St Mary's Catholic Church

Greenville, South Carolina

29 November 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was December, and another Christmas was at our throats. That was the dim view of all things Yule taken by the English humorist P.G. Wodehouse, and it is a sentiment most of us can readily understand. To avoid the frenzy which induces that feeling, we need to grasp what the Grinch perceived with wonder from the summit of Mount Crumpit: That Christmas "came without ribbons; it came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags." And the very best way to arrive at this insight is to keep a holy Advent.

The twin peaks of the liturgical year are Easter and Christmas, and both of these celebrations are preceded by a period of preparation. The purple of penance must come before the gold of glory revealed in Christ's Birth and Resurrection, and this is where the cultural and secular observance of Christmas can get in the way of a good Advent. On the radio and at the mall, Christmas has already been at our throats for some time, but today is just the first Sunday of Advent. And on December 26th when the Church is only beginning to celebrate the liturgical season of Christmas, evergreen trees will begin to pile up on the curb and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer will disappear until next Halloween. Let's just say STOP!

We now have four weeks in which to ponder the profound mystery of Christ coming to us for our salvation. In the past he did come to suffer and die for us. In the present he does come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. And in the future he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead. All three of these "advents" are part of this beautiful season of the liturgy, and if we attend to the Church's rhythm of prayer, penance and preparation, then when Christmas Eve arrives, we will not be exhausted; we will be elated.

So, how to do this? 1) Get an Advent wreath and light it at home each night while praying the Collect from Mass that day. 2) Pray the Liturgy of the Hours, particularly each Sunday afternoon at 5 pm here in the church. 3) Come to Mass on weekdays as often as possible during Advent. Weekday Mass has a quiet, meditative quality that steals into our hearts and minds, and Advent is deeply enriched by Mass each day. 4) Encourage your family and friends to think of things other than packages, boxes or bags. Make a donation in someone's name to Catholic Charities or Catholic Relief Services. Write a letter to someone you love to tell them so. Volunteer to serve someone in need. 5) Go to Confession so that your Christmas Communion will truly be holy.

December is at hand, but another Christmas need not be at our throats. It can be in our hearts with joy beyond all telling if we prepare to celebrate the Birth of the Messiah with a worthy Advent.

Father Newman



Mass Collects for the First Week of Advent

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

Sunday 29 November

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
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 30 November

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of Christ your Son,
so that, when he comes and knocks,
he may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in his praise.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Tuesday 1 December

Look with favor, Lord God, on our petitions,
and in our trials grant us your compassionate help,
that, consoled by the presence of your Son,
whose coming we now await,
we may be tainted no longer
by the corruption of former ways.
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 2 December

Prepare our hearts, we pray, O Lord our God,
by your divine power,
so that at the coming of Christ your Son
we may be found worthy of the banquet of eternal life
and merit to receive heavenly nourishment from his hands.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Advent Week 1

Candle Name: Prophet's Candle
Candle Symbolizes: Hope
Reminds us: Jesus is coming

"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 3 December

Stir up your power, O Lord,
and come to our help with mighty strength,
that what our sins impede
the grace of your mercy may hasten.
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 4 December

Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come,
that with you to protect us,
we may find rescue
from the pressing dangers of our sins,
and with you to set us free,
we may be found worthy of salvation.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Saturday 5 December

O God, who sent your Only Begotten Son into this world
to free the human race from its ancient enslavement,
bestow on those who devoutly await him
the grace of your compassion from on high,
that we may attain the prize of true freedom.
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.

Join us for the singing of Solemn Vespers on 29 November and 6, 13, 20 December at 5 pm.

Calendar of Events

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sunday 29 November

7.30 am	Gawron Family
9.00 am	Elster Godchildren
11.00 am	Pro Populo
1.00 pm	Spanish Mass

Monday 30 November

7.00 am	† Dennis & Betty Williams

Tuesday 1 December

7.00 am	Michael & Patricia Sechrist

Wednesday 2 December

7.00 am	† Manuel Jose Soto

Thursday 3 December

7.00 am	Karen & Stephen Polce & Family

Friday 4 December

7.00 am	Mary Elise Gevaert

Saturday 5 December

5.00 pm	† Susan Urban

Meetings & Events *

Sunday 29 November

Nursery: During 9.00 am Mass

5.00 pm	Solemn Vespers (church)

Monday 30 November

6.30 pm	Fraternus (P)

Tuesday 1 December

Wednesday 2 December

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

Thursday 3 December

3.30 pm	Little Flowers
7.00 pm	Spanish Adoration

Friday 4 December

5.45-6.45 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
7.00 pm	Spanish Rosary

Saturday 5 December

3.00 pm	KofC Free Throw Championship (Baum)
3.30-4.30 pm	Confessions (church)

After 5.00 pm Mass: SMCCW Bake Sale (P)

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 21/22 November

Needed	42,750
Received	45,576
Surplus	+ 2,826
Poor Box	734

Offertory Year to Date

Needed	897,750
Received	946,986
Surplus	+ 49,236

2026 Capital Improvement Fund

Goal	1,000,000
Donations Received	1,241,386
Over Goal	+ 241,386

2026 Catholic Annual Appeal

Goal	136,725
Donations Received	164,060
Over Goal	+ 27,335

Mass Attendance

Weekend of 21/22 November

5.00 pm	378
7.30 am	355
9.00 am	498
11.00 am	568
1.00 pm	444
Total	2,243

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, Lucero Rubiano, Aurelia LaValley, Sheila & Barry Garrison, Anthony Gomes, Chet & Dorothy Jaskwhich Sobol, Lisa Myer, Sandy Miros, Terry Gurn, Mitchell & Elisa Bianco, Barbara Dresser, Caroline Henson, Betty Jo Brown, Gary Redding, Steve Hughes, Angelo Bautista Campos, Michael Venerdi, Dean Zimmermann, Chris Howard, Anna Roman, Edward Stone, Valentina Hernandez, Barbara Redding, Molly Fitzpatrick, Helena Howard, Daniel McGee, Jennifer Swyer, Patrick McLeod, Lily Elizabeth Reno, Dee Dillon, Carol Anagnos, James Seaborn, Barbara Fechtel.

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 Tuesday 8 December at 7.00 am, 12.00 noon & 7.00 pm.

Stock Donations to St Mary's Church

Consider a gift of appreciated stock for your annual 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. Please note that we no longer use UBS for stock transfers.

Congratulations to

Stephen Raymond Hawkins III, Cyprian Joseph Norton, and Lilah Ruby Smith who were baptized last weekend.

Erin Davis and Ryan Perry who were married last weekend.

Welcome Newcomers

We welcome the following new members to our parish family: Ryan & Louisa Bondura, Christian Cangelosi, Austin Farkas, Austin & Madalynn Gaddy, Martin & Nayeli Santamaria, Adam Sheridan.

Parish News

Collection for 28/29 November

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 13 December** for the names to appear in the Christmas Flower list. Thank you for your cooperation and support.



Pillars of Christ Men's Ministry

Pillars of Christ small group men's ministry meets in person every Friday throughout the year. **We have begun a study of Galatians so please join us!** 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.







WE'RE HIRING

FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST

Job Requirements

- Proficiency in macOS
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel
- Proficiency in Google Workspace
- Conversational in Spanish

Send your resume to:

churchoffice@smcgvl.org

Click here for full job description

Full-time with benefits

Vespers

for

Advent & Epiphany

at St Mary's

Sundays at 5 pm
in the church

29 November
First Sunday of Advent

6 December
Second Sunday of Advent

13 December
Third Sunday of Advent

20 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

3 January
Epiphany



Thirty minutes of peaceful prayer and sacred silence.
Sung by the Schola Cantorum. Join us and bring a friend.

Dr Adam Pajan, Director of Sacred Music ◆ Fr Jay Scott Newman, Pastor

CATHOLIC CHARITIES *OUR LADY'S PANTRY*

FOOD DRIVE

After all Masses on Saturday and Sunday 12/13 December



THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE MOST NEEDED AT THIS TIME

- Grains (cereal, rice, pasta, oatmeal, etc)
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit, fruit cups, applesauce
- Canned meals and soups (example: Chef Boyardee)
- Hygiene products - toothpaste, soap, shampoo

AS THE HOLIDAYS APPROACH OLP ANTICIPATES GREAT DEMAND FOR FOOD. YOUR GENEROSITY IN SUPPORT OF THIS MISISON IS APPRECIATED.

On Saturday and Sunday please leave donations with the Knight at the truck in the North Washington St parking lot

Checks are always welcome. Make checks out to *CATHOLIC CHARITIES* and write "OLP GREENVILLE" on the memo line.

Knights of Columbus CHARITIES
United in Charity.

ST. MARY'S
LITTLE FLOWERS GIRLS' CLUB
Growing holier, one virtue at a time

Little Flowers Girls' Club® is a Catholic program for girls in K5 - 5th grades and their mothers inspired by St. Thérèse of Lisieux and her "Little Way."

Through the lives of the saints, Sacred Scripture, prayer, crafts, service, and meaningful friendships, girls grow in virtue and deepen their Catholic faith while earning flower-shaped virtue badges.

We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 in Sacred Heart Hall. Contact Laura Nelson at littleflowers.smcgvl@gmail.com for more information.

WELCOME PACK 521

St Mary's Cub Scouts meet every other Monday from 6:30-7:30pm in McGrady Hall (Church Undercroft)

All boys in K5 through 5th grades are welcome to join! No prior involvement is required-start at any level. A parent attends each meeting with their child. Contact Nick Upham with any questions juph4m@gmail.com, 864-506-2384

High School Youth Group

St Mary's High School Youth Group meets on Sundays at 6.00 pm in Pazdan Hall. All high school youth and 8th graders who have been confirmed are welcome. Contact Chris Ortiz at chris.ortiz@smcgvl.org for more information.

Fraternus at St Mary's

Fraternus is a Catholic brotherhood for men ages 12 and up. We meet every Monday during the school year at 6.30 pm in Pazdan Hall. Contact Chris Ortiz, Commander of the St Mary's Chapter of Fraternus, at stmarysgvl.fraternus@gmail.com.

Youth Ministries

Fidelis at St Mary's

Fidelis forms girls heart, mind, body and soul into virtuous disciples of Christ through the witness of Catholic women. We meet on Mondays at 6.30 pm in Sacred Heart Hall for prayer, dinner, games, lessons and group discussions. Please contact Cristina Ortiz at fidelisstmarys@gmail.com for more information about our chapter. Learn more about Fidelis at https://www.fidelissisterhood.org.



KofC Christmas Poster Contest Winners

Congratulations to our Monsignor Charles J Baum Council #13112 *Keep Christ in Christmas* Poster Contest winners!

Grade K: Malachi
Grades 1/2: Max
Grades 3/4: Jyleigh
Grades 5/6: Clara
Grades 7/8: Porter

St Mary's Religious Education



For More Information
Contact Linda Jackson
linda.jackson@smcgvl.org
864.679.4110

Religious Education Grades 1-8
Classes meet on Wednesday from 6.30pm – 7.45 pm
Mid August - April
Next Monthly Parent Meeting 9 December
Meet in McGrady Hall

Introduction To Catholicism for Youth (ages 14-17)
Classes meet on Wednesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm

Sunday Mornings for 3 & 4 Year Olds
NO CLASS THIS WEEK
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
Classes meet on Sundays mornings during the 9.00 am Mass
September - April

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 meet on Wednesdays at 6.30 pm in Gallivan Hall.
Visit https://smcgvl.org/christian-formation/intro-to-catholicism/ for more information.
Contact Deacon John at john.heuser@smcgvl.org with questions about 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 Tuesday 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.
Amen

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.



St Clare's Job Opening

St Clare's Home is hiring a **Director of Mission and Resident Services**. The Director of Mission and Resident Services provides leadership and oversight for St Clare's residential program and resident services for mothers and their babies. The Director oversees resident services, residential operations, program development, staff supervision, quality improvement, risk management, regulatory compliance, community partnerships, and related administrative functions. The Director works closely with the Executive Director, staff, healthcare and behavioral health professionals, community agencies, volunteers, donors, and other partners to ensure effective and coordinated services. Because this position has significant responsibility for the care and well-being of mothers and babies, the Director must have a professional background in medicine, nursing, psychology, social work, counseling, behavioral health, public health, or a closely related healthcare or human-services field, with demonstrated experience working with vulnerable populations. Please consider being part of our mission. Email resumes to Vbaronkin@charlestondiocese.org. For more information about this position visit https://charlestondiocese.org/job/director-of-mission-and-resident-services/.

Diocesan News

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Prince of Peace

"You will have to fight many battles, but do not worry because in the end you will win the war before the Blessed Sacrament." ~Blessed Fulton J Sheen, Treasure in Clay

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!):

Sunday 9 am, 3 pm & 5 pm*
Monday 1 pm* & 8 pm
Tuesday 10 am*
Wednesday 8 am*
Thursday 2 am* & 9 am*

Lay Carmelites

The Lay Carmelites are a Third order lay community that follows the Rule of St Albert. Part of our daily life includes praying Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina. We seek the face of God through meditation for the acquisition of virtues and to grow in the knowledge of God. If you are interested in learning more please contact Karen Blackwell at kkillian80@gmail.com or Patty Whitlock at frebrd8184@gmail.com for details.

Catholic Charities of South Carolina

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.

December 2026

VIA FIDELIS: THE FAITHFUL WAY

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH

charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH | MONTHLY ACTIVITY

VIA FIDELIS: THE FAITHFUL WAY

December | Advent

Read the Little Blue Book devotional for Advent or one of your choice as a family or as part of a bible study.



charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis

GOD'S SAVING WILL

Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church 525-534; 563-564; 668-677; 680; 1042-1050; 1060



- With his Incarnation and Paschal mystery, Christ inaugurates the kingdom of God
- This kingdom will find its fulfillment when Christ returns
- In the meantime, the kingdom is already present in "seed" form in the Church
- The Christian life is one of hope and anticipation
- At the end of time, Jesus will come again in triumphant glory
- This is the time of the Last Judgment, of which no one knows the day or the hour (*see* Mt 24:36)
- With the Lord's coming, the kingdom of God will be realized
- The Second Coming of Christ is referred to as the "Parousia"
- Christians hope for "new heavens" and a "new earth" (2 Pt 3:13)
- This final fulfillment of God's saving plan is also fulfilment of all human hope
- God desires the salvation of all humanity
- God's saving plan is made accessible to all in Christ and the offer of salvation is extended to all through his Church
- At Christmas, the Church celebrates the birth of Christ, when the glory of heaven is displayed in the weakness of a baby
- Because of the Incarnation, made manifest in the nativity, God's saving presence is made accessible to humanity
- Salvation for humanity is possible because of God's humility
- Much of Jesus' life is hidden in the ordinary life of a family, the Holy Family
- Jesus' obedience to his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, reflects his obedience to the Heavenly Father
- By entering family life, Jesus sanctifies the family

Feasts & Solemnities

DECEMBER 8: *SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*
The solemnity of Mary's Immaculate Conception is celebrated 9 months prior to the celebration of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sept. 8). We use the term "immaculate" because she was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. This celebration reminds us that God prepares those he calls, and he does so in a special way with Mary who is the tabernacle of God the Son, the Ark of the New Covenant.

DECEMBER 9: *ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN*
On Dec. 9, 1531, Juan Diego encountered the Blessed Mother on his way to Mass, and she asked him to give a message to the bishop to build a shrine on that spot, Tepeyac Hill in modern day Mexico City. Juan Diego relayed the message to Bishop don Juan de Zumárraga, who asked him to request a sign so that he knew it was true. When Juan Diego returned to Tepeyac Hill, Mary told him to climb the hill and pick roses, which were out of season, and bring them back to the bishop. He gathered the roses in his tilma (his outer garment) and proved her vision to be true.

DECEMBER 12: *OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE*
On Dec. 12, 1531, as the Blessed Mother requested, Juan Diego brought his tilma full of roses to Bishop don Juan de Zumárraga. When he let the roses drop down, a miraculous image of the Blessed Mother (as she had appeared to him) remained on the tilma. In the image, Mary appears with Indigenous features and clothing and is pregnant. The image also has an incredible amount of detail and appears on the fabric in a way that has yet to be explained.

DECEMBER 25: *THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)*
On this solemnity, we celebrate the birth of Christ, who is God become flesh. We celebrate the Lord's birth because of the importance that the Incarnation — God taking on our humanity — has for our salvation. In our liturgy, four different Masses, with different readings and prayers, are celebrated on this day: the Vigil, Mass during the Night, Mass at Dawn, and Mass during the Day.

DECEMBER 26: *ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR*
St. Stephen is the first martyr (or "protomartyr") of the Church (Acts 7). Stephen was among the first group of seven deacons, called to the ministry of service (Acts 6:1-7). His witness (martyr means witness) to the point of death shows that the Good News of salvation in Christ, the Gospel, is the most important thing in our lives. His feast comes the day after Christmas to show that following Christ means giving all of oneself. Dec. 26 is also connected with the discovery of his relics in 415 and their placement in a prominent location in Jerusalem.

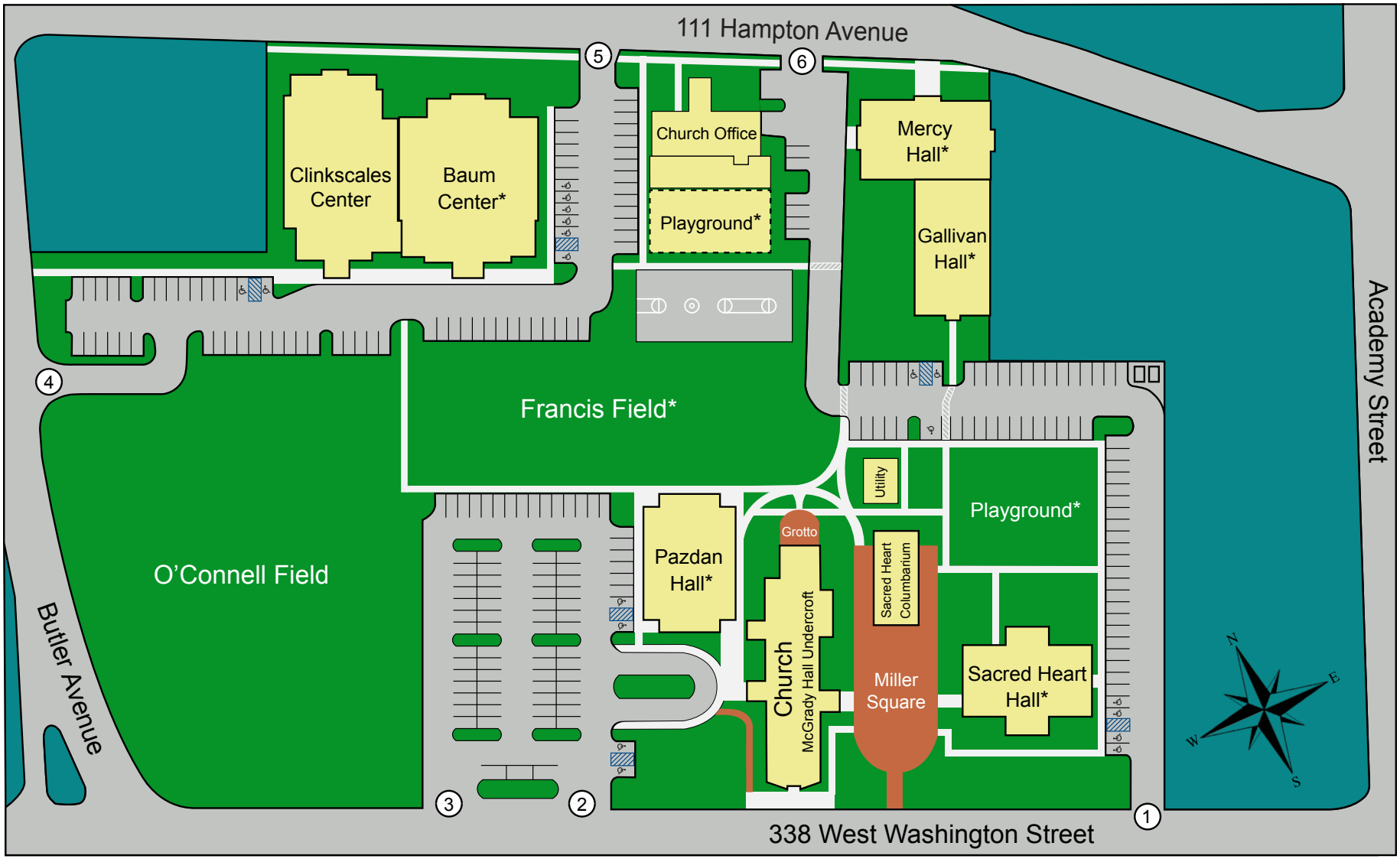
DECEMBER 27: *THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH*
As the Christmas season unfolds, our celebration of the Holy Family reminds us that Christ himself has a human family. The fact that Christ embraced this aspect of human life also sanctifies it. The family itself is called to be holy.

DECEMBER 28: *THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS*
In Matthew's Gospel, we hear a terrible story of young children killed because of Herod's jealousy. After hearing about a newborn king from the Magi, Herod orders the execution of all boys up to two years old (Mt 2:16-18). The Holy Family escapes by going into Egypt (Mt 2:13-15; 19-23). Like St. Stephen, these innocents remind us of the opposition that the Gospel often faces.

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

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