus when both reach maturity.

Admittedly it can be a struggle at this time of year to stay focused on the spiritual. So many secular accumulations have come along over the centuries to our celebration of Christmas, either from our nationalities or those special family traditions that we must maintain our faith connection with the story. Our personal connection with Christ remains the ultimate reason for our joy at this holy time.

Perhaps the best help is one attributed to Stephen Covey. He said, “Always remember that the main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.”

A blessed Christmas to you and yours!

*Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

## Children’s Advent Kick-off Event! — December 8, 2024



Deacon Terrence



# 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](mailto:bakhitaarts902@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

**LECTORS:** Danise Simpson, (803) 524-1492, [dsimpson@rhmail.org](mailto: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](mailto:john_tyszka56@gmail.com)

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

**ROSARY & CONFRATERNITY SOCIETY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:15 am. Gwen D. Finley, (803) 322-3344, [gwendfinley@yahoo.com](mailto:gwendfinley@yahoo.com)

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** (Kristen Wood - Director):

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

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

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

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

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

**SR. FRANCIS SARING SHAWL MINISTRY:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6 pm, Fellowship Hall, Nancy Scholl, (863) 287-1649, [nscholl79@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:walthollis67@yahoo.com)

**STEWARDSHIP:** Deek Alexander, (803) 366-5864, [deekalexander@comporium.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:chisolm@comporium.net); Willie Crank (803) 327-9839, [wacrank@comporium.net](mailto:wacrank@comporium.net)

**WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday from 8-10 am in Fellowship Hall. Regeana Phillips, (803) 370-8999, [regeanap@yahoo.com](mailto:regeanap@yahoo.com)

## Diocese of Charleston links:

 **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/DioeseChas/>

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 **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/dioesechas/>



**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**



## 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!

Go to [rockhilloratory.org](http://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**



## Hat Sunday next week!

The Rosary & Confraternity Society invites all ladies of the parish to wear their favorite hat to the 8a & 10a Mass on **Dec. 29**.

## Servant of God contest winner!

Achieving a perfect score, **Joseph Helmueller** was named the winner of the *Servant of God Matching Contest* sponsored by the Social Justice Ministry! As you know, November is celebrated as Black Catholic History month. A senior at Rock Hill High School, Joseph correctly matched all 11 names with the figures shown below. Pictured starting from the top row, left to right are: *St. Charles Lwanga, Venerable Augustus Tolton, Sister Thea Bowman, Venerable Pierre Toussaint, Venerable Henriette DeLille, St. Moses the Black, St. Martin de Porres, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Benedict the Moor, Venerable Mary Lange, St. Maurice*. Thanks to all who participated in the contest!



### 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

NO Prayer shawl ministry this month

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

### Tuesday, December 31 & Wednesday, January 1

See Christmas Mass schedule below

Parish office closed Jan. 1

### Calendar



#### 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



### 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

## II<sup>th</sup> 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!



## 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@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:pdennis@charlestandioocese.org). Pam manages the monthly church calendar and your cooperation helps prevent double-booking or scheduling conflicts. Thanks!

# Greene

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Jackie Manning**

[jmanning@jppc.net](mailto:jmanning@jppc.net)  
(913) 744-6337

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