



# St Mary's Catholic Church



Greenville, South Carolina

7 December 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

1. This Monday, 8 December, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation, and there will be three Masses: 7 am, 12 noon, and 7 pm.

2. A holy day of obligation is a day on which Catholics are obliged to attend Mass, and unless one is impeded by unavoidable work or serious illness, not to attend Mass on that day is a grave sin. Every Sunday of the year is a holy day of obligation by divine precept, and several other days of the year are holy days of obligation by ecclesiastical precept, meaning that the Church is exercising the binding part of the power of binding and loosing given to the Apostles by the Lord Jesus. In the United States, these days of obligation are: 1 January, the Solemnity of the Mother of God; 15 August, the Solemnity of the Assumption; 1 November, the Solemnity of All Saints; 8 December, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and 25 December, the Solemnity of the Birth of the Lord Jesus. By decision of the Bishops of the United States, the obligation to attend Mass on three of these five holy days is remitted if in a given year the feast falls on a Monday or Saturday, and the three are 1 January, 15 August, and 1 November. The Solemnity of the Ascension is also a holy day of obligation, but in the United States that observance is now transferred from 40 days after Easter to the following Sunday, so it is not necessary to count it separately.

3. All of the above means that in a year when none of the holy days falls on a Sunday, Catholics are expected to attend Mass a minimum of 59 times. Even if you allow an hour of travel time for each Mass, that comes to about 120 hours each year for us to be at Mass or traveling to and from Mass. Most studies show that Americans spend an average of 1500 to 1800 hours each year watching television or another flickering screen, and the Church asks us for 120 hours each year to worship the living God in spirit and truth. When we so easily give ourselves to 15 hours of entertainment for each hour spent in the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist, how is it possible that so many Catholics simply don't bother to accept the invitation of the Lord Jesus to "Do this in memory of me"?

4. Resolve now to come to Mass this Monday to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of our parish patroness, to make every effort in the coming year to attend Mass each Sunday and holy day, and to help a faltering Catholic return to regular practice of the faith in the same way. And when someone misses Mass on a Sunday or holy day (unless unavoidable work or serious illness is the reason), then please remember that it is necessary to go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion at the next Mass attended. In all of these ways, we give ourselves ever more completely to the love of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Newman



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

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

## **Sunday 7 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 8 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 9 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 10 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 11 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 12 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 13 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 7, 14 & 21 December and 4 January at 5 pm.*

# Calendar of Events

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

### Sunday 7 December

7.30 am	✧ Adelita Sipin
9.00 am	Respect Life
11.00 am	Pro Populo
1.00 pm	Spanish Mass

### Monday 8 December

#### Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation

7.00 am	✧ Annie Walker
12.00 pm	Mary Anne Scarponi
7.00 pm	Pro Populo

### Tuesday 9 December

7.00 am	✧ Mary Griesbach
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### Wednesday 10 December

7.00 am	✧ Philip Long
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### Thursday 11 December

7.00 am	Patrick McLeod
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### Friday 12 December

7.00 am	Gabriel Boyd
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### Saturday 13 December

5.00 pm	Carol Louis
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## Meetings & Events \*

### Sunday 7 December

Nursery:	During 9.00 am Mass
KofC/OLP Food Drive:	After All Masses
SMCCW Bake Sale:	After All Masses (P)
9.00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study
11.00 am	Spanish Religious Education (G)
5.00 pm	Solemn Vespers (church)
6.00 pm	High School Youth Group (P)
6.00 pm	Women of Grace Bible Study

### Monday 8 December

6.30 pm	Fraternus (P)
6.30 pm	Fidelis

### Tuesday 9 December

6.30 pm	KofC Christmas Party (P)
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### Wednesday 10 December

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

### Thursday 11 December

7.00 pm	Spanish Our Lady of Guadalupe
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### Friday 12 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

### Saturday 13 December

3.30-4.30 pm	Confessions (church)
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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

## Financial Report

### Weekend of 29/30 November

Needed	41,300
Received	45,495
Surplus	+ 4,195

Poor Box	510
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### Offertory Year to Date

Needed	908,600
Received	943,228
Surplus	+ 34,628

**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](mailto:jennifer.anderson@smcgv1.org).

## 2025 Capital Improvement Fund

Goal	1,000,000
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Donations Received	992,509
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Still to Go	7,491
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## Mass Attendance

### Weekend of 29/30 November

5.00 pm	338
7.30 am	342
9.00 am	402
11.00 am	389
1.00 pm	348

Total	1,819
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## Liturgical Schedule Changes

No Holy Hour and Confessions on  
Wednesdays 24 & 31 December, 21 January.

No 7.00 am Mass on Friday 26 December  
and the church will be closed all day.

## Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8 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 December 8 at 7.00 am, 12.00 noon & 7.00 pm.

## 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, Michael Venerdi, Joan Greenaway, Dean Zimmermann, Mel Fitzpatrick, Chris Howard, Jim Armstrong, Anna Roman, Edward Stone, Valentina Hernandez, Barbara Redding, Molly Fitzpatrick, Helena Howard, Paul Norman, Daniel McGee, Jennifer Swyer.

## Stock Donations to St Mary's Church

With the end of the year approaching, consider a gift of appreciated stock for your year-end giving. This method can offer significant tax benefits while providing crucial support to our parish. For more information on how to give stock and updated transfer instructions, please contact Jennifer Anderson at [jennifer.anderson@smcgv.org](mailto:jennifer.anderson@smcgv.org).

## Daily Mass Readings

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

## PARISH NEWS

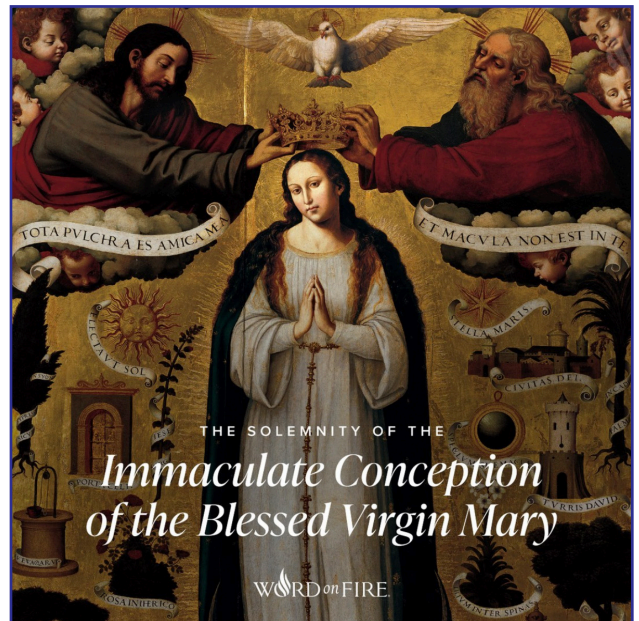
### Collection for 6/7 December

Support of the Parish

### Collection for 8 December - Immaculate Conception

Support of the Parish

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



## 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 14 December** for the names to appear in the Christmas Flower list. Thank you for your cooperation and 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 6-7 December

### Suggested Donations based on current needs

CEREAL

PASTA

GRITS

CANNED FRUITS

CANNED VEGETABLES

CANNED BEANS

CANNED PROTEINS (chicken, tuna, etc)

MAYONNAISE

KETCHUP

CONDIMENTS

BAR SOAP

TOOTHPASTE

SHAMPOO

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

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

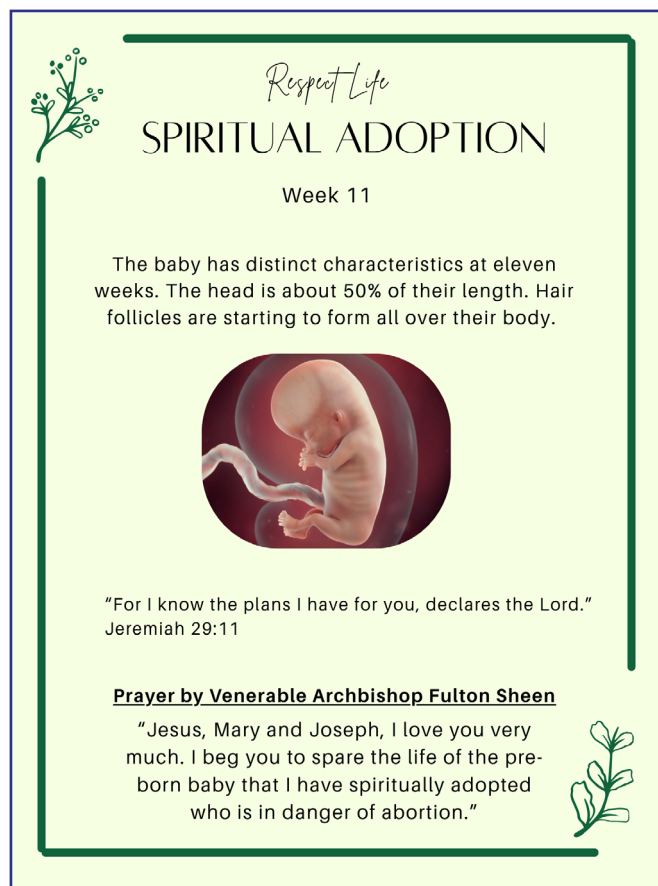
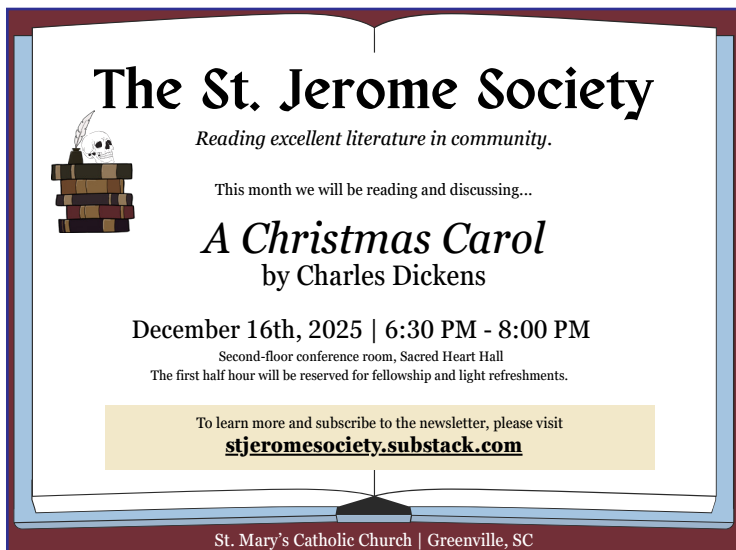
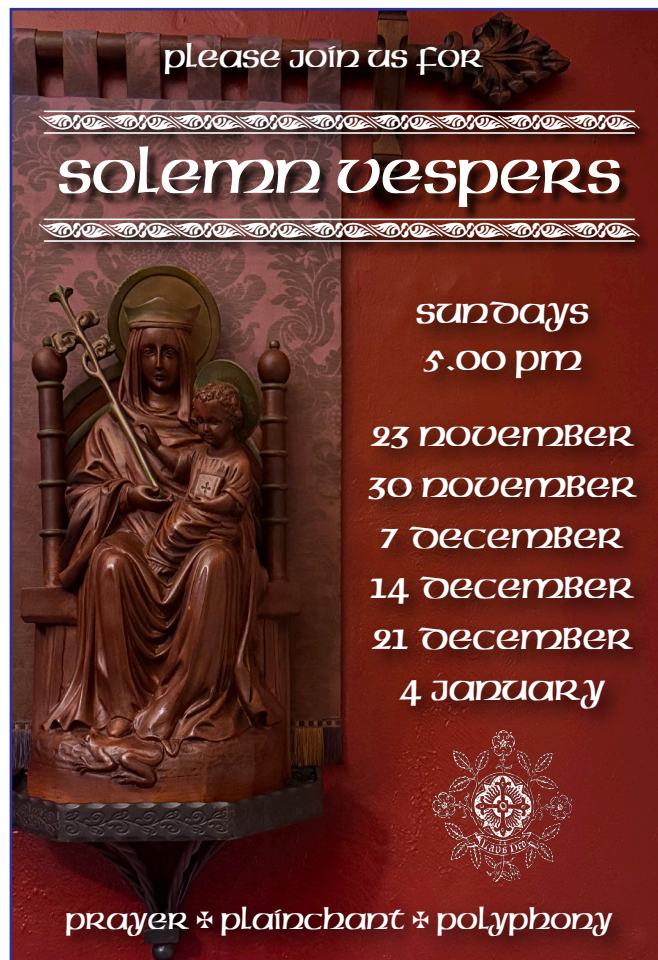


Monetary donation checks can be made out to **Catholic Charities**. Please note **OLP Greenville** on the memo line.



This year's event will feature a silent and live auction, gourmet food by Table 301, open bar, live music by Randomonium, and more! We invite you to review this year's Gala sponsorship opportunities and prayerfully consider providing an anchor of support. Visit <https://smgvl.org/wp-content/uploads/St-Marys-2026-Gala-Sponsorship-Opportunities.pdf> to learn more.

Sponsorships may be paid via check payable to "St Mary's Catholic School" or online at <https://smgala2026.givesmart.com/> (please consider covering the credit card fee). Please contact Gala Chair Sarah Ratcliff at [sarah.ratcliff@smcgvl.org](mailto:sarah.ratcliff@smcgvl.org) with questions. Thank you for supporting our school!





# *Oratorio de Noël*

*by Camille Saint-Saëns*

Christmas Oratorio  
Sunday 11 January at 5.00 pm  
The Baptism of the Lord



*Sung by the Choir and Soloists of  
St Mary's Church with strings, organ, and harp*

338 West Washington Greenville, SC

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 7 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](mailto: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.

Classes for Easter 2026 meet at 6.15 pm on Wednesdays in McGrady Hall (church undercroft).

Visit <https://smcgvl.org/christian-formation/intro-to-catholicism/> for more information.

Contact Deacon John at [john.heuser@smcgvl.org](mailto:john.heuser@smcgvl.org) for details 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](mailto: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 December at 6.30 pm.** Contact Patrick Ford at [patrick.ford@smcgvl.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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### 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://vocations.charlestdiocese.org>

## 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.

# Diocesan News

## PERPETUAL Eucharistic Adoration

### Prince of Peace

*"By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy." ~St Carlo Acutis*

To share a Holy hour with the Lord, contact Lisa Buss at [adoration@princeofpeacetaylors.org](mailto: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!):

Monday 1 am\*

Wednesday 8 am

Thursday 2 am\*

Friday 12 pm

Saturday 11 am & 2 pm

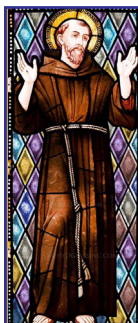
Sunday 4 am

### MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

January 16-18, 2026

Camp Gravatt | 1006 Camp Gravatt Rd. Aiken, SC

For more information, email [vocations@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:vocations@charlestandiocese.org)  
Scan or click the QR Code to fill out an interest form



Do you love St. Francis?  
Do you love his love for the Gospel?  
Do you love his simplicity and care for the poor?  
Do you love his love for God's Creation?



Do you have a call to follow his example as a Secular Franciscan?  
Secular Franciscans are married and single and live in the world as they follow Christ in Franciscan spirituality.

Drop in at Christ on Main for an informal reception with refreshments and a chance to learn about the Secular Franciscans.

Our Lady of Good Counsel fraternity embraces all the Catholic churches in the Upstate.

We'd love to meet you!



CHRIST ON MAIN

Tuesday, December 16, 5 - 7 p.m.

14 South Main Street, Greenville  
Bookstore will remain open until 5:30 p.m.  
Free and open to the public. Donations accepted.



Please contact Jessica Thrall at [jthrall@charlestandiocese.org](mailto: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>.

### Early Bird Tickets on sale for

## 5th Annual Pink & Blue Gala

FEB

7

6PM

Flour Dining Venue

100 Fluor Daniel Dr, Greenville, SC 29607

St. Clare's Home is a maternity home for expectant mothers who choose life and are in need of shelter, safety and security. Please help us support our mission by attending the gala. We will have a delicious meal provided by New Southern Way Catering, great speakers, and a live and silent auction.

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 [PBGC2026.givesmart.com](http://PBGC2026.givesmart.com) for tickets & more info.

Early Bird: \$100  
Regular: \$125



Find out more here!



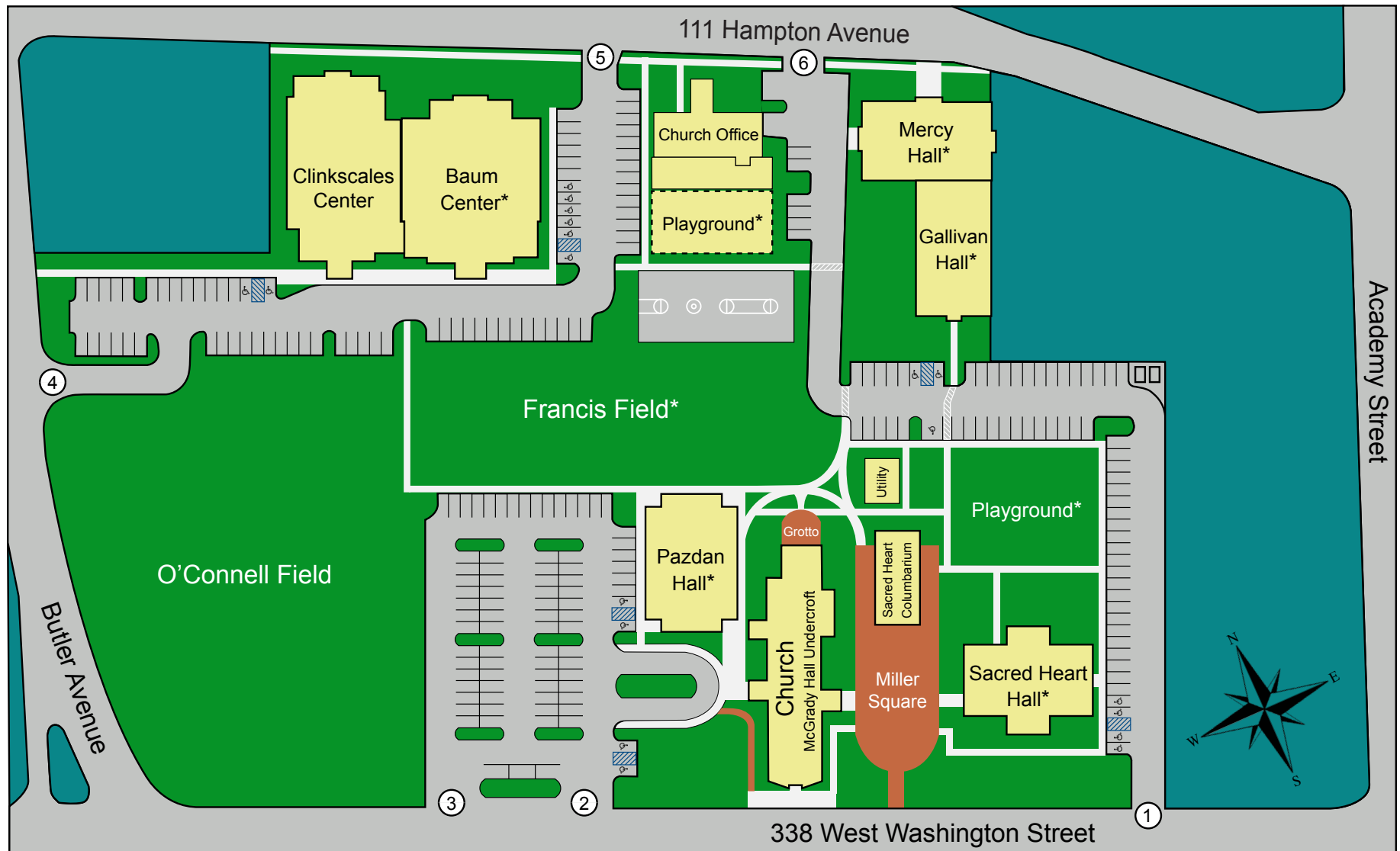
St. Clare's Home  
RESTORING HOPE - SAVING LIVES

Contact Colleen Chmiel for Questions  
[StClaresvolunteer@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:StClaresvolunteer@charlestandiocese.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**

Father Jay Scott Newman  
Pastor of St Mary's Church  
Diocesan Chancellor  
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.whalen@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