

## 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 29, 2024 - Feast of the Holy Family**



8 am: Lydia Servone, RIP  
 10 am: Kim Martinson, 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 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, 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.



Congratulations to **Avieon Wherry** for completing 13 weeks of recruit school with the City of Rock Hill Fire Department. He is now assigned to C Shift, Engine 2. Avieon formerly played music at St. Mary. We are so proud of your amazing accomplishment, and may God keep you safe!

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**  
**December 15, 2024**

Offering	\$5,969.00
Online Giving	\$1,878.90
Building Fund	\$20.00
Texas Roadhouse	\$65.00
St. Mary Outreach	\$75.00
Funeral/Mass Offerings	\$255.00
Flowers	\$15.00
Soup Kitchen	\$680.00
Christmas	\$20.00
Kerosene	\$50.00
At Home with the Word	\$14.00

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



**First Reading** — Sm 1:20-22, 24-28  
**Psalm** — Ps 84:2-3, 5-6. 9-10  
**Second Reading** — Jn 3:1-2, 21-24  
**Gospel** — Lk 2:41-52

**Weekly Readings**

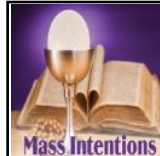
**Monday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18  
**Wednesday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42  
**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**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).



**Mass intentions for 2025**

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

# Who do you obey?



My calling precludes me from experiencing the stomach-churning fear of a parent dealing with a lost child. This was the case for Mary and Joseph as Jesus is temporarily lost among the crowds heading home from

the Passover celebration in Jerusalem. Having made this annual trip 11 times before, traveling with the same caravan each time, at first the holy couple presumed that their boy was in the company of boys and girls his age. But He wasn't. What a shock it was to find that out.

When they did meet up with Jesus at the end of their search, right back at the Temple, Blessed Mother Mary had every right to offer a scold. The elderly teachers gathered around Him had cause to be astonished. Mary the mother could only ask: "Why?" St. Joseph let her ask the question.

Instead of offering excuses, Jesus forthrightly but respectfully countered her His question: "Why? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" We are not told what Joseph's reaction was.

Yet, for all of Jesus' adolescent assertion, which we know caused His parents to be confused, He nonetheless "goes down" from the Temple mount with them. He enters that long period of what we later would call His "hidden life" where He was "obedient to them for some 30 years.

At this point I ask you to use a little imagination to consider what Mary and Joseph might answer to some

present-day correspondent interviewing them on the subject of family life, and asking them, "Is it sometimes difficult?"

Their ready answer "Yes, at times" would be followed by their admission, supplied by St. Luke when he wrote that "they did not understand what He said to them." Jesus was a different kind of child to parent.

Even though there is a vast difference between the Holy Family and our own, the common element is that difficulty that inevitably arises when offspring are offbeat with their parents. Such happenings can usually be worked through successfully when there is a context of love present. That's the encouraging ingredient of today's feast. We are right within the Christmas season when Love itself came to earth and entered human history.

One other element that deserves attention in today's Gospel excerpt: obedience. Sad to say, that is a nearly forgotten concept in today's world. With all the cultural push for self-referencing and self-conviction that the only true judge of our behavior, is ourselves, who is to obey whom? Who has the right to command? Well, just open your bible and you will have your perfect example in Jesus' life of obedience to His divine Father.

If an objective analysis of your family yields mixed results in the matter of obedience, don't be downhearted. Try to think positively; forgive generously; and remember lovingly. A good closing thought: "It takes about five or six years for a tree to produce nuts, but this doesn't apply to a family tree." God love you and your family.

*Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson*

## Catholic Women's Day 2025

February 26, 2025

10 am - 2pm  
SC State House, 1100 Gervais St., Columbia

### Join us at the State House!

- Learn about the legislative process
- Take a tour of the Capital
- Meet your state legislators
- Fellowship with Catholic women from around the state

Scan the QR code to RSVP  
by February 1, 2025



Contact [skelley@charlestondiocese.org](mailto:skelley@charlestondiocese.org) with questions  
Learn more at [sccatholicconference.org](http://sccatholicconference.org)





# 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/>

 **Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/DioeseChas>

 **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**



## St. Mary Outreach December Update

St. Mary Outreach would like to thank **Dom Nardi**, a St. Philip Neri parishioner, for taking over the role of eyeglass volunteer this past April. He had a crash course in how to procure eyeglasses for our clients from **Cathy Doty**, who could no longer fill that position. We are grateful to Cathy for her years of service in this position and grateful to Dom for saying 'yes' when asked to take over eye care.

Since Dom started, some of the processes have changed. There is currently no waiting list for eyeglasses. When a client comes in, Dom ascertains whether or not a client is able to have transportation and if they have Medicaid or an Advantage plan that covers some of the costs of an eye exam. He makes sure he has the correct financial information in each client's folder to qualify for a pair of glasses from *New Eyes for the Needy*. Then Dom and the client together make the appointment over the phone. Dom measures the client's pupil distance and has the client choose the glasses they would like using an online tool. A client can choose a pair of store-bought readers to use until they receive their prescription glasses.

Clients are eligible to receive a pair of glasses from *New Eyes* once a year. The eye doctors currently working with us are **Dr. Oliver**, who gives us 2 free appointments per month, and **Dr. Burt** who gives us one free appointment per month. **Dr. Colletto** sees our Medicaid patients without charging a copay. He also gives us a discounted price of \$79 for patients who do not have Medicaid. After each appointment, Dom picks up the prescription from the eye doctor and pays any fees. Then he requests a voucher from *New Eyes for the Needy*. When the voucher is issued, Dom then orders the glasses from *New Eyes* and pays their \$10 fee. As soon as the glasses arrive, which takes a week or two, Dom contacts the client to come get their glasses. He makes sure they fit and that the client can see properly. He has the client choose a donated case and takes a picture to add to our walls. In 2024, we provided 131 clients with glasses. Outreach paid *New Eyes* \$1,220 and doctor exam fees of \$6,267. Dom drives some clients to their eye exams when needed and has also helped a client get to their eye surgery for cataract removal. We have 3 walls with client pictures on them. Clients who have received glasses delight in finding their picture on the wall and will proudly point it out to others. Giving the ability to see clearly has been important for so many people. It has helped them read, fill out applications, drive, or navigate bus routes. It enables them to be more independent, and they are happy and grateful to have them. Please keep the donations coming.

Your donations have helped so many people have better lives. As always, we can use more volunteer drivers. We also continue to need baby diapers, especially sizes 4 and 5. If your little one outgrows a size and you have a partial box, we have families that would be grateful to have that. We need adult size gloves to help clients stay warm. Clients also ask for adult incontinence pull-ups (like Depends, but not adult diapers with tabs).

God bless you for your generosity, and as always, we are grateful for your ongoing support of St. Mary Outreach!

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

**Tuesday, December 31**

6 pm - Vigil Mass for the Holy Family

**Wednesday, January 1**

9:30 am - Mass for the Holy Family

Parish office closed Jan. 1

**Sunday, January 5**

NO Faith Formation

11:15 am - Rosary & Confraternity Society, Fellowship Hall

7-8:30 pm - Youth Ministry, Cenacle

**Saturday, January 11**

8-10 am - Women's Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, January 12**

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

2-4 pm - Bakhita Arts: Afternoon of Poetry & Prose, Bannon Hall

7-8:30 pm - Youth Ministry, Cenacle

### Weekly events:

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

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

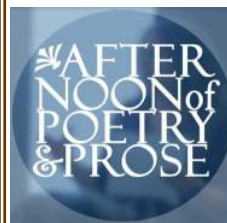
**Wednesdays** (6:30-7:30 pm) Holy Hour of Prayer, Chapel; (6:30 pm) Legion of Mary, RH Oratory-Faber Hall

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

Calendar

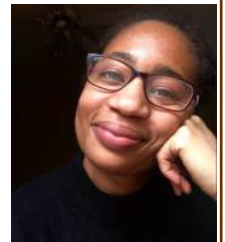


# Bakhita Arts



**Free event in  
Bannon Hall!**

**January 12  
2:00 - 4:00 pm**



Afternoon of Poetry & Prose will feature **Alyssa Stewart** of Columbia, SC, who weaves melodies into her lyrical poetry. She is the inaugural recipient of the Combahee River Prize for a South Carolina BIPOC Writer. Her work is published in *Jasper* magazine and in *Fall Lines* volume X.

Visit [bakhitaarts.org](http://bakhitaarts.org)



## Altar flowers donations

The Flower Committee wishes to thank the following parishioners who donated our beautiful altar flowers for the past 3 months:

**September:** from Alice Tack & family in honor of her father-in-law, Robert Tack, and father, Hezekiah Moore.

**October:** from Robert Verostek in honor of Mary Ann.

**November:** from Bonnie Barbee in honor of Jonathan Snow.

Sign-ups for monthly altar flowers donations for 2025 is now open. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering space. Thank you to all who make our church liturgies beautiful!



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