



St Mary's Catholic Church



Greenville, South Carolina

8 December 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

The New Year of Grace began last week with the First Sunday of Advent, and I encourage all of us to make resolutions for this new liturgical year - resolutions to strengthen our commitment to follow the Lord Jesus more steadfastly through radical conversion, deep fidelity, joyful discipleship, and courageous evangelism.

Radical means to the root, and conversion means a complete turning around. Radical conversion, then, means a complete turning around of my life, right down to the root of my soul. Jesus began his public ministry with a clarion call to such radical conversion, and we must answer that call if we are to follow him: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel." (Mark 1.15)

Fidelity means faithfulness, and deep Christian fidelity requires that my entire life, not just an hour of my time on Sunday, be centered on the Lord Jesus by grace through faith. As Father Richard John Neuhaus used to say: if Jesus is not Lord of all in my life, then he is not Lord at all in my life. There can be no chambers in our hearts that are closed to Christ, and everything I am and have and think and say and do must be surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Disciple means student, so discipleship is the condition of being a student, and for too many people, being a student of any sort is not a pleasant memory. But since the Lord Jesus is the Divine Teacher, all who follow him must be his students for ever. And what will make us joyful disciples? Freedom. The evangelical freedom of the children of God is a heart set free from captivity to sin, and that is surely a cause for joy. "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8.31-32)

Evangelism means spreading the Gospel by word and witness, and to do this requires courage because Christ is a sign that is opposed and his Church is an object of ridicule in the world. But at our Baptism each of us was charged to fulfill the Great Commission: Go and make disciples of all nations! It is our sacred duty and high privilege to be evangelists of Jesus Christ, and because the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe, we can say with St Paul: Woe to us if we do not preach the Gospel!

Following the Lord Jesus in keeping with these principles flows directly from our own knowledge of Sacred Scripture and experience of personal prayer. So in this New Year of Grace, let us resolve to spend more time praying with and studying the Holy Bible, and a perfect way to do that is to share in the celebration of Vespers each Sunday of Advent at 5 pm.

Father Newman



MASS COLLECTS FOR THE **Second Week** OF ADVENT

(May be used at home when lighting your Advent Wreath)

Sunday 8 December

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Monday 9 December

May our prayer of petition
rise before you, we pray, O Lord,
that, with purity unblemished,
we, your servants, may come, as we desire,
to celebrate the great mystery
of the Incarnation of your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Tuesday 10 December

O God, who have shown forth your salvation
to all the ends of the earth,
grant, we pray,
that we may look forward in joy
to the glorious Nativity of Christ.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Wednesday 11 December

Almighty God, who command us
to prepare the way for Christ the Lord,
grant in your kindness, we pray,
that no infirmity may weary us
as we long for the comforting presence
of our heavenly physician.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Advent Week 2

Candle Name: Bethlehem Candle

Candle Symbolizes: Love

Reminds us: Joseph and Mary's Journey

*“Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises
to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope.’”*

Romans 15.12

Thursday 12 December

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready
the paths of your Only Begotten Son,
that through his coming
we may be found worthy to serve you
with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Friday 13 December

Grant that your people, we pray, almighty God,
may be ever watchful for the coming of your Only Begotten
Son,
that as the author of our salvation himself has taught us,
we may hasten alert and with lighted lamps
to meet him when he comes.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Saturday 14 December

May the splendor of your glory dawn in our hearts,
we pray, almighty God,
that all shadows of the night may be scattered
and we may be shown to be children of light
by the advent of your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Join us for the singing of Solemn Vespers on 8, 15 & 22 December at 5 pm.

Calendar of Events

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday 8 December

7.30 am	* John Blessing
9.00 am	* Ricky James Roark
11.00 am	Pro populo
1.00 pm	Spanish Mass

Monday 9 December

Immaculate Conception

7.00 am	* John Sabine
12.00 pm	Anne Whaley Stoddard
7.00 pm	Pro populo

Tuesday 10 December

7.00 am	Donald J Trump
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Wednesday 11 December

7.00 am	Gabriel Boyd
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Thursday 12 December

7.00 am	* Joel Naylor
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Friday 13 December

7.00 am	* Mary Sabine
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Saturday 14 December

5.00 pm	* Kitty Norman
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Meetings & Events *

Sunday 8 December

KofC/OLP Food Drive: After All Masses	
SMCCW Bake Sale/Bazaar: After All Masses (P)	
Nursery: During 9.00 am Mass	
9.00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study
11.00 am	Spanish Bible Class
5.00 pm	Advent Vespers (church)
6.00 pm	High School Youth Group (P)

Monday 9 December

6.30 pm	Fraternus (P)
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Tuesday 10 December

6.30 pm	Fidelis (P)
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Wednesday 11 December

9.30 am	Wednesday Morning Bible Study
5.00-6.00 pm	Holy Hour & Confessions (church)
6.30 pm	Religious Education
6.30 pm	Introduction to Catholicism (M)

Thursday 12 December

Friday 13 December

5.30-6.30 am	Pillars of Christ (early group)
6.30-6.45 am	Morning Prayer (Lauds) (church)
7.30-8.30 am	Pillars of Christ (late group) (M)
10.00 am	Friday Morning Bible Study
7.00 pm	Spanish Rosary

Saturday 14 December

3.30-4.30 pm	Confessions (church)
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Financial Report

Weekend of 30 Nov/1 Dec

Needed	40,100
Received	40,835
Surplus	+ 735

Poor Box	467
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Offertory Year to Date

Needed	922,300
Received	935,363
Surplus	+ 13,063

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@smcgvl.org.

2024 Capital Improvement Fund

Goal	1,000,000
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Donations Received	776,635
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Still to Go	223,365
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Mass Attendance

Weekend of 30 Nov/1 Dec

5.00 pm	315
7.30 am	352
9.00 am	467
11.00 am	377
1.00 pm	408

Total	1,919
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G - Gallivan Hall
P - Pazdan Hall

M - McGrady Hall
C - Clinkscals
Family Center

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

Liturgical Schedule Changes

No Holy Hour and Confessions
on the following Wednesdays

25 December, 1 & 22 January

Prayer Requests

Please pray for all those who are hospitalized and for all those who are shut-ins, ill or recuperating at home, especially Mary Stillmock, Juliet Roy, James Smith, Anna Deehan, Nancy Laliberty, Marilyn Postell, Sofia Alvarez, Ann Howard, Carl Lee Cooke, Konta & Laman Patel, Sloane Perkins, George Cortes, Diane Hickey, Michael Tierney, Jaxson Rivera, Helen Carter, Anthony Harris, Katerina Puig, Lucero Rubiano, Aurelia LaValley, Sheila & Barry Garrison, Richard Murtaugh, Anthony Gomes, Chet & Dorothy Jaskwhich Sobol, Lisa Myer, Sandy Miros, Terry Gurn, Mitchell & Elisa Bianco, Barbara Dresser, Caroline Henson, Betty Jo Brown, Bridget Fitzpatrick, Ellie O'Connell, Gary Redding, Eddie Collins, Steve Hughes.

Nursery Help Needed

Our nursery is open each Sunday morning to provide child care during the 9.00 am Mass, and we need some more adult help. If you are interested in this essential service to the children of St Mary's, please contact Linda Jackson at 864.679.4110 or linda.jackson@smcgvl.org.

Christmas Flower Memorials



St Mary's parishioners are encouraged to participate in helping to decorate our church, gym and Gallivan Hall for the Christmas liturgies. Each year we set up a Christmas Flower Fund for that purpose.

If you wish to honor a loved one, living or deceased, please send in your donation in the Christmas Flower envelope available in your envelope packet (or use a plain white envelope). **Please print** your name and the names of those whom you wish to honor. Memorial requests must be submitted to the church office no later than **Sunday 15 December** for the names to appear in the Christmas Flower list. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

PARISH NEWS

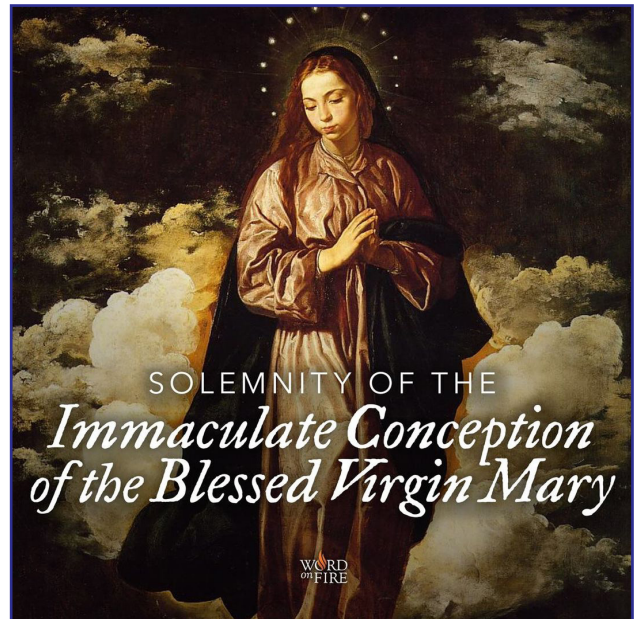
Collection for 7/8 December

Support of the Parish

Collection for 9 December - Immaculate Conception

Support of the Parish

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



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 9 December *Holy Day of Obligation*

We will celebrate three Masses for the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the Church in the United States, on Monday 9 December at 7.00 am, 12.00 noon & 7.00 pm.

Congratulations to

Theodore Cole Pelicano, Fox Royal Cole, and Remiel Marie Cole who were baptized recently.



Save the Date!

SATURDAY,
MARCH 1, 2025 - 6:00PM

Save the date for the St Mary's Gala on Saturday 1 March 2025 at 6.00 pm. Join us as we celebrate a momentous milestone: our school's 125th Anniversary! Our theme this year is "Garden Gala" in tribute to our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, who has long been associated with beautiful flowers. The event will be held on campus at the Baum Center and Clinkscates Family Center and will feature a silent and live auction, catered food from Table 301, an open bar, dancing, and live music by popular local band Randomonium!

The 2025 Gala proceeds will go towards the renovation of the plaza between Mercy and Gallivan Halls including the construction of a covered walkway and other capital projects that may arise. What an exciting time to be a part of St Mary's as we watch our campus footprint grow in both beauty and function!

Sponsorship opportunities are now available at <https://SMMSGardenGala.givesmart.com>. Individual tickets go on sale in December. Please make checks payable to "St Mary's Catholic School." We are also accepting donations for our auction and that form may be found at <https://smsgvl.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-St-Marys-Gala-Auction-Form.pdf> or submit your donation online at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/EPP/>.

If you have any questions, please contact our Gala Chair, Sarah Ratcliff, at gala@smcgvl.org or call/text 404.432.0750. We thank you for your prayerful consideration to support!





Knights of Columbus
CHARITIES
United in Charity.

Knights of Columbus Council #13112 invites you
to participate in a food drive in service of

Our Lady's Pantry

Drop off before Masses on
Saturday & Sunday 7-8 December

Suggested Donations based on current needs

CANNED FRUIT

CANNED PROTEIN (chicken, tuna, etc)

CANNED VEGETABLES

PEANUT BUTTER

RICE

CEREAL

PASTA

CHEF BOYARDEE STYLE MEALS

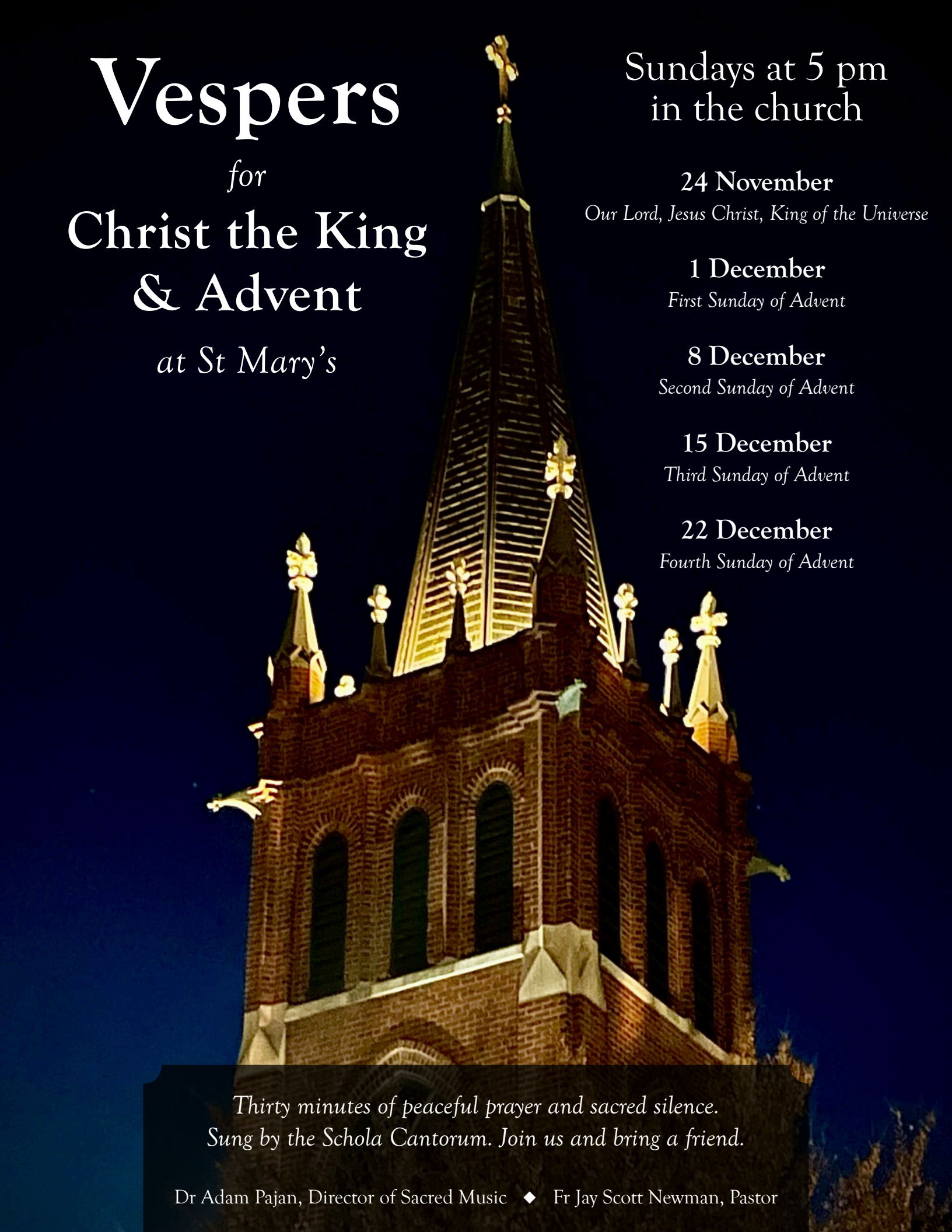
*These items can be found in bulk
at warehouse stores or via Amazon*

We envision a community where everyone has access to enough nutritious food to feed themselves and their families. While we have some existing partnerships in place, the pantry tends to run low on some items more than others, and we are hoping to be able to bridge that gap through the generosity of parishioners. Our numbers have more than doubled from last year, and we want to ensure that no one goes hungry in Greenville.



Drop off at Our Lady's Pantry
blue box van in the church parking lot

Monetary donation checks can be made out to **Catholic Charities**. Please note **OLP Greenville** on the memo line.



Vespers

for

Christ the King & Advent

at St Mary's

Sundays at 5 pm
in the church

24 November

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

1 December

First Sunday of Advent

8 December

Second Sunday of Advent

15 December

Third Sunday of Advent

22 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Thirty minutes of peaceful prayer and sacred silence.
Sung by the Schola Cantorum. Join us and bring a friend.*

Dr Adam Pajan, Director of Sacred Music ♦ Fr Jay Scott Newman, Pastor



St Mary's Religious Education



Religious Education Grades 1-8

Classes meet on Wednesday from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

Next Monthly Parent Meeting is 8 January

Sunday Mornings for 3 & 4 Year Olds

Class meets Sunday at 9:00 am in the K-4 Classroom in Sacred Heart Hall

For More Information

Contact Linda Jackson

linda.jackson@smcgvl.org or 864.679.4110

Adult Christian Formation

An Introduction to Catholicism

What is Catholicism? Is the Catholic Faith in the Bible? Did the Lord Jesus found the Catholic Church? *An Introduction to Catholicism* is designed to answer these and many other questions about the origins of Catholic Christianity and the shape of Christian faith and life within the Catholic Church. **It is also the perfect course for any Catholic who has non-Catholic or fallen away family members or friends, and wish to be able to better explain the Church's teachings.** All are invited to come and discover what it means to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus in His holy Catholic Church.

Learn more on the parish website at <https://smcgvl.org/christian-formation/intro-to-catholicism/>
Contact Deacon John at john.heuser@smcgvl.org for more information on becoming a Catholic.

Offertory Envelopes and the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage



If you no longer receive weekly stewardship envelopes in the mail, you may have been marked as **Inactive** within our parishioner database. No matter how often you come to Mass at St Mary's, you are not considered an **Active** member of the parish unless you are registered here, attending Mass here each Sunday, and using the stewardship envelopes to fulfill two separate purposes: a) making your offertory contributions and other gifts, and b) establishing an attendance record.

Active member status in our database is essential for requesting the following:

- ◆ Parishioner tuition in the school
- ◆ Endorsement to serve as a sacramental sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation
- ◆ Baptism, Confirmation, or Marriage (for oneself or for one's children, either here at St Mary's or in another parish)

If you use electronic transfer to make your offertory contribution and other gifts, simply check the box for EFT on the empty envelope and then drop it in the collection plate. All envelopes in the collection are recorded in our parish database.

Once six months elapses without any envelopes or online donations received, the account is marked as **Inactive** and envelopes are no longer distributed. To begin receiving stewardship envelopes again, please email Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@smcgv1.org.

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. **The next class is Monday 16 December at 6.30 pm.** Contact Deacon Joe Sanfilippo at 864.679.4119 or joe.sanfilippo@smcgv1.org to register.

Spiritual Direction

St Mary's has three certified Catholic Spiritual Directors available for individual spiritual direction. Contact Deacon Tom Whalen at thomas.whelen@smcgv1.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.



Diocese of Charleston PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, send the Diocese of Charleston more priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. Choose faithful men and women from our homes, parishes, and schools to serve the people of God. Mary, Mother of the Church, help those who are called to offer a joyful "yes" to God's invitation.

Amen

<https://charlestdiocese.org/vocations>

Formed.org

Online resources are available to every member of our parish including books, movies, podcasts and more. Sign up at <https://formed.org/signup> using zip code 29601 and click on our parish. Register with your name and email address to access the library.

PERPETUAL Eucharistic Adoration

Prince of Peace

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." ~Rev 1:8

To share a Holy hour with the Lord, contact Lisa Buss at adoration@princeofpeacetaylors.org or 864.508.7123. All hours are available for adoption, but please consider one of the following hours of need (*urgent open hour!):

Wednesday 12 pm

Thursday 4 pm*

Friday 12 pm



If you're interested in volunteering, donating or learning more about any of our programs, please contact Jessica Thrall at jthrall@charlestdiocese.org. Visit our website at <https://charitiessc.org>.

YOUNG WOMEN'S
Advent Retreat

★ The Basilica of St. Peter
1529 Assembly St, Columbia, SC 29201

DEC | 14th | 2024 ★

Keynote Speaker - Regina Boyd - Boyd Counseling Services
Join us for a retreat on mental health, female friendships, and our Catholic faith.

Rachel's Vineyard
Post Abortion Healing Retreat
December 13 - 15, 2024
Charleston Area

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental weekend retreat for women and men who have had an abortion. This retreat offers everyone a place to find peace and closure and strengthen your relationship with God while experiencing God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

To Register Online:
<https://bit.ly/RachelsVineyardDec2024>
For more information:
Christy 803.554.6088 | Kathy 803.546.6010
or email Grace4Healing@gmail.com

rachelsvineyard.org

Join us for our 4th Annual
Pink & Blue Gala
Friday, February 21, 2025

Discounted Early Bird Ticket
sales end Dec. 15th

You are invited to join us for a Mardi Gras themed evening with fine dining and a live and silent auction to support our moms and babies that we serve. Our gala will be held at the beautiful, lakeside Fluor Enterprises dining venue in Greenville starting at 6:00pm.

Our guest speakers will include Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS & Fr. Rhett Williams!

We can't host a successful event without your help! If you are interested in sponsoring our event or have auction items to donate, scan QR code below or visit stclareshomesc.org/pink-blue-gala.

Find out more here!

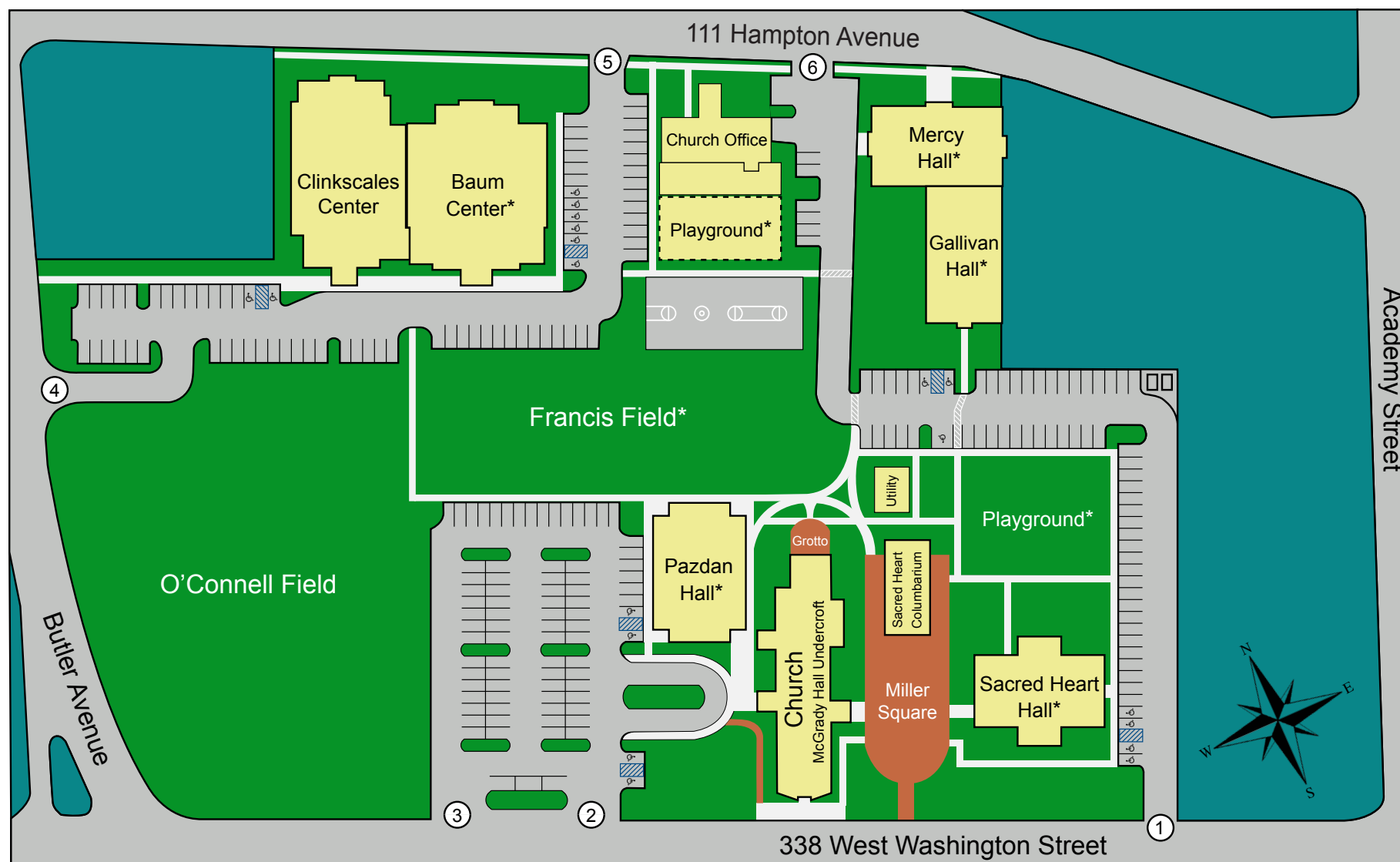
St. Clare's Home
RESTORING HOPE - SAVING LIVES

Contact Colleen Chmiel for Questions
stclaresvolunteer@charlestdiocese.org
843-259-1108

SAINT MARY'S CAMPUS MAP

Saint Mary's Church has nine buildings on nine acres of land, so this map is offered to help you find your way on our campus.

Please note that during the school day, it is not permitted for anyone to walk through the interior section of our campus in order to safeguard the children in our care. So if you are visiting the church during a school day, please park in the Washington Street lot at entrances 2 or 3. And if you are visiting the church office, please park beside the Baum Center at entrance 5 and walk on Hampton Avenue to our front door. On weekends and any day when school is not in session, please park and walk anywhere you like.



*No access during school hours.

The Clergy of St Mary's Catholic Church

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Diocesan Chancellor
Dean of Greenville
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Father Pedro Gomez Baraja
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Priest of San Sebastian
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Bon Secours Director of Spiritual Care
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Assisting Priest at St Mary's Church
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