

St Mary's Catholic Church

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Greenville, South Carolina

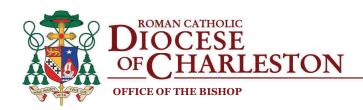
from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

The vast majority of Christians, including almost all Catholics, are baptized when they are infants, and this is most fitting. The sacraments are instruments of God's grace, and even newborn babies need the grace of God. Moreover, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, "The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism," and for this reason "The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church." (CCC 1250, 1252). But along with the indisputable benefits of baptizing infants comes a special danger: those who are baptized before the beginning of memory will have no recollection or understanding of the most important day in their lives, and unless the fact and meaning of their Baptism is explained to them as they grow and receive the Gospel with saving faith, then they will not know that they have been born again of water and the Holy Spirit and have been made children of God, members of Christ, and heirs of the Kingdom.

Today the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord Jesus by his kinsman and herald, John the Baptist. Jesus received the Baptism of John not for the forgiveness of sins (because He had none), but in order to transform a religious ritual washing of the Old Covenant into the first sacrament of the New Covenant. The Baptism of Jesus is also the acceptance of His mission as the Father's suffering servant, and Jesus allows Himself to be numbered among sinners in order to free us from our slavery to sin. In the waters of the Jordan, the Son of Mary is anointed with the Holy Spirit and is thus revealed to be the eternal Son of God and in His sacred humanity to be the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. Finally, by accepting Baptism from John, the Lord Jesus is also accepting and anticipating His own suffering and death. For this reason, each Christian is united to the death of the Lord Jesus through Baptism so that we can live the life of the new creation by grace through faith in Jesus the Christ.

All of this makes our Baptism the single most important event in our entire lives; it is the original sacrament of faith and the beginning of the life of grace. But unless we understand the meaning of this supernatural second birth, we risk misunderstanding the whole of the Christian life. For this reason, parents and godparents have the sacred duty to teach children who are baptized about the day of their Baptism and lead them to mature faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As part of this mission to give the Gospel to all the baptized, I encourage every parishioner to find out when and where and by whom you were baptized. Resolve to keep the anniversary of your Baptism each year as a day of special celebration, and evaluate your relationship with the Lord Jesus in the light of the promises of your Baptism, which we are each asked to renew every year on Easter Sunday. And with St. Paul, I "urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4.1-6)



December 28, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our social, economic, political, and religious lives in ways no one ever imagined. Yet we are not without hope during this time, as people have been working hard for better treatments and now several effective vaccines are available.

The two current vaccines available in the U.S., made by Pfizer and Moderna, have not been derived from the morally tainted fetal stem cell lines. Unfortunately, a fetal stem cell line was utilized for some of the testing of these vaccines. However, after careful examination and consultation with Catholic theologians, scientists, and bioethicists, the Church teaches that it is morally permissible for people to take these vaccines, if others without any connection to these stem cell lines are unavailable. Put most simply, it is not sinful to receive these vaccines.

Catholics also have a duty to make pharmaceutical companies and political leaders know their complete disagreement with developing any vaccine derived in an unethical manner. I call upon each of us to pray and work for the continued development and distribution of safe and effective vaccines that are untainted by involvement or association with abortion.

Lastly, I want to convey the importance of individual discernment as we determine our own healthcare decisions. Certain subsects of our society may be required to vaccinate for the health and safety of those in their care or simply by the nature of their stage of life or health conditions. However, those individuals who are outside the immediate at-risk groups and caregivers, must make a prudential judgment weighting all the factors, such as individual circumstances, responsibilities to the common good and the particular vaccines available. Let us all continue to pray for an end of the pandemic and working for an end to abortion.

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Rev. Robert E. Guglielmone *Bishop of Charleston*

+ Poleet & Greg Celmone

Calendar of Events

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday, 10 January 2021

7.30 am
9.00 am
11.00 am
1.00 pm

Spanish Mass

Meetings & Events **

Sunday, 10 January 2021

9:00 am Scripture Study 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (M)

Financial Report

Weekend of 26/27 December

 Needed
 35,900

 Received
 37,353

 Surplus
 1,453

Poor Box 1,329

Monday, 11 January 2021

7.00 am ♣ Craig Boucher

Monday, 11 January 2021

Offertory Year to Date

 Needed
 969,300

 Received
 987,895

 Surplus
 18,595

Tuesday, 12 January 2021

7.00 am

★ Martin Gill

Tuesday, 12 January 2021

Electronic Giving: If you want

to have direct management of your Electronic Fund Transfer online, you can now do so through the "Make a Gift" link on the homepage of our website. For more information or if you have any questions please contact Jennifer Anderson at jennifer.anderson@stmarysgvl.org.

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

7.00 am Tucker A. Babb

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

9.30 - 11.00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

5.00 - 6.00 pm Holy Hour and Confessions (church)

6.30 pm Family Program for Religious

Education (G)

6.30 - 7.30 pm Introduction to Catholicism

Thursday, 14 January 2021

7.00 am ♣ Bob Scoggins

Thursday, 14 January 2021

Friday, 15 January 2021

7.00 am ♣ Pat Kenny

Friday, 15 January 2021

5:30 - 6:30 am Pillars of Christ (early group) 6:15 am Morning Prayers (church)

6:30 - 8:00 am Pillars of Christ

9:00 am Scripture Study

8:00 - 9:00 pm Spanish Rosary Gathering

Forward in Faith

Capital Campaign \$7 Million to Raise 2019 to 2023

Donations 2,933,595 Received

Pledge Balance 1,027,602

Still to Go 3,038,802

G - Gallivan Hall M- McGrady Hall

* All events in Sacred Heart Hall unless a location is listed

P - Pazdan Hall

Prayer Requests

Please pray for all those who are hospitalized and for all those who are shut-ins, ill or recuperating at home, especially Paulina Cruz, Brett Gervais, Michael Pinto, Joseph & Sandy Srp, Marie-Therese Isidore, Carlton Carpenter, Jim Barber, Mauren Lukovic, Christine Tancrell, Celsea Patry, John Tyler, Hunter Conant, Rafael Marquez, Lori Wylie, Kenneth & Nancy Tessier, Patricia O'Leary, Robert Brown, John Hever, Juliet Roy, Chris Papademitriou, Jeannine Harvey, Ellen Plowden, Mary Stillmock, Shelby Gaschler, Rose Mary Koski, James Smith, Anna Deehan, Nancy Laliberty, Cole Henderson, Julie Birello, Fr Louis Marie Leonelli, Amal Long, Marilyn Postell, and John Paul Serpa.

Prayer Chain Ministry

St Mary's Prayer Chain is a network of parishioners who receive prayer requests by telephone and then pray for those requests. Please call the office at 271.8422, ext. 127 to submit your requests. Information received will be kept confidential.

Parish Office Closure

The parish office will be closed on 18 January for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

St Mary's Council of Catholic Women Cookbook

Calling all cooks! Your St Mary's Council of Catholic Women is creating a cookbook featuring YOUR favorite family recipes. The cookbook will be custom made and professionally published by Morris Press Cookbooks and will be sure to be a treasured keepsake for us all.

Please submit 3-5 of your favorite recipes very soon so you and your family can be represented in our cookbook. Please submit your recipes to Nancy McGrath at NaProNurse@aol.com or mail a hard copy of your recipe to Nancy at 603 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC, 29650. These must be received before 31 December. More information to come regarding recipe writing tips, how to order a cookbook(s), and the price of the cookbook.

Welcome Newcomers

We welcome the following new members to our parish family: Ms. Gabrielle G. Andrews, Prof. Lara W. Elie-Joseph, and Mr. & Mrs. John C. Carrano.

Parish News

Collection for 9/10 January

Forward in Faith Capital Campaign Support of the Parish

St Mary's is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners.

2020 Tax Statements

Please contact Jennifer Anderson, Director of Finance, at jennifer.anderson@stmarysgvl.org or 864.679.4102 if you would like a copy of your contribution statement for 2020. Please allow several days to process and mail your statement.

Tax statements are only mailed upon request.

Bulletin Submissions

The deadline for items is <u>12</u> days prior to the bulletin date. To submit items for the e-bulletin, contact Lisa at jenni.dillard@stmarysgvl.org.

Requiescat in pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lois Cooper who died recently. We extend our prayers and sympathy to her family and friends.

Prayer For The Faithful Departed

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

St Mary's Council of Catholic Women

The meeting for the St Mary's Council of Catholic Women scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, has been canceled.

GREENVILLE DEANERY of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women



The Winter Meeting of the Greenville Deanery of the South Carolina Council of Catholic Women will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, 17 January 2021, at the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church gymnasium. The members of the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Women's Council will host the meeting and luncheon located at 309 Gower Street, Greenville, SC 29611. There is plenty of space to spread out. We will practice distancing and ask everybody to wear a mask. There is no cost for the luncheon. We welcome all women from the Upstate parishes as we gather together doing God's work. Contact President Veronica Yockey veronica.yockey@gmail.com or 864-246-5777 for questions.



St Mary's Religious Education 2020-21



Religious Education Family Program Grades 1-8

Classes for grades 1-8 will meet this Wednesday, 13 January 6.30pm – 7.30pm. This is for students and parents.

13 January 2021 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm attend Adoration as a family.

Confirmation Information meeting for Students 13 January 2021 at $6.30~\mathrm{pm}$

There will be an information meeting for all 7th grade Religious Education, Homeschool, and St. Joe's students planning to receive Confirmation in the Fall of 2021. Students will meet on Wednesday, 13 January in the 8th grade classroom in Pazdan Hall. Masks and Social distancing will be required and implemented.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Contact Linda Jackson linda.jackson@stmarysgvl.org or 864.679.4110

Daily Mass Readings

For the daily Mass readings, visit http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/

St Mary's School - AmazonSmile

amazonsmile Sign into your Amazon account, and select St Mary's Catholic School as your organization of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products. you use the same account on Amazon com and Amazon Smile

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/57-0426237

Encourage your friends and family to help SMS by signing up for AmazonSmile!

Mass Intentions

To schedule a Mass intention, contact Vickie Acosta at 864.271.8422 or vickie.acosta@stmarysgvl.org.

Church Donation Information

EFT Donation

St Mary's offers Electronic Funds Transfer through the parish website as a way to automate your regular weekly offertory donation.

EFT donation options:

Direct Debit Donation - automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account.

Credit & Debit Card Donation - make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using a credit or debit card.

Visit the 'Make a Gift' link on the homepage of our parish website.

Mail-In Donation

Contributions can be mailed to the parish office:

St Mary's Catholic Church 111 Hampton Avenue Greenville, SC 29601

Thank you for your generosity and support.

St Mary's is online:

Website https://smcgvl.org

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/stmarysgvl/

YouTube Saint Mary's Catholic Church Greenville, SC

Weekend Masses & Streaming Mass in Gallivan Hall

Gallivan Hall is open during every weekend Mass to provide plenty of room for everyone. Mass is clearly visible and audible in Gallivan Hall thanks to our cinema screen and sound system, and the rest rooms to the left of the stage will be open.

** Help us keep Gallivan Hall ready for the next Mass:

While you are welcome to move chairs to allow your family to sit closer together, please return them to their original location after Mass. Also, please take home or throw away your Mass booklet. Thank you for your cooperation. **

Please note that every other pew remains closed to allow for social distancing, and we continue to encourage strongly the wearing of a face mask and careful attention to hand washing and purifying to help reduce the spread of the virus. Our cry rooms remain closed because proper distancing is not possible in those spaces, and for now Confessions are being heard in the cry rooms on Saturday from 3.30 - 4.30 pm. The Wednesday afternoon Holy Hour has returned from 5.00 - 6.00 pm.

Finally, the dispensation from the Sunday obligation remains in force, which means that no one is required to attend Mass, even though all must find a way to keep the Lord's Day holy, and the best way to do that is by joining in the sacred liturgy livestreamed on Sunday morning at 11 am. If you are at risk of the severe symptoms possible from exposure to SARS-CoV-2, then please stay home and join us in prayer remotely.

Baptism Class



Prior to having a child baptized at Saint Mary's, you must have been registered in the parish for at least six months, attending Sunday Mass each week, using the stewardship envelopes, and participating in the life of the parish. Baptisms take place

on Saturdays at 6.15 pm after the 5.00 pm Mass. Attending a Baptism Preparation Class is required and may be attended prior to the birth of your child. For questions, contact T.J. Nielsen at 864.679.4114 or timothy.nielsen@stmarysgvl.org.

Caritas Counseling Services, LLC

Counseling services are available at St. Mary's. Contact Dorothy Whalen by phone at 864.679.4122 or by email at dorothy.whalen@stmarysgvl.org.

Catholic Charities

Our Lady's Food Pantry

The pantry (2300 Old Buncombe Rd, Greenville 29609 behind San Sebastian mission church) is currently looking



for a couple of volunteer drivers to drive the pantry truck to the food bank, help load the items into the truck, and help unload the items at the pantry. The time commitment will

be from 9.30-11.30 am on Mondays, and you can volunteer once a week or once a month. If interested, schedule a tour and training (2 hours) with Gracie Ortiz, Catholic Charities Regional Coordinator for the Upstate, at gortiz@charlestondiocese.org or 864.331.2626.

Catholic Charities Clothing Closet

Catholic Charities of SC Upstate has opened a new clothing closet to complement our other services! Open the 1st and 4th Saturdays of the month during Mobile Clean of Heart (10 am-1 pm), our clothing closet provides clothes to those in need. The closet is entirely donation based. Therefore, to continue to provide clothes, your generosity is much appreciated. The most pressing needs are:

- \bullet Pants, sweaters, long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, and jeans (M/L/XL+ preferred)
- Coats and jackets
- Comfortable shoes (like tennis shoes; no heels please)
- New or gently used socks
- NEW underwear (M-L+ sizes preferred)
- · Hats and gloves

Donations can be dropped off at Catholic Charities at 2300 Old Buncombe Rd during pantry hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-3 pm), or sent to us using the below Amazon wish list link. Please designate that you are a St Mary's parishioner and choose the Catholic Charities – Piedmont address at checkout. In addition, please include your name or 'Anonymous'. Thank you!

 $www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1M8C467DC7G38?ref_=wl_share$



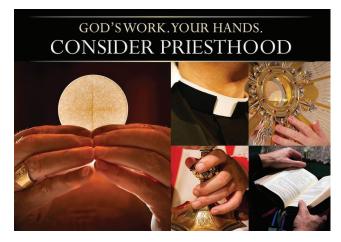
${\cal P}$ ERPETUAL ${\cal E}$ UCHARISTIC ${\cal A}$ DORATION

Prince of Peace

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11.28

To share an hour with the Lord, contact Lisa Buss at 864.508.7123 or adoration@princeofpeacetaylors.org. All hours are available for adoption, but please consider one of the following hours:

Monday 12 pm Wednesday 11 pm Saturday 2 pm



Prayer for Seminarians

O Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest, I pray that You call many worthy souls to Your holy priesthood.

Enlighten the Bishop in the choice of candidates, the Spiritual Director in molding them, and the professors in instructing them.

Lead the seminarians daily in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may become priests who are models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice; steeped in humility and aflame with love for God and man; apostles of Your glory and sanctifiers of souls.

St Charles Borromeo, pray for our seminarians.