

St Mary's Catholic Church

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Greenville, South Carolina

14 December 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 2025 the Jewish observance of Chanukah or Hanukkah begins at sundown on 14 December, and so this is a good time to recall the origin of this festival of lights.

For three centuries before Christ, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucid Empire which was founded in the year 312 BC by General Seleucus I who fought under Alexander the Great. After Alexander's death, several years of confusion followed while the new Macedonian Empire was carved into pieces. Seleucus managed to consolidate many of those pieces into a single new Empire bearing his name, and for two hundred years most of what is now Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Iran belonged to the Seleucid Empire.

In the year 168 BC, King Antiochus IV Epiphanes began a campaign of terror against the Jews living in the Seleucid Empire which was intended to force them to abandon their religion and customs and embrace the Greek religion and customs shared by their neighbors. Many Jewish people surrendered to these demands rather than watch their families be tortured, but one family of note refused to cooperate.

Mattathias the Hasmonean was a priest of the Old Covenant who had five sons, and in 167 BC they began what is called the Maccabean Revolt, about which we read in the Old Testament in First and Second Maccabees. The third of the five brothers was a mighty man named Judah who received the nom de guerre Hammer because of his ferocity in combat, and in Judah's tongue Hammer was rendered as Maccabee or Maccabeus. And what Judah hammered was the Seleucid Empire.

After three years of brutal fighting, Jerusalem was once again under Jewish control, and the most important step in the restoration of true religion to the Holy City was the cleansing of the Temple of pagan defilement. All of the images of the Greek gods were removed and destroyed, and every sign of the foreign occupation was obliterated in the Temple area. Then the Temple was prepared for the solemn rites of re-dedication, and the Hebrew word for dedication is Chanukah.

An essential feature of the eight days of rededication was the lighting of oil lamps in a stand of seven branches. This is called a menorah, the design of which was given to Moses by the LORD, and so the menorah has been a symbol of the Children of Israel since the days of Mount Sinai. Judah Maccabeus found enough undefiled olive oil in the Temple for the lamp to burn only for one day, but by a gift of grace, the lights remained burning for all eight days. And from that time to this, observant Jews keep the Feast of the Dedication of the Temple beginning on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, which this year corresponds to 15 December. And so from twilight on 14 December begins once again the annual eight day observance of Chanukah.

Father Newman



MASS COLLECTS FOR THE Third WEEK OF ADVENT

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

Sunday 14 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 15 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 16 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 17 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 18 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 19 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 20 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 ★ Wednesday 24 December 2025

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 ★ THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER 2025

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

No Holy Hour or Confessions on 24 December and 31 December

No Mass on Friday 26 December 2025

❖ SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD ❖ WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER 2025

5.00 pm Sung Mass

Thursday 1 January 2026

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

Calendar of Events

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Meetings & Events *

Sunday 14 December

7.30 am

9.00 am
Gabriel Elster

11.00 am
Pro Populo

Spanish Mass

Sunday 14 December

Nursery: During 9.00 am Mass
Coffee & Doughnuts: After 9.00 am Mass (P)
9.00 am Sunday Morning Bible Study
11.00 am Spanish Religious Education (G)
5.00 pm Solemn Vespers (church)

Monday 15 December

Monday 15 December

7.00 am ★ Francis & Alvina AuBuchon 6.30 pm Fraternus (P) 6.30 pm Fidelis

6.30 pm Cub Scouts (M) 6.30 pm Baptism Class

Tuesday 16 December

Tuesday 16 December

7.00 am

♣ James Hurney 6.30 pm St Jerome Society

Wednesday 17 December

Wednesday 17 December

7.00 am Dominic Cardella 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 18 December

Thursday 18 December

7.00 am Maureen Lesley 7.00 pm Spanish Adoration

Friday 19 December

Friday 19 December

7.00 am Fr Jay Scott Newman 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 20 December

♣ Roman Family

Saturday 20 December

3.30-4.30 pm Confessions (church)

G - Gallivan Hall P - Pazdan Hall

5.00 pm

M - McGrady Hall C - Clinkscales

Family Center

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

Financial Report

Weekend of 6/7 December

 Needed
 41,300

 Received
 44,483

 Surplus
 + 3,183

Poor Box 662

Offertory Year to Date

 Needed
 949,900

 Received
 987,711

 Surplus
 + 37,811

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.

2025 Capital Improvement Fund

Goal 1,000,000

Donations

Total

Received 1,015,142

Still to Go + 15,142

Mass Attendance

Weekend of 6/7 December

5.00 pm	412
7.30 am	389
9.00 am	426
11.00 am	463
1.00 pm	426

2,116

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.

Holiday Office Closures

The parish office will close at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 23 December for the Christmas holiday and reopen on Monday 29 December at 9.00 am.

The parish office will close at 12.00 noon on Wednesday 31 December for the New Year holiday and reopen on Monday 5 January at 9.00 am.

Requiescat in pace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Hume, who died recently. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his 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

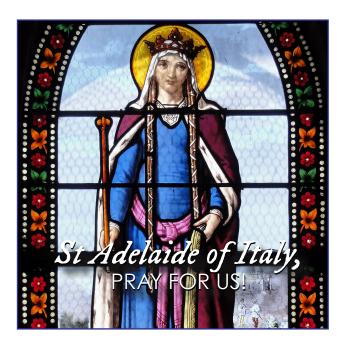
Please pray for all those who are hospitalized and for all those who are shut-ins, ill or recuperating at home, especially Mary Stillmock, James Smith, Nancy Laliberty, Marilyn Postell, Sofia Alvarez, Ann Howard, Carl Lee Cooke, Konta & Laman Patel, Sloane Perkins, George Cortes, Diane Hickey, Michael 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, 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.

Parish News

Collection for 13/14 December

Religious Retirement Fund Support of the Parish

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



Christmas Flower Memorials



The deadline is today! 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.



All are invited to enjoy a wonderful spread of doughnuts, bagels and freshly brewed coffee in Pazdan Hall dining room after 9.00 am Mass. Join fellow parishioners for fellowship and refreshments.

Winter Weather

Please be aware that this time of year has unpredictable weather. All closings due to inclement weather will be announced through Flocknote emails/texts. If you do not receive the weekly emails/texts on Friday morning with the links to the eBulletin and Mass programs please email jenni.dillard@smcgvl.org to have your information updated in Flocknote. Thank 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 linda.jackson@smcgvl.org or 864.679.4110.

Knights of Columbus Contest Winners

Congratulations to the Knights of Columbus Council #13112 Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest winners!

First Place: Alexander Duncan

Second Place: Lillian Gallivan and Kate Gevaert

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 5.45 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 Peter Mathern (early group) at peter.mathern@gmail.com or 864.363.5658 or Mike Munafo (late group) at mmunafo1950@gmail.com or 864.313.5356.

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@smcgvl.org.

Welcome Newcomers

We welcome the following new members to our parish family: Thomas & Elizabeth Osborne, Madeline Hester, Mitch & Paige Allen, Frederick & Leigh Ann Wilson, Samuel Kercheval & Sara Fawcett, Terry Bennett, Alyssa Weimer, Gregory Mytych, Shakira Olivera-Bautista, Stephan & Wanda Bulkley, Cameron Churdar, Matthew Lempner, Fiona Zingale, Austin Lambert, Maria Miller, Anna Drapeau.

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:

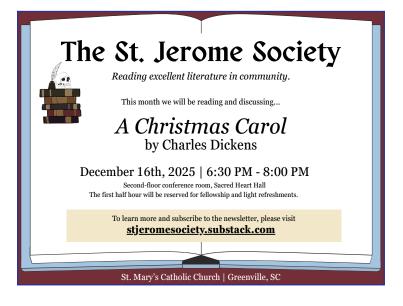
- 1. Visit https://smcgvl.flocknote.com/login
- 2. Enter the email address you have registered with St Mary's
- 3. Flocknote will send a 4 digit pin to your email. Enter that pin to log in.
- 4. This will take you to the St Mary's Flocknote page. You'll see on the right a block showing that the church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

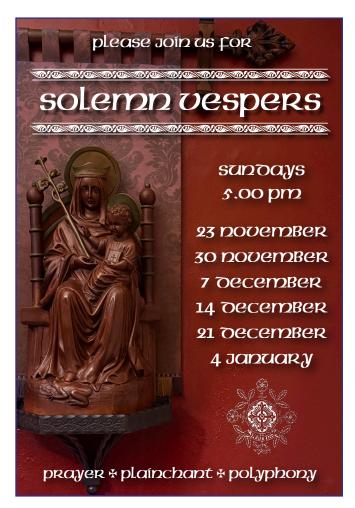
You can add the Word on Fire App to your phone, computer, most smart televisions, etc. One of the best known video series you'll see here is the Word on Fire series *Catholicism* which aired on PBS several years ago.



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://smsgvl.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://smsgala2026.givesmart.com/ (please consider covering the credut card fee). Please contact Gala Chair Sarah Ratcliff at sarah.ratcliff@smcgvl.org with questions. Thank you for supporting our school!







Respect Life SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

Week 12

Baby's key body systems and vital organs have formed, including those that will help fight off germs and make eating food possible.



"Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from Him." Psalm 127:3

Prayer by Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the preborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."



Pratorio de Moël og 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



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 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 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 <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 15 December 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.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

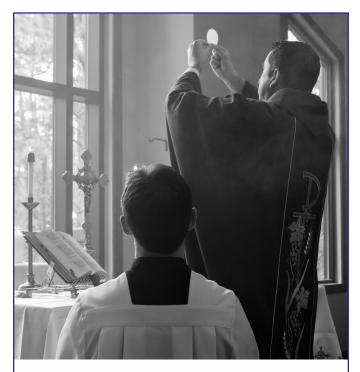
Lord Jesus, send the Diocese of Charleston more priests, deacons, sisters, and brothers. Choose faithful men and women from our homes, parishes, and schools to serve the people of God. Mary, Mother of the Church, help those who are called to offer a joyful "yes" to God's invitation.

Amer

https://vocations.charlestondiocese.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.



MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

Camp Gravatt | 1006 Camp Gravatt Rd. Aiken, SC



For more information, email vocations@charlestondiocese.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!



Tuesday, December 16, 5 - 7 p.m. 14 South Main Street, Greenville

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



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.

Diocesan News

PERPETUAL. $\mathcal{F}_{\text{UCHARISTIC}}$. $\mathcal{A}_{\text{DORATION}}$

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 or 864.508.7123. All hours are available for adoption, but please consider one of the following hours of need (*urgent open hour!):

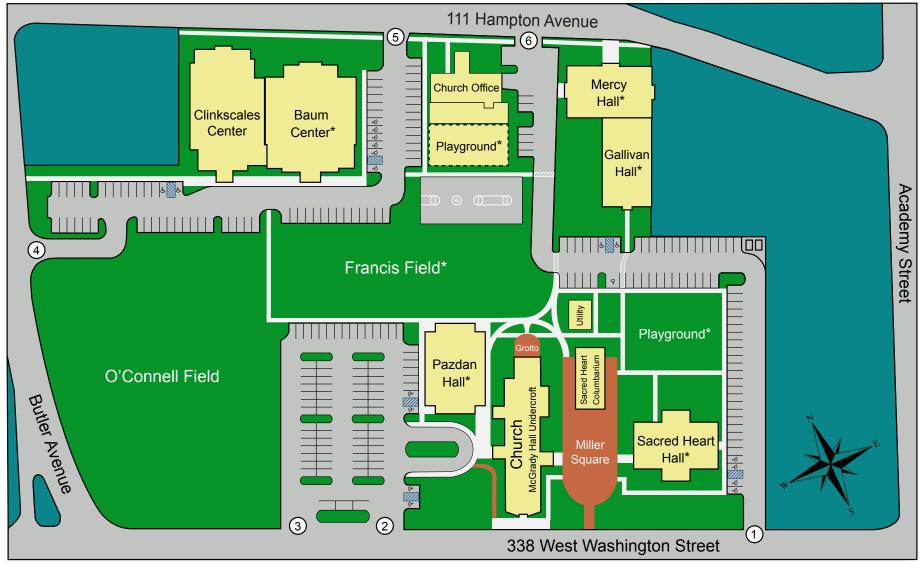
> Thursday 2 am* Friday 12 pm Saturday 11 am Sunday 4 am & 10 am



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@charlestondiocese.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

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Megan Holliday Parish Athletic Director megan.holliday@smcgvl.org Steven Zimmerman Principal of St Mary's School principal@smcgvl.org