



St Mary's Catholic Church



Greenville, South Carolina

20 July 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Given the great cultural changes through which we are now living, some Catholics may be tempted to withdraw from the world the better to resist the challenges to Christian life that confront us all. But such a withdrawal is not the Catholic way. Consider, for comparison, the Amish, who are famous for their separation from their neighbors: they will not use modern technology, their clothing has not changed in 300 years, they cease formal schooling after the 8th grade, they refuse to serve in the armed forces, they will not participate in Social Security or purchase medical insurance, and so forth. But such a way of life is not required by the Gospel, and in some ways it is contrary to the Gospel, which is why Catholics cannot live like the Amish.

Christians do not wear distinctive clothing. We do not fear technology or the benefits of modern science and medicine. We do not separate ourselves in politics, commerce, education, military service, or civic responsibility from those who do not share our faith. And we do not do these things because to do so would make it impossible for us to fulfill the Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28.18-20) We are called to be salt and light in the world, not to hide behind a barricade for fear that we will be polluted by the world.

The impulse to flee from "the world" is, of course, also a part of Christianity, if by "the world" we mean that part of the created order (starting inside of us) which is in rebellion against God. For this reason, religious life has been with us since Christian antiquity, and all Christians need a deep formation in virtue for genuine holiness of life. But that is not the same as the Amish refusal to live in the world, something that Catholics cannot accept as compatible with Christian discipleship.

The Letter to Diognetus, written in the 2nd century when the violent persecution of Christians was still common, explains it thus: "Christians are indistinguishable from other men either by nationality, language or customs. They do not inhabit separate cities of their own, or speak a strange dialect, or follow some outlandish way of life ... With regard to dress, food and manner of life in general, they follow the customs of whatever city they happen to be living in, whether it is Greek or foreign. And yet there is something extraordinary about their lives. They live in their own countries as though they were only passing through. They play their full role as citizens, but labor under all the disabilities of aliens. Any country can be their homeland, but for them their homeland, wherever it may be, is a foreign country. Like others, they marry and have children, but they do not expose them. They share their meals, but not their wives. They live in the flesh, but they are not governed by the desires of the flesh. They pass their days upon earth, but they are citizens of heaven ... To speak in general terms, we may say that the Christian is to the world what the soul is to the body." So, are we living as the soul of the world?

Father Newman



ROMAN CATHOLIC
**DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON**
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 7, 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of July 19-20, our diocese will take up a second collection to assist with the care of retired and infirm priests in South Carolina. Our pastors have given their lives in service to our local parish communities. Now, they rely on our assistance and care to have their medical and financial needs met so that they can enjoy a dignified retirement.

Many of our priests require medical treatment, housing costs and everyday expenses that may be difficult to cover on their own. Every donation to this important fund will be used directly to serve these faithful servants of God. Your generosity will make a tremendous impact on the lives of our priests who have dedicated themselves to serving the Church in our state.

As they have acted *in persona Christi* throughout their ministry, “Let us show Christ honor, not with olive branches but with the splendor of merciful deeds to one another” (St. Andrew of Crete). I ask that you please continue to keep our priests in your prayers, which provide great comfort and strength to our infirm priests.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness to our clergy. May God bless you abundantly for your compassion to those who have given so much for us.

In Christ’s love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston

Calendar of Events

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday 20 July

7.30 am	Margaret Burnos
9.00 am	MJ Krauter
11.00 am	Pro populo
1.00 pm	Spanish Mass

Monday 21 July

7.00 am	✧ Juan Carlos Gomez
---------	---------------------

Tuesday 22 July

7.00 am	✧ Eddie Collins
---------	-----------------

Wednesday 23 July

7.00 am	✧ Kathryn Morris Wakeland
---------	---------------------------

Thursday 24 July

7.00 am	✧ Veronica Dowdall
---------	--------------------

Friday 25 July

7.00 am	Antoinette Costigliola
---------	------------------------

Saturday 26 July

5.00 pm	✧ Christine Sufczynski
---------	------------------------

Meetings & Events *

Sunday 20 July

Parish Breakfast: After 7.30 & 9 am Masses (P)

Monday 21 July

Tuesday 22 July

10.00 am	SMCCW Sewing Group
----------	--------------------

Wednesday 23 July

No Holy Hour & Confessions (resumes 6 August)

Thursday 24 July

Friday 25 July

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 26 July

3.30-4.30 pm	Confessions (church)
--------------	----------------------

Financial Report

Weekend of 12/13 July

Needed	41,300
Received	42,743
Surplus	+ 1,443

Poor Box	769
----------	-----

Offertory Year to Date

Needed	82,600
Received	85,704
Surplus	+ 3,104

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@smcgv1.org.

2025 Capital Improvement Fund

Goal	1,000,000
------	-----------

Donations Received	695,158
--------------------	---------

Still to Go	304,842
-------------	---------

Mass Attendance

Weekend of 12/13 July

5.00 pm	307
7.30 am	329
9.00 am	421
11.00 am	368
1.00 pm	377

Total	1,802
-------	-------

G - Gallivan Hall
P - Pazdan Hall

M - McGrady Hall
C - Clinkscals
Family Center

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

Summer Liturgical Schedule Changes

No Holy Hour and Confessions on any Wednesday in July (resumes 6 August).

Requiescat in pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maria Neisser Clarke (mother of Arlen Clarke), 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, James Smith, 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, Steve Hughes, Albert Normandin, Angelo Bautista Campos, Karen Krings, Micael Venerdi, Joan Greenaway, Dean Zimmermann, Mel Fitzpatrick, Chris Howard, Bruce Cole, Jim Armstrong.

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 20 July**. 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 19/20 July

Retired & Infirm Priests
Support of the Parish

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



Congratulations to

Caroline Blake & Alex Foley who were married last weekend.

Sophie Speaker who was baptized last weekend.

Pillars of Christ Men's Ministry

Pillars of Christ small group men's ministry meets in person every Friday throughout the year at 5.30 am (early group) and at 7.30 am (late group). 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. Please contact Robert Sullivan (early group) at rsulli42@gmail.com or 864.561.9600 or Mike Munafo (late group) at mmunafo1950@gmail.com or 864.313.5356 if interested in joining us.

Fidelis at St Mary's

*Forms girls - heart, mind, body, soul - into
virtuous disciples of Christ through
the witness of Catholic women.*

*Virtue * Mentorship * Sisterhood*

Fall & Spring Weekly Meetings

Prayer, Dinner, Games

Guest Speakers

Small Group Discussions

Weekly Challenges

Virtue-focused Service

Community

Lifelong Friendships

Nationwide Networking



Sisters to Saints



Discover the importance of femininity at home,
at church, and in the community. Come share
in the beauty, the truth, the goodness, and joy
of being a woman striving for a virtuous life.

Please email fidelisstmarys@gmail.com
with questions or for more information.

*Paratum cor meum Deus.
Paratum cor meum.*

School Office Summer Hours

9 June through 1 August

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 2 pm

Construction on the covered walkway outside Gallivan Hall will take place this summer! For safety reasons, before visiting the School Office, please call 864.271.3870 ahead of time to ensure that it is open.

Wit & Wisdom Bible Study

The Wit & Wisdom Bible Study group meets each Wednesday morning to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday liturgy. Contact Bob Markway at Rmarkway@bellsouth.net for details. **There will be no meeting on Wednesday 23 July.**

Nursery Closures

Summer break is 6 July through 3 August. Nursery reopens on 10 August.

St Mary's Council of Catholic Women

Sewing Ministry

The group will meet Tuesday 22 & 29 July from 10.00 am - 12.00 pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Please contact Judith Hogg at judyh75@att.net or 864.438.1017 for more information.

Word on Fire Digital



Word on Fire Digital is a subscription website paid for by St Mary's for all registered members.

It is filled with an amazing array of Bishop Barron's video series which you cannot find anywhere else on the internet. To gain free access follow these instructions:

1. Visit <https://smcgvl.flocknote.com/login>
2. Enter the email address you have registered with St Mary's
3. Flocknote will send a 4 digit pin to your email. Enter that pin to log in.
4. This will take you to the St Mary's Flocknote page. You'll see on the right a block showing that the church is paying for Word on Fire. Click on the link to **Word on Fire Digital** and that will take you to the site.

You can add the Word on Fire App to your phone, computer, most smart televisions, etc. One of the best known video series you'll see here is the Word on Fire series **Catholicism** which aired on PBS several years ago.

St Mary's

Blessed Pier Giorgio

Hiking & Adventure Group

"The higher we go, the better we shall hear the voice of Christ."

~ Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Verso l'alto



Our hiking group enjoyed a wonderful day together hiking and crossing rivers in the DuPont State Forest of WNC - followed by an enjoyable time with refreshments and bluegrass music at the Cedar Mountain Canteen. We do a variety of hikes, from Easy to Extremely Difficult, and plan to zip line the gorge in the next several months.

If you are interested in joining us, please sign up on the St Mary's Flocknote page under "Groups" or send an email to Deacon John Heuser at john.heuser@smcgvl.org



Social Ministries at St Mary's

Homeworks of America

Last October our St Mary's volunteer ministry teamed up with Homeworks of America to perform some much needed repairs for a low income homeowner in our Greenville community. The work took an unexpected twist when the back wall to the home literally fell off during other repairs. Replacement studs, OSB sheathing and house wrap were quickly installed to stabilize and protect the house and remained that way through the winter. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon last month, we once again returned to complete the work we started. The homeowner was overwhelmed at the generosity and we were blessed by the joy of giving to one in need.

St Mary's volunteer ministry organizes various types of one day service projects throughout the year to serve those in need. Projects include a variety of services in areas of need. We are looking for men, women, and youth 14+ to volunteer as they are available. If you are interested in receiving notifications for future volunteer opportunities, please contact Deacon John Heuser at john.heuser@smcgvl.org to be added to our distribution list.





St Mary's Religious Education



**For More Information
Contact Linda Jackson**
linda.jackson@smcgv.org or
864.679.4110

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Mary's Sunday Morning Preschool program for children 3 & 4 years is looking for volunteers to help once a month from September through April during the 9:00 am Mass. We need teachers and teen helpers. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions contact Linda Jackson at linda.jackson@smcgv.org or 864.679.4110.

St. Mary's Religious Education is looking for additional volunteers to help with the Wednesday Night program for Grades 1-8. All positions are needed. Teachers, assistants, subs, and ancillary help on these evenings. Adults and teens can apply. Classes run Wednesday evenings 6.30 – 7.30 pm; September through April. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions contact Linda Jackson at linda.jackson@smcgv.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.

Classes for Easter 2026 will begin at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 20 August 2025 in McGrady Hall (church undercroft). Visit <https://smcgv.org/christian-formation/intro-to-catholicism/> to register. Contact Deacon John at john.heuser@smcgv.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@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 15 September at 6.30 pm.** Contact Patrick Ford at patrick.ford@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.whelen@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.

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/individuals> using zip code 29601 and click on our parish. Register with your name and email address to access the library.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

13th Marian Eucharistic Conference

Featured Speakers

Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, EWTN
Very Reverend Chris Alar, MIC
Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, STB, STL
Russ Breault, President of the
Shroud of Turin Education Project Inc.
Daniel Cellucci, CEO,
Catholic Leadership Institute
John Martignoni,
President, Bible Christian Society



Registration

General Admission: \$135, Youth: 90
Registration required by Oct. 11 by mail.
Registration after Oct. 11: \$145
Friday dinner and Saturday lunch are
included. Friday dinner choice:
chicken or Cod. Parking is free.
For more information, call
(864)354-7160 or visit
<http://www.meconferencesc.net>

Greenville Convention Center | 1 Exposition Dr. | Greenville, SC 29607

Diocesan News

PERPETUAL EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Prince of Peace

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." ~Colossians 3:2

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!):

Thursday 1 am*

Saturday 11 am,* 12 pm* & 10 pm



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

Men's Clothing Needed

Catholic Charities of SC Upstate is **in desperate need of all men's clothing items!** Donations can be dropped off at 2300 Old Buncombe Rd (in the white building behind San Sebastian Catholic Church) during the hours Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 1 pm or coordinate a day/time with Silvia at sloaiza@charlestandiocese.org or 864.331.2629. Thank you for your generosity!

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@charlestandiocese.org or 864.331.2629 for more information.

INFERTILITY, IVF, AND YOU: UNDERSTANDING THE ETHICAL DIMENSIONS



JULY
29
11AM
(EST)



Sr. Renée Mirkes, OSF, PhD

Director of the Center for NaProEthics, the ethics division of the Saint Paul VI Institute in Omaha, Nebraska

She is a leading voice in Catholic bioethics, known for her scholarship, advocacy for NFP and NaProTechnology, and her commitment to defending the Catholic vision of human life and sexuality.

REGISTER IN ADVANCE:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ETHICSIVF](https://tinyurl.com/ETHICSIVF)

For more info, contact familylife@charlestandiocese.org





Bon Secours St. Francis
7th Annual Human Trafficking Seminar

Defending Dignity

*Responding to Human
Trafficking and Trauma*



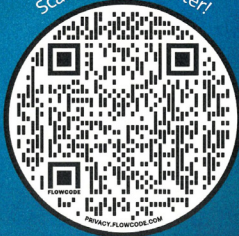
Date:
August 22,
8am-12:30pm

Location:
Grace Church
2801 Pelham Road
Greenville, SC

Our keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Bowman, PhD, LICSW, LCSW-C and expert on the intersection of human trafficking, trauma informed care and vulnerable populations.

State Attorney General Alan Wilson will also discuss the current state of human trafficking in SC and our nation. Finally, we'll host a panel discussion of nonprofit leaders engaged in supporting survivors of human trafficking.

Scan here to register!



Family Honor Job Opening



Family Honor is moving our office to the Greenville area and we are looking for a part time (10 hours per week) Administrative/Bookkeeping Assistant. Applicant must be detail-oriented and should have at least three years work experience, specifically working with QuickBooks, DonorPerfect, and Excel. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who needs a flexible schedule and would enjoy working for a faith-based organization. To apply, email your resume to famhonor@aol.com or contact 803.929.0858. Visit <https://familyhonor.org/job-description-administrative-assistant/> for more details. Family Honor provides a Catholic framework on the truth and meaning of sexuality, love, and family.



Catholic Radio in South Carolina
WCKI 1300 AM

For programming
information, visit
<https://catholicradioinnc.com>

Join us for our first
Charleston Pink & Blue Gala
Daniel Island Club • Sept. 27, 2025 • 6:00 pm
Discounted Early Bird Tickets on sale starting July 27!

St. Clare's Home is a maternity home for expectant mothers who choose life and are in need of shelter, safety and security. We are proud to announce the opening of our second location in the Charleston area. Please support the home by joining us for our Pink and Blue Gala.

We can't host a successful event without your help! Please consider becoming a sponsor or donating auction items today.

Scan QR code or visit PBGC2025.givesmart.com for tickets & more info.
Early Bird: \$150 Regular Ticket: \$175

Find out more here!

St. Clare's Home
RESTORING HOPE - SAVING LIVES

Contact Colleen Chmiel for Questions
Stclaresvolunteer@charlestondiocese.org
843-259-1108

A one-night special screening of
"The Slave in Your Backyard" as
part of the 2025 World Day
Against Trafficking in Persons.
Scan the QR code to secure your ticket!

bit.ly/tsyb2025

TERRACE THEATER
CHARLESTON, SC
NICKELODEON THEATER
COLUMBIA, SC
CAMELOT CINEMAS
GREENVILLE, SC
JULY 30, 2025

Natural Family Planning Classes

In Person Sessions

11 August at 6.00 pm at Jesus Our Risen Savior
(Spartanburg) - monicalara.fertilitycare@gmail.com

14 August at 7.00 pm at St Francis
Eastside - napronurse@aol.com

Virtual Sessions

21 July at 6.00 pm - monicalara.fertilitycare@gmail.com

7 August at 7.00 pm - lexiesawonik@gmail.com

7 August at 8.00 pm - emmamma.com/foundations

18 August at 6.00 pm - monicalara.fertilitycare@gmail.com

21 August at 6.30 pm - janellenapro@gmail.com

IN SEARCH OF A FAMILY
Heart Ridge Summer Family Camp

Join other families this summer at Heart Ridge Family Camp in the SC mountains for fun, adventures and family bonding as we search for the Sasquatch family and discover the virtues that God calls us to live.
<https://www.heartridgeministries.com/summer-family-camp.html#/>



*Pursue a lasting love ...
Create hope for the future!*

*Natural Family Planning...supporting God's
gifts of love and life in marriage*

What Does it Mean to Pursue a Lasting Love?

As men and women caught in the responsibilities of daily life, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that we are destined for eternity. The thought that God's love *endures forever* is something difficult for our time-bound selves to comprehend. It's a lofty claim that can be easy to leave on the shelf as an "ideal"—rather than a truth we intentionally integrate into our marriage, here and now.

Because of the consequences of original sin, we do not come into this world knowing how to love as God loves. Instead, we receive and experience God's love for us throughout our lives, even as we learn to model that love in how we treat others. As Pope Francis says:

When a person discovers God, the true treasure, he abandons a selfish lifestyle and seeks to share with others the charity which comes from God. He who becomes a friend of God, loves his brothers and sisters, commits himself to safeguarding their life and their health....
(Pope Francis, Homily, 2014)*

Learning from the Trinity

A key way we can learn more about God's love is by examining the Trinitarian relationship between God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is three distinct persons united in one Godhead. The inner life of the Trinity is interpersonal, self-giving, and communicative.

As Christians, we are challenged to have faith that is "the confidence of what we hope for and the assurance of what we do not see" (Heb. 11:1). The first step in pursuing a lasting love, with the Trinity as our example,

is the belief that a lasting love is possible—that we truly can and do daily participate in a divine reality that is beyond what can be seen on the surface.

Love is Free, Total, faithful, and Fruitful!

Church teaching maintains that married love must be free, total, faithful, and fruitful. This is exactly how the Trinity loves!

In the Trinity, love is freely given between the three persons. The persons of the Trinity willingly place themselves at the service of their communion. There is no coercion or ulterior motive.

The total gift of each person to the other allows for the one-ness of the Trinitarian relationship.

Secondly, the persons of the Trinity give themselves totally to one another. Though each person of the Trinity retains their unique personhood, they hold nothing back from the participation in Trinitarian love. The total gift of each person to the other allows for the one-ness of the Trinitarian relationship.

Third, Trinitarian love is faithful. The steadfastness of the Trinity is an indispensable part of a love which endures for all eternity. And finally, love is fruitful. The love of the Trinity is life-giving. All of creation, all of mankind, all goodness, all beauty results and flows from the love of the Trinitarian relationship.

The Human Person as Gift

It is only from the foundational understanding of love that we can come to know what a person is. The human person is made by love and for love. St. John Paul II phrases it beautifully in what is known as his personalistic norm. He states that human beings are subjects and not objects. Objects are meant to be used. Subjects are meant to be received as a gift. When we see our spouse and our children as gifts, the way that we relate to them shows just how much we value them.

Our families are especially called to be an icon of Trinity—where our hearts are stretched by loving one another and we are prepared to participate in eternal love. Then, spouses are called in a unique and intimate way to enter into a lasting love through the reception of one another as a gift in the sexual embrace. Spouses are called to open their hearts to God in marital intimacy such that each marital act be oriented towards the openness to life and the good of one another.

Natural Family Planning, an Expression of Love

With this end in mind, it is also important to note that there are times when, for serious reasons, it may not be prudent for a couple to have a child. In keeping with the vision of a lasting love that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful, the Church proposes Natural Family Planning (NFP) as a practical and morally permissible method for married couples to avoid or achieve pregnancy.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, practicing NFP allows spouses to be responsible parents and at the same time "respect God's design for life and love." NFP is based on the natural times of fertility and infertility experienced throughout the course of a woman's menstrual cycle. In seasons where it may be imprudent for a couple to have a child due to psychological, financial, physical, or other serious reasons, the couple abstains from intercourse during the woman's fertile time. At the same time, NFP can also be used to achieve pregnancy.

NFP is not contraception because it does nothing to alter or block the body's natural rhythms of fertility. Instead, NFP relies on scientifically proven methods of tracking a woman's menstrual cycle so that a couple can make an informed decision guided by faith and reason.

NFP depends on the couples' free choice to abstain or engage in intercourse based on the good of the spouses and the good of the family as a whole.

When spouses engage their free will to communicate in this way, they are choosing to see each other and future children as gifts and saying yes to a love that is free, total, faithful, and fruitful—answering the call to be an image of lasting Trinitarian love.

Learn More

Visit the US Bishops' NFP Program at www.usccb.org/nfp.

To learn more about Catholic teaching on marriage, married love and responsible parenthood, see www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/church-teaching.

Read the US bishop's document *Married Love and the Gift of Life* at www.usccb.org/resources/Married%20Love%20Final%20Text%20Nov06%20for%20Website%20-%20Copy.pdf

To learn more about NFP see www.usccb.org/topics/naturalfamily-planning/what-natural-family-planning.

Want to learn a method of NFP? Visit www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning/nfp-national-providers.

*Quote from Pope Francis' homily during Mass on the occasion of the Feast day of St Ann, Patron Saint of Caserta (26 July 2014).

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2014/documents/papa-francesco_20140726_omelia-caserta.html.

Questions?

Write to nfp@usccb.org

©2025, Soren Johnsen. This article is used here with the permission of the author. Permission is given to reproduce this article in full with no edits. Soren Johnsen, MA, along with his wife Ever, is the co-founder of Trinity House Community and Trinity House Café and Market in Leesburg, VA.

#NFPWeek2025

JUBILEE 2025

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

charlestdiocese.org/jubilee2025

Jubilee Prayer

Father in Heaven, May the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. **+Amen.**



Plenary Indulgences

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. The indulgence applies to sins already forgiven. A plenary indulgence cleanses the soul as if the person had just been baptized.

Plenary indulgences obtained during the Jubilee Year can also be applied to souls in purgatory, with the possibility of obtaining two plenary indulgences for the deceased in one day, according to the Apostolic Penitentiary. To obtain an indulgence, the usual conditions of detachment from all sin, sacramental confession, holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope must be met.

Catholics can also gain a plenary indulgence by making a pious pilgrimage to their cathedral or to another church or shrine selected by the local bishop. Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, has designated the following South Carolina parishes:

Aiken

OLD ST. MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH
203 Park Ave., SE, Aiken, SC 29801
stmarys-aiken.org

Charleston

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
120 Broad St., Charleston, SC 29401
charlestoncathedral.com

Columbia

BASILICA OF ST. PETER
1529 Assembly St., Columbia, SC 29201
visitstpeters.org

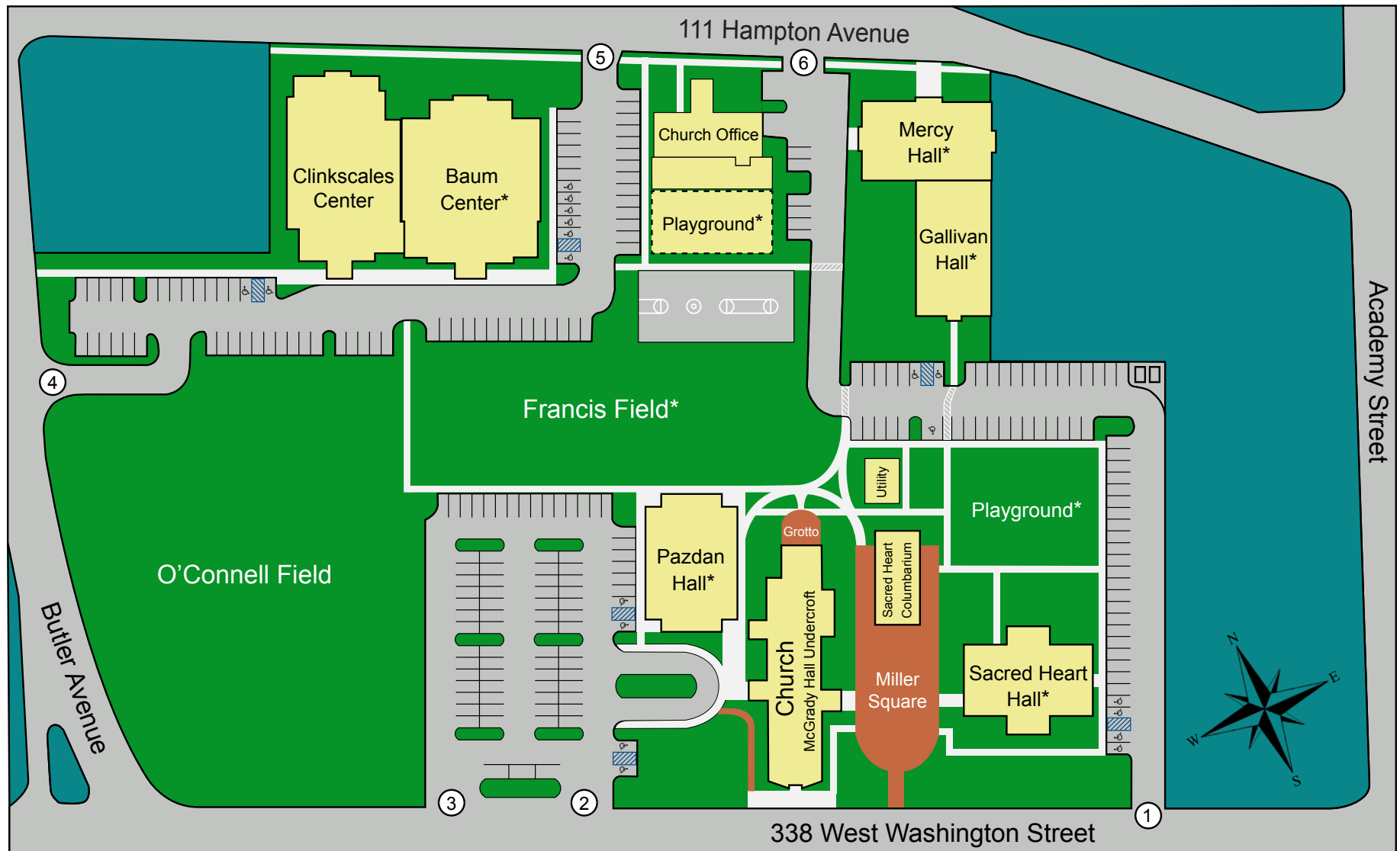
Greenville

ST. MARY CHURCH
111 Hampton Ave., Greenville, SC 29601
smcgvl.org

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 Jonathan Duncan
Parochial Vicar of St Mary's Church
Bon Secours Director of Mission
fatherduncan@smcgvl.org

Father Justin Damask
Parochial Vicar of St Mary's Church
fatherdamask@smcgvl.org

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

Permanent Deacons

Deacon Diego Ferro
diego.ferro@smcgvl.org

Deacon Joe Sanfilippo
joe.sanfilippo@smcgvl.org

Deacon Alex Garvey
alex.garvey@smcgvl.org

Deacon George Tierney
george.tierney@smcgvl.org

Deacon John Heuser
john.heuser@smcgvl.org

Deacon Tom Whalen
thomas.whelen@smcgvl.org

Staff

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

Linda Jackson
Director of Catechesis
linda.jackson@smcgvl.org

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

Chris Ortiz
Director of Youth Ministry
chris.ortiz@smcgvl.org

Jenni Dillard
eBulletin Editor
jenni.dillard@smcgvl.org

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

Patrick Ford
Pastoral Associate & Director of Operations
patrick.ford@smcgvl.org

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

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

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