

# St Mary's Catholic Church

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# Greenville, South Carolina

5 January 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is one of the richest feasts in the Christian liturgy, and for this reason, it is also among the most easily misunderstood. The Greek word which we translate epiphany simply means "appearance" or "manifestation," and in the Western liturgical tradition the Epiphany is linked most strongly to the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child.

But in the Eastern liturgies, the Epiphany is focused not only on the visit of the Magi but on every early event by which Christ is revealed to the world as the Messiah: His birth, the visit of the Magi, His presentation in the Temple, His instruction of the elders in the Temple, His Baptism in the Jordan, and His first miracle at the wedding feast in Cana. For this reason, ancient liturgies refer to the Epiphany as a festival of illumination, declaration, and theophany, and in many Eastern Christian Churches (like the Armenian), January 6th is the primary or only celebration of the Birth of Jesus, not December 25th.

This helps us understand the profound link between the feasts of Christmas and Epiphany and why this celebration is the traditional Twelfth Day of Christmas. The revelation of the Son of God to the world begins with His birth, continues with the visit of the Magi, expands with His presentation in the Temple, is intensified at His Baptism, and finds its first miraculous expression at the wedding feast in Cana.

The stained glass window above the main entrance of our church on Washington Street depicts four of these mysteries in sacred images: the birth of Christ, His Presentation in the Temple, His teaching of the elders in the Temple, and the wedding feast at Cana. This window is hard to see from the main floor of the church, but it bears witness to the beauty of all the manifestations of Christ to the human race.

Though separated by thirty years, the events at Bethlehem and Cana are truly but one continuous unfolding of the eternal plan of salvation, and of all these mysteries we can speak with equal force the words of the Preface of the Epiphany from the Roman Missal: "Father ... today you have revealed the mystery of our salvation in Christ as a light for the nations, and when he appeared in our mortal nature, you made us new by the glory of his immortal nature."

The Epiphany is an older Christian feast than Christmas, and from antiquity it has been kept on January 6th. The first recorded mention of this feast was in 361, and by 385 the Epiphany was celebrated in Jerusalem for eight days, like the present Octaves of Easter and Christmas and the old Octave of Pentecost. All of this points to the supreme importance of the sacred mysteries we celebrate today: by His incarnation and birth, by His revelation to the Magi and His presentation in the Temple, by His Baptism and the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana, the Son of Mary is gradually shown to be "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God."

Father Newman

# **Calendar of Events**

# **Mass Schedule & Intentions**

# **Meetings & Events \***

## **Sunday 5 January**

7.30 am ♣ Frank Selvy 9.00 am Gevaert Godchildren 11.00 am Pro populo Spanish Mass 1.00 pm

## Sunday 5 January

Nursery: During 9.00 am Mass 11.00 am Spanish Bible Class (G) 6.00 pm High School Youth Group (P) 6.00 pm Women of Grace Bible Study

## **Monday 6 January**

7.00 am ♣ Lydia Fishbourne

#### Monday 6 January

1.00 pm St Anne's Stitchery 6.30 pm Fraternus (P)

### **Tuesday 7 January**

♣ Lisa Watkins 7.00 am

## **Tuesday 7 January**

6.30 pm Fidelis (P)

Wednesday 8 January

## Wednesday 8 January

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

6.30 pm Religious Education

## Thursday 9 January

7.00 am

Orion & Devin Olsen

## Thursday 9 January

7.00 pm Spanish Adoration

#### Friday 10 January

#### Friday 10 January

7 00 am ♣ Jake Michael DiGeronimo

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

7.00 pm

## Saturday 11 January

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5.00 pm **♣** Roman Family 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 28/29 December

Needed	40,100
Received	40,232
Surplus	+ 132

Poor Box 2,246

## Offertory Year to Date

Needed	1,082,700
Received	1,102,541
Surplus	+ 19,841

**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.

## **Capital Improvement Fund** \$1 Million to Raise

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Donations Received	803,885
Dec Capital Campaign Donations	173,184
Christmas Donations	66,741
<b>Total Raised</b>	1,043,810

# Mass Attendance

## Weekend of 28/29 December

5.00 pm	368
7.30 am	290
9.00 am	279
11.00 am	351
1.00 pm	465
Total	1,753

# **Liturgical Schedule Changes**

No Holy Hour and Confessions on Wednesday 22 January

# Requiescat in pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marie Howard, 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.

# **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, Albert Normandin.

# **Pillars of Christ Men's Ministry**

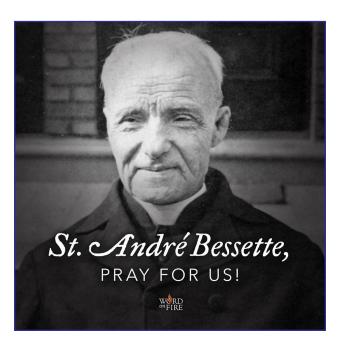
Pillars of Christ small group men's ministry meets in person every Friday throughout the year. The early group meets at 5.30 am and the late group meets at 7.30 am. Pillars will begin a study of Revelation by Ascension Press on Friday 10 January. Join us after Mass at 7.30 am. The ministry is focused 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 resulli42@gmail.com or 864.561.9600 or Mike Munafo (late group) at mmunafo1950@gmail.com or 864.313.5356.

# Parish News

# **Collection for 4/5 January**

Support of the Parish

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



## **2024 Tax Statements**

Tax statements will now be automatically generated through your Flocknote account. Please contact Jennifer Anderson, Director of Finance, at jennifer.anderson@smcgvl.org or 864.679.4102 with questions. Thank you.

## Welcome Newcomers

We welcome the following new members to our parish family: Tim & Elizabeth Speaker, Troy & Dana Rinaldi-Smith, Jack Zamudio, Daniel Reyes & Stephanie Arronte, Tiffany Simionescu, Cameron Robinson, Gary & Lee Greivell, Andrew & Tess Hill, Jose Tejeda & Justina Espinoza, Joanna Dias, Catherine Cavitt, Sarah Johnson, Jonathan Johnson, Aileen BeVard, Liam Flodder, Natalie Giles.



# House Blessing Kits for Feast of the Epiphany

**Epiphany House Blessing Kits** will be available at no charge to all families during the weekend of January 4-5 for the Feast of the Epiphany. Pick up your kit from volunteers outside the church's three entrances after Mass. These kits are a gift to the parishioners of St. Mary's from St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women.

**Epiphany marks the occasion** of the centuries old Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the blessing is simple: With blessed chalk write the following above the entrance of your home or on the front door: 20 + C + M + B + 25 and pray the blessing prayers.

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi — Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar — who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase "Christus mansionem benedicat" which means "May Christ bless the house." The + signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "25" at the end mark the current year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless the home and that He stay with those who live there throughout the entire year.

The chalking of the doors is a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset. The inscription over the door can remind us that all who dwell there belong to Christ and it can be an evangelization tool when others come visit.

# Read the Bible in 2025!

Read and Understand the Bible with The Bible in a Year Podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz



In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes. Using an exclusive reading plan rooted in The Bible Timeline (a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins) you won't just read the Bible, you'll finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

Download your reading plan at https://media.ascensionpress.com/ category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear

## **Lost & Found**

As of 1 January 2025, we will be cleaning out the Lost & Found box in the church office and the unclaimed items will be given to charity. If you (or your children) have forgotten any item in the church, please email Sarah Perkins at sarah.perkins@smcgvl.org with a description of the item(s). We have several books, eyeglasses, and children's clothes in the box, among other items. If you forget something in the church on a weekend, you may ask an usher to look for it in the sacristy, but come Monday morning, please send us an email so we can best locate the item and hold it for you.

# **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.

# Hearing Loop at St Mary's



St Mary's now has Hearing Loop for hearing aid users to directly receive the sound from the church's PA system in their own hearing aids without having to pick up a separate listening device. If you wear hearing instruments

you will need to find out if your hearing aids have this wireless receiver called a T-coil or Telecoil built in, in order to benefit from the hearing loop in our church. The T-coil program is accessed by pushing a button on a hearing aid and has to be activated by your audiologist. Talk to your audiologist to find out if your instruments can have both a T (no background noise pick up) and an MT program (blended micro-phone & T-coil program) for improved hearing at church. For questions about your hearing aids and telecoils talk to your audiologist or email Scott Peyton at wsploop@gmail.com. For more information visit https://www.usaloops.com or https://www.americanloops.com.



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!

# **St Anne's Stitchery Ministry**

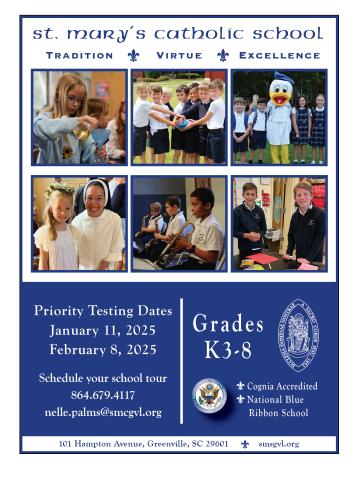


St Anne's Stitchery Ministry of St Mary's Council of Catholic Women are knitters and crocheters who make gifts of love for charitable organizations. Our experienced members of these skills also share with those who would like to learn. After email confirmation we

meet together the first Monday of each month from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm in Sacred Heart Hall. We also have stitchers who work at home and contribute to our projects. Please contact Maggie Simons at maggie.simons54@gmail.com or 612.695.0903 for more information.



For programming information, visit https://catholicradioinsc.com





# St Mary's Religious Education



## **Confirmation Student Information Meeting**

All 7th students that are in RE, homeschool, or St. Joes's; there is a Confirmation Student Information meeting this week in the 8th grade Classroom of Pazdan Hall at 6.30 pm. *This is for students only*. If you are not registered with the RE office please contact the RE Office right away to register. SMS students preparing for Confirmation will have their meeting during school.

## **Religious Education Grades 1-8**

Classes meet on Wednesday from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. **Monthly Parent meeting this week 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 10 March 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.





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



Toni McFadden Keynote 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

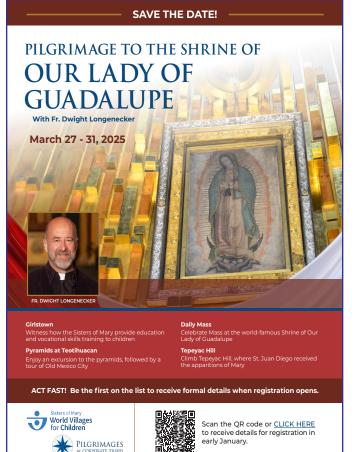
To share a Holy hour with the Lord, contact Lisa Buss at adoration@princeofpeacetaylors.org or 864.508.7123. All hours are available for adoption, but <u>please consider</u> one of the following hours of need (\*urgent open hour!):

Sunday 9 pm
Monday 12 pm\*
Tuesday 6 pm
Wednesday 12 pm, 6 pm & 11 pm\*
Thursday 1 am\* & 8 pm
Friday 12 pm











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



- ♦ Baptismal & First Communion Gifts ♦
  - ◆ Rosaries, Crucifixes, Sacramentals ◆
  - ♦ Books & Exquisite Catholic Art ♦



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.

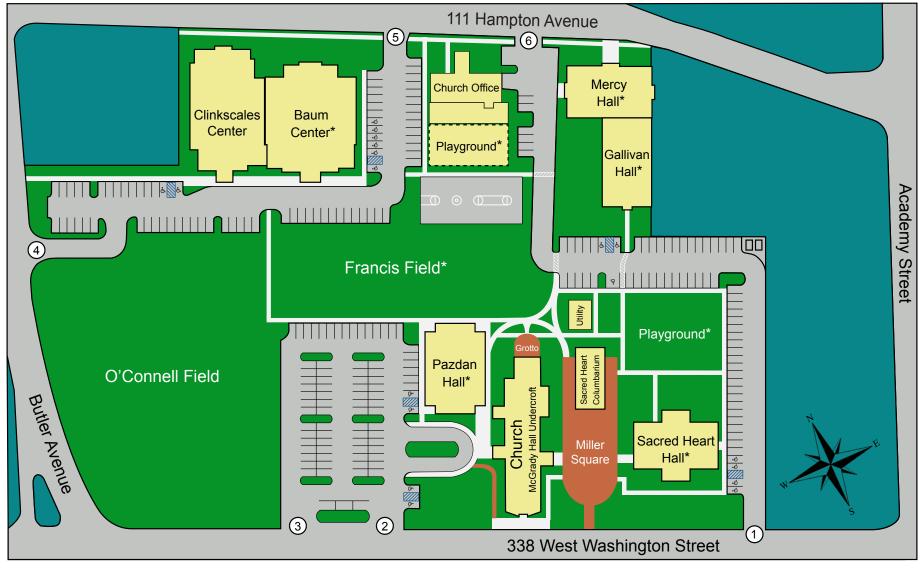
### **Volunteers Needed**

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

#### **Staff**

Jennifer Anderson Director of Administration jennifer.anderson@smcgvl.org

Emily Cortes Assistant Director of Sacred Music emily.cortes@smcgvl.org

> Jenni Dillard eBulletin Editor jenni.dillard@smcgvl.org

Megan Holliday Parish Athletic Director megan.holliday@smcgvl.org

Linda Jackson Director of Catechesis linda.jackson@smcgvl.org Chris Ortiz Director of Youth Ministry chris.ortiz@smcgvl.org

Dr Adam Pajan Director of Sacred Music adam.pajan@smcgvl.org

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

Sarah Perkins
Office Manager & Assistant to the Pastor sarah.perkins@smcgvl.org

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