

St Mary's Catholic Church

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Greenville, South Carolina

15 December 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

Saint Mary's Church will be 175 years old in 2027, and we will celebrate that anniversary with a Mass and grand party on Saturday 6 November 2027. Please put that date in your calendars now!

Because of the destruction of records during the Great Fire of Charleston in 1861 we don't know the exact date on which our parish was founded, but I have chosen November 6th for our celebration because that date will be the 123rd anniversary of the dedication of the first half of our church. The original church stretched from the rear wall of the chancel to the side doors which are now in the middle of the building, and the second half was added fifty years later. Then in 2002 we renovated the entire church during our 150th anniversary year.

During the history of our little corner of the vineyard (long in the history of this nation and short in the history of the Church), Saint Mary's has become a refuge of goodness and peace in the midst of the world, and we are blessed beyond all telling to be the current stewards of such a home for the worship of God, the teaching of divine wisdom, the service of those in need, and the fellowship of disciples who seek companions on the Way of the Lord Jesus. And as stewards of these gifts, it is our sacred duty to preserve and enhance what we have received and then to pass along this green and pleasant parish to future generations.

If you have ever felt your pew seat moving beneath you or struggled to trust a kneeler to do its duty, then you know why we must replace all of the pews and kneelers in the church. And the same is true of the wood wainscoting which runs the length of the building and conceals the HVAC equipment from sight. We must also patch and paint the plaster, and it is well past time to prepare our thirty-four year old organ for its next generation of service.

In addition to those tasks, we at long last need to provide indoor rest rooms and accessible confessionals, along with a nursery that can also serve as a bride's room, and that is why we will build an annex to the church in the green space along the sidewalk of Washington Street. It will connect to the church in the spot now occupied by the confessional on the west side of the building, and that connection will allow access to the rest rooms without going outside or climbing stairs.

I don't know if we can accomplish all of these tasks before our 175th anniversary party on 6 November 2027, but we're going to try! A great deal depends on your generosity to our building fund, and so I appeal to you for support as we approach the end of the year. Everything we do here is made possible by your sacrificial gifts, and I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the mission of this parish church dedicated to the Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Father Newman



MASS COLLECTS FOR THE Third WEEK OF ADVENT

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

Sunday 15 December

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. 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.

Monday 16 December

Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord, and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts, visit us with the grace of your Son.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Tuesday 17 December

O God, who through your Only Begotten Son have made us a new creation, look kindly, we pray, on the handiwork of your mercy, and at your Son's coming cleanse us from every stain of the old way of life. 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.

Wednesday 18 December

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that the coming solemnity of your Son may bestow healing upon us in this present life and bring us the rewards of life eternal. 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.

Advent Week 3

Candle Name: Shepherd's Candle Candle Symbolizes: Joy

Reminds us: Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

"And the angel said to [the shepherds], 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." - Luke 2.10-11

Thursday 19 December

Unworthy servants that we are, O Lord, grieved by the guilt of our deeds, we pray that you may gladden us by the saving 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.

Friday 20 December

O God, Creator and Redeemer of human nature, who willed that your Word should take flesh in an ever-virgin womb, look with favor on our prayers, that your Only Begotten Son, having taken to himself our humanity, may be pleased to grant us a share in his divinity. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Saturday 21 December

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who are weighed down from of old by slavery beneath the yoke of sin, may be set free by the newness of the long-awaited Nativity of your Only Begotten Son.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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♣ CHRISTMAS EVE ♣ TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2024

5.00 pm Mass in the Clinkscales Center for families with children
5.00 pm Sung Mass in the church
7.00 pm Sung Mass in the church
8.40 pm Choir Program in the church (Streamed on Facebook)
9.00 pm Solemn Mass During the Night (Streamed on Facebook)
(The Mass During the Night takes the place of the Mass at Midnight.)

★ CHRISTMAS DAY ★ WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2024

11.00 am Mass in the church
1.00 pm Spanish Mass in the church

No Holy Hour or Confessions on 25 December 2024 and 1 January 2025

No Mass on Thursday 26 December 2024

♦ Solemnity of the Mother of God ♦

Tuesday 31 December 2024

5.00 pm Sung Mass

Wednesday 1 January 2025

9.00 am Sung Mass 11.00 am Solemn Mass 1.00 pm Spanish Mass

Calendar of Events

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Meetings & Events *

Sunday 15 December

7.30 am Kelly Ellington
9.00 am Mike & Lanina Russell
& Family
11.00 am Pro populo

11.00 am Pro populo 1.00 pm Spanish Mass

Sunday 15 December Parish Breakfast: After 7.30 & 9 am 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)
6.00 pm Women of Grace Bible Study

Monday 16 December

7.00 am ★ James Hurney 6.30 pm Fraternus (P)
6.30 pm Baptism Class

Tuesday 17 December

7.00 am ★ Gary Anthony Shelley

Tuesday 17 December

Monday 16 December

6.30 pm Fidelis (P)

Wednesday 18 December

7.00 am Maureen Lesley

Wednesday 18 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 19 December

7.00 am Fr Jay Scott Newman

Thursday 19 December

7.00 pm Spanish Adoration

Friday 20 December

Friday 20 December

7.00 am ★ Martin Family

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)
7.00 pm Spanish Rosary

Saturday 21 December

5.00 pm ♣ Alexis Quartararo

Saturday 21 December

3.30-4.30 pm Confessions (church)

G - Gallivan Hall P - Pazdan Hall M - McGrady Hall C - Clinkscales

Family Center

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

Financial Report

Weekend of 7/8 December

 Needed
 40,100

 Received
 42,625

 Surplus
 + 2,525

Poor Box 416

Offertory Year to Date

 Needed
 962,400

 Received
 977,988

 Surplus
 + 15,588

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

Donations

Received 782,589

Still to Go 217,411

Mass Attendance

Weekend of 7/8 December

Weekend of 776 December	
5.00 pm	316
7.30 am	360
9.00 am	452
11.00 am	341
1.00 pm	506
Total	1,975

Liturgical Schedule Changes

No Holy Hour and Confessions on the following Wednesdays

25 December, 1 & 22 January

Holiday Office Closures

The parish office will close at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 24 December for the Christmas holiday and reopen on Monday 30 December at 9.00 am.

The parish office will close at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 31 December for the New Year holiday and reopen on Thursday 2 January at 9.00 am.

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.

Monthly Parish Breakfast



All are welcome to join us for breakfast! This month the Knights of Columbus will serve breakfast for the Parish Family after the 7.30 am and 9.00 am Masses on **Sunday 15 December.** For those that go to Mass virtually or on Saturday evening, you can

still come to our breakfast as we serve from 8.00 - 8.45 am and 10.15 - 11.00 am. Besides serving for the dining hall, we also have to go boxes.

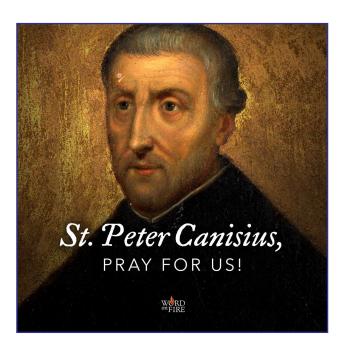
Also, for all you men out there, consider joining our fraternal organization. Contact John Paluszak at 864.497.4804 or email jpaluszak@bellsouth.net for more information.

Parish News

Collection for 14/15 December

Pastoral Solidarity Fund Church in Africa Support of the Parish

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



Christmas Flower Memorials



Deadline is this Sunday 15 December! 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.

Social Ministries at St Mary's

St Mary's Advent Service **Day at Project Host**



On the First Sunday of Advent, St Mary's volunteers spent the morning preparing, cooking, and serving meals for those in need in our community.

If you are interested in receiving notifications for future volunteer opportunities in our community, please contact Deacon John Heuser at john.heuser@smcgvl.org to be added to our distribution list.











Visit the Bookstore/Gift Shop! Tuesday - Saturday 11 am to 5 pm 14 S Main Street, Greenville SC, 29601



Looking for volunteers! Call Charlie at 574.261.2293

- ◆ Books, Advent & Christmas Items ◆
- ◆ Baptismal & First Communion Gifts ◆
 - ◆ Rosaries, Crucifixes, Sacramentals ◆
 - ◆ Exquisite Catholic Art ◆

Pillars of Christ Men's Ministry

Pillars of Christ small group men's ministry meets in person every Friday throughout the year. The early group meets at 5.30 am and the late group meets at 7.30 am. The ministry is focused on helping men to live out their vocation as Catholic Christian men in every aspect of their lives, be it home, work, church, or social. By it, men develop and grow in their personal relationship with Christ, His Church, and with other like minded men so as to be equipped in the battle against the temptations and immoral structures that surround us. If interested in joining our ministry, please contact Robert Sullivan (early group) at rcsulli42@gmail.com or 864.561.9600 or Mike Munafo (late group) at mmunafo1950@gmail.com or 864.313.5356.



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 Clinkscales 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://SMSGardenGala.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

Free Throw Championship Winners



The Monsignor Charles J Baum Council #13112 winners of the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship were Charlotte Voigt, Brynn Tollefson, Watson Betz, Oliver Odlum, Ben Powell,

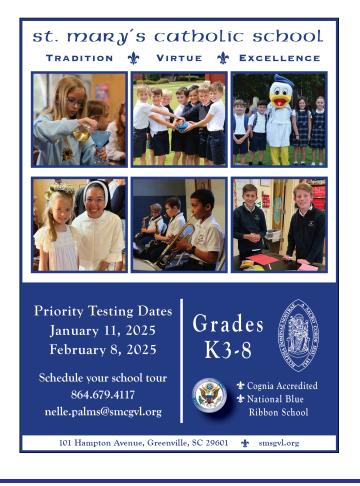
Xavier Russell, and Henry Russell. The players will have the opportunity to compete at the District Level. Congratulations to our players!

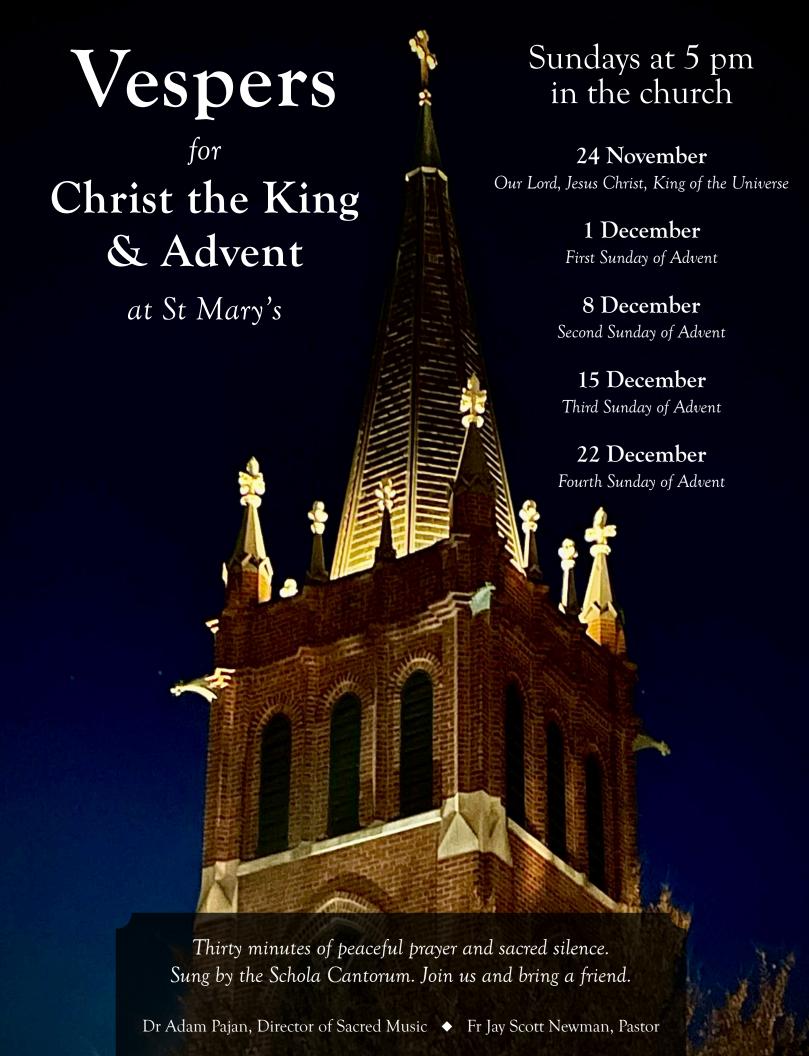
Nursery Help Needed

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.

Daily Mass Readings

For daily Mass readings, visit https://bible.usccb.org







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 <u>Inactive</u> and envelopes are no longer distributed. To begin receiving stewardship envelopes again, please email Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@smcgvl.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@smcgvl.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.whalen@smcgvl.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.

Amer

https://charlestondiocese.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.



SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENT LIFE SUMMIT

Saturday, January 11th at 2pm Village Church | Downtown Columbia Campus 2204 Park St, Columbia, SC 29201



Toni McFaddenKeynote Speaker
Author & International Speaker

You are invited to join SC Citizens for Life earlier on January 11th for the SC Life March. 11am: Line up at the Russell House in Downtown Columbia 12pm: Rally at the State House



Father Rhett Williams
Guest & Speaker
Director of Vocations for the Diocese
of Charleston and pastor of St.
Thomas More Church

1:15PM: CFA LUNCH AVAILABLE 2:00PM: EVENT BEGINS 3:00PM: SERVICE PROJECTS

GET YOUR TICKETS: studentlifesummit.com

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

Prince of Peace

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." ~John 1:14

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 <u>please consider</u> one of the following hours of need (*urgent open hour!):

Sunday 9 pm
Tuesday 6 pm
Wednesday 12 pm, 6 pm & 11 pm*
Thursday 1 am* & 4 pm*
Friday 12 pm



Please contact Jessica Thrall at jthrall@charlestondiocese.org if you're interested in volunteering, donating or learning more about any of our programs. Visit our website at https://charitiessc.org.

Volunteers Needed

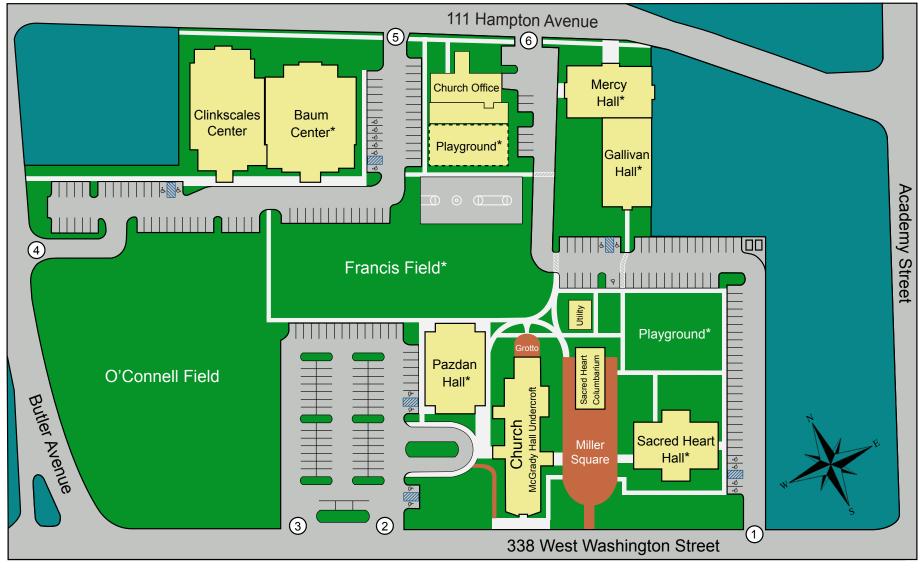
Catholic Charities is looking for volunteers to help unload a truck and help restock our shelves on Mondays from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. Please contact Silvia Loaiza at sloaiza@charlestondiocese.org or 864.331.2629 for more information.



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

Father Jay Scott Newman Pastor of St Mary's Church Diocesan Chancellor Dean of Greenville pastor@smcgvl.org

Father Pedro Gomez Baraja Parochial Vicar of St Mary's Church Priest of San Sebastian pgomez@charlestondiocese.org

Father Will Frei Parochial Vicar of St Mary's Church and San Sebastian wfrei@charlestondiocese.org Father Jonathan Duncan
Parochial Vicar of St Mary's Church
Bon Secours Director of Spiritual Care
fatherduncan@smcgvl.org

Father Bartholomew Leon Pastor of St Rafka Church Assisting Priest at St Mary's Church bleon@charlestondiocese.org

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Diego Ferro Director of Hispanic Ministries diego.ferro@smcgvl.org

Deacon Alex Garvey Bon Secours Mercy Health Ministries alex.garvey@smcgvl.org

> Deacon John Heuser Director of Social Ministries john.heuser@smcgvl.org

Deacon Joe Sanfilippo Pastoral Associate joe.sanfilippo@smcgvl.org

Deacon George Tierney Deacon Scheduling george.tierney@smcgvl.org

Deacon Tom Whalen Spriritual Direction & Communion Ministers thomas.whalen@smcgvl.org

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Pat Perkins Director of Operations pat.perkins@smcgvl.org

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Steven Zimmerman Principal of St Mary's School principal@smcgvl.org