



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, MARCH 30- FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"This son of mine was dead, and has
come to life again." - Lk 15:24a

4° DOMINGO DE LA CUARESMA

"Este hijo mío estaba muerto y
ha vuelto a la vida". - Lc 15, 24

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Father Jairo Calderón

jcalderon@charlestdiocese.org

Deacon: Juan Borges

Parish Secretary/Religious Ed. Director

Alexandra Pérez

aperez@charlestdiocese.org

Safe Environment: Pat Binninger

pbinninger@charlestdiocese.org

Pro life Director: Petra Massey

nothingcouldbefiner@charter.net

Technology Director: Israel Ruiz Vega

Church Office:

864-226-8621/ 864-791-3517

Email: officesma@charlestdiocese.org

Website: sma43.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.

1821 White St, Anderson, SC 29624

Mission Statement

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church, Anderson SC was founded in 1943 by the Franciscans of the Holy Name Province, New York. The intention then and today, was and is to, in the spirit of Jesus Christ and St. Francis, minister in and with the African American Catholic community and to reach out to the African Americans of Anderson County. Furthermore, all who come to St. Mary's from whatever background and ethnicity with a desire for Christian family will be regarded as brothers and sisters to us. We also see ourselves as called to live in Gospel relationship to the alienated and the poor of this community.

The Holy Father's prayer intention for the month of March 2025

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each others gifts, even in their differences.

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 9 A.M. (English) 12:30 P.M. (Español)

Tuesday - Friday: 8 A.M. (English)

Wednesday & Friday: 7 P.M. (Español)

Saturday: 4 P.M. (English)

Confessions: 1/2 hour before each Mass.

Holy Hour/Adoration: Thursdays (all day)

Food Pantry

Drop off any non-perishable food items in the church or parish hall bin. The following are food supplies we need to restock:

- Boxes of cereal
- Jelly
- Shelf stable milk

THANK YOU

Parish Chorus Practice

Thursdays at 6:00 pm

HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com

Heather Brown, Music Director

Would you like to be an altar server?

Being an Altar Server, means serving God and God's people at Mass. This liturgical ministry is open to those to who have made their First Holy Communion.

Altar Servers assist the priest during Mass. There is no age limit

Homebound Ministry Visitation Available

This ministry, through volunteer effort, visits residences, nursing facilities and other home situations of parish members. Reasons for visits range from providing spiritual support to a friendly visit to someone who just wants to make a new friend.

The goal is to offer parishioners an encounter with other parishioners to experience God's goodness through the kindness of others. Any questions please contact:

officesma@charlestdiocese.org

Weekly Collections

March 22-23

Operating: \$ 6,760

B&G: \$ 210

Food Pantry: \$ 60

Knights of Columbus

We are a Catholic men's organization serving our parish and community through donations of funds and time.

Anyone interested in finding out more can call Mike Massey at 864-314-3622.

Women's Council

3rd Monday of the month - 5:30 P.M. Parish Hall

The Women Council is a ministry of service to the parish and community. All women in the church are welcome.

Men's Club

1st Wednesday of the month - 5:30 P.M. Parish Hall

The Men's Club was organized as a fellowship for the men in the parish. All men in the church are welcome.

BIBLE STUDY

Please join us every Thursday from 10:00-11:00 am, beginning January 23, and continuing through Holy Thursday, April 17.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace..."

Deepen your understanding of scripture as we journey through the inspiring words of the St. Francis Peace Prayer. This Bible study will connect each line of the prayer to scripture, Catechism teachings, and wisdom from Church Fathers and Doctors of the Church, offering an exploration of faith, forgiveness, and discipleship. All are welcome!

To receive the lesson plan ahead of each weekly session, please send your contact information to charlie ofs@gmail.com and include "Bible Study" in the subject line.

Stations of the Cross/Estaciones de la Cruz

(During Lent / Durante la Cuaresma)

Fridays after 8:00 Mass

Viernes después de la Misa de 7:00 pm

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover. (Jos 5:10)

Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Cor 5:18)

Gospel:

"But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." (Lk 15:32)

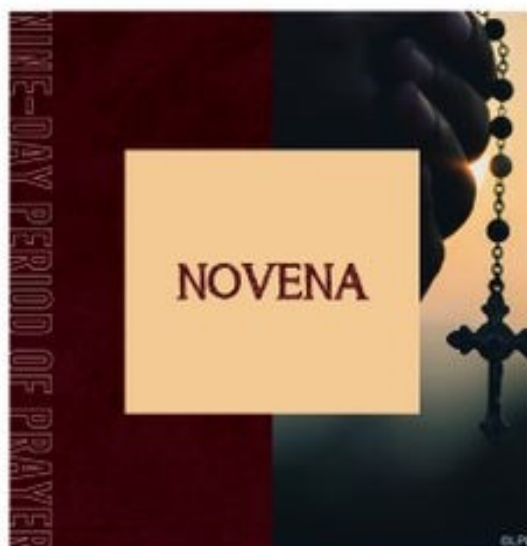
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Prodigal Son doesn't dare ask for the honor of being called his Father's son again. All he wants is to be close to his Father, to be cared for. But his Father surprises him with his mercy, as God surprises us. He offers more than just forgiveness. He offers redemption.

Observances for the week of March 30, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Lent
Tuesday: April Fools' Day
Wednesday: St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
Friday: St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent



Devotions, Explained!

A novena is a nine-day period of prayer focused on a specific topic, saint, or devotion. There are four basic categories of novenas — novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of indulgence. This 9-day period of prayer can be traced back to the Acts of the Apostles.

Prayer of a Father's Blessing

God who wills good things for your children, Help me to trust that You will be faithful.
God who will not leave me, Help me to seek You, too.
God who is ever-waiting for me, Help me to run straight towards You.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 30, 2025

Sunday:

Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (9a)/
2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Scrutiny: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-
3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/
Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday:

Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and
13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday:

Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday:

Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/
Jn 5:17-30

Thursday:

Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/
Jn 5:31-47

Friday:

Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and
23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday:

Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/
Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday:

Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/Phil
3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11 *Scrutiny:* Ez 37:12-14/
Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A man looking a bit downtrodden approached me as I filled my car's gas tank. He asked, "May I share with you my testimony about how good God is?" "OK," I skeptically answered. He went on to tell me that he had been an alcoholic and drug addict, and that God had healed him; now he was four years sober. He said, "I didn't deserve it, but now I'm a different person. God is so good! Have a terrific Tuesday!" A few minutes later, as I drove away, I saw him smiling and handing a homeless person some money. I was confronted with a choice: either he was a total fraud or God had changed him. *Something* had happened to him, and it didn't seem fake. Maybe it was God.

When Jesus heals the man born blind, the man becomes a challenge to everyone who meets him. They must decide. Is he the same blind person who they knew before? Who healed him and how? And what is the status of the one who can heal such infirmities? We shouldn't be surprised at the storm of doubt, hatred and animosity that swirls around the healed man — so it often goes when Jesus heals someone even to this day.

Like we often do, the religious leaders confronting the healed man declare that God is not at work. They ask with mocking superiority and dismissive disdain, "**You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?**" (John 9:34). And they cast him out. When Jesus clearly works in our lives, in us or around us, we should accept it, and give praise and thanks for this wonderful manifestation of his goodness.

Lenten challenge: Think of one way the Lord has healed you. Perhaps he healed a form of selfishness, a physical ailment, or something else. This week, find a person to whom you can share that testimony, and share it. Don't worry if they don't accept it was God who did it.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: God doesn't need our repentance. We need our repentance.

The Apology

I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he wouldn't have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. *Why are you doing this?* some people would ask. *God doesn't need this.*

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. *We need our repentance.*

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?

Answer:

The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape!

A message from the Parish

Finance Council:

We have added last quarter (October-December 2024) balance sheet to this bulletin as an insert. Next scheduled Finance Council meeting will be on June 20th. All parishioners are welcomed to attend.

FREE WOOD

Father Jairo has been working hard all week leveling the grass area behind the Parish hall. There are some tree trunks that were brought down we need to get rid of them. Please feel free to come over and take as many as you need! They make great fire wood...s'mores season is about to start!

We are looking for sponsors who are able to donate items for the silent auction that will be held during the gala. If you wish to donate your time, talents or items please contact the parish office.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LET US
CELEBRATE WITH
A FEAST.

— LUKE 15:23 —

