

# SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENT LIFE SUMMIT

Saturday, January 11th at 2pm  
 Village Church | Downtown Columbia Campus  
 2204 Park St, Columbia, SC 29201

*You are invited to join SC Citizens for Life earlier on January 11th for the SC Life March. 11am: Line up at the Russell House in Downtown Columbia 12pm: Rally at the State House*



**Toni McFadden**  
 Keynote Speaker  
 Author & International Speaker



**Father Rhett Williams**  
 Guest & Speaker  
 Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Charleston and pastor of St. Thomas More Church

1:15PM: CFA LUNCH AVAILABLE  
 2:00PM: EVENT BEGINS  
 3:00PM: SERVICE PROJECTS

GET YOUR TICKETS:  
[studentlifesummit.com](http://studentlifesummit.com)

## Christmas & New Years Mass Schedule Horario para Misas de Navidad y Año Nuevo

### Tuesday/Martes

December 24th /24 de Diciembre

4:00 pm English

7:00 pm Español

### Wednesday/Miercoles

December 25/25 de Diciembre

10:00 am Bilingual/Bilingue

### Tuesday/Martes

December 31/31 de Diciembre

4:00 pm English

7:00 pm Español

### Wednesday/Miercoles

January 1 / 1 de Enero

10:00 am Bilingual / Bilingue

## We're Counting On You Every Week

Firstly, on behalf of St Mary of the Angels, thank you so very much for your weekly contributions to the church.

Did you know that there is a dedicated group of volunteers who count and deposit the money that comes in each week from the collections at Mass? As the person who heads up that group, I would like to send a huge thank you out to each and every one of them for their efforts each week.

Would you like to make their job easier each week? Here are a few helpful tips for your contributions.

If you have envelopes, please use them.

If you would like envelopes, please place a note in the collection basket with you name and contact details for the envelopes to be sent to you.

If you place a check in your collection envelope, please write your envelope number on the memo line of your check. This helps us to make sure you get credit for your contributions, especially to be able to provide you with your listing for tax deductions each year. After we've deposited your check, we must keep the envelope as documentation of your contribution.

Please use only blue or black ink on your checks – the bank won't accept other colors, like red.

If you only place a check in the collection basket, (one that is not in a collection envelope), we must first look up your name to see if you have an envelope number, and then write the number on the check. Then we must make a copy of the check to document the contribution for future reference. So, again, if you have envelopes, please use them.

If there are special envelopes for that Sunday, if at all possible, please use separate checks for each of the envelopes.

Including only one check and asking for it to be divided amongst the special collections makes the bookkeeping for that Sunday a little bit more challenging.

If you miss one or more Sunday collections, it is not necessary to include the empty, unused envelopes with your contribution. Your contribution is linked to the Sunday that you actually put the envelope in the collection basket, so it's okay to throw away the unused, empty envelopes and just use the envelope(s) for that Sunday's date.

It is also not necessary to tape the envelopes closed. Just moisten the spot under the flap and close the envelope. The envelope is desid to be easily opened that way. Adding tape, again, takes longer to open the envelope.

If you place cash in the collection basket, please keep the bills as flat as possible. The more times you fold the bill, the longer it takes to unfold and count it, and there's a chance that the bill will then jam the bill counting machine.

If you would like to help with the counting of collections each week, we would love to have you join the group, either as a weekly regular or as a substitute. Just place a note in the collection basket with your name, address and phone number and we will contact you to get you organized to help us count the weekly collections. Please note, it does require a background check by the diocese. You will also be trained in the process to help you become an accomplished counter.

We're counting on you to help us count. Thank you.

Andrew Hvizdos

**EMBRACE GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR BUSINESS**

Are you a business owner looking to make a difference in the world? Register for our upcoming Consecration Mass, where you can set your business apart for His purpose.

**HIS WAY AT WORK**  
 ASSOCIATION OF CONSECRATED COMPANIES

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
 Monday, January 27  
 Consecration Mass  
 St. Mary Magdalene

Merry Christmas

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT BY WEDNESDAYS 12 NOON . THEY WOULD BE POSTED IN THAT SUNDAYS BULLETIN. THANK YOU!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Lord has not forgotten us



# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” - Lk 1:45

## 4° DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

“Dichosa tú, que has creído, porque se cumplirá cuanto te fue anunciado de parte del Señor”. - Lc 1, 45

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### **Father Jairo Calderón**

[jcalderon@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:jcalderon@charlestandioocese.org)

**Deacon:** Juan Borges

### **Religious Director/Parish Secretary:**

Alexandra Pérez

[aperez@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:aperez@charlestandioocese.org)

**Safe Environment:** Pat Binninger

[pbinninger@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:pbinninger@charlestandioocese.org)

**Pro life Director:** Petra Massey

[nothingcouldbefiner@charter.net](mailto:nothingcouldbefiner@charter.net)

**Technology Director:** Israel Ruiz Vega

### **Church Office:**

864-226-8621/ 864-791-3517

**Email:** [officesma@charlestandioocese.org](mailto:officesma@charlestandioocese.org)

**Website:** [sma43.net](http://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 December 2024

## For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

### Mass Schedule

**Sunday:** 9 A.M. (En) 12:30 P.M. (Esp)  
**Tuesday - Friday:** 8 A.M. (English)  
**Wednesday & Friday:** 7 P.M. (Esp)  
**Saturday:** 4 P.M. (En)  
**Confessions:** 1/2 hour before each Mass.  
**Holy Hour:** Thursday 7pm-9pm

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### 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:

- Canned chicken \*\*No longer need egg cartons\*\*
- Hearty soups
- Vienna sausage
- Jelly in plastic container

### THANK YOU

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**Parish Chorus Practice**  
**Thursdays at 6:00 pm**  
**HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com**

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### 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

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### Homebound Ministry - Volunteers Needed

Provides a social connection to individuals who would benefit from a visit from a fellow parishioner.

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@charlestandioocese.org

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**RCIA/OCIA**  
**SUNDAYS 10:30-11:45 AM**

### Weekly Collections

**DEC 14-15**

**Operating: \$5,580**

**B&G: \$35**

**Food Pantry: \$65**

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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### BIBLE STUDY

**Every Thursday from 10:00-11:00 am, beginning October 3 and continuing until November 21.**

Bible Study exploring the Epistle of James begins October 3. Wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. (James 3:17 - RSV2CE)

Join us as we read and discuss the practical wisdom and spiritual insights of the Epistle of James with our new 8-week Bible study. Sessions will take place Together, we'll explore how to live out our faith through action, navigate life's challenges with what James calls "wisdom from above," and grow closer to God in our daily lives. All are welcome! Contact Charlie Comberrel at charlie ofs@gmail.com to join the email list and receive each week's readings and discussion questions.

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### MESSAGE FROM SMA FINANCE COUNCIL

A copy of the Balance Sheet will be included in the bulletin four times a year. The Finance Council meets quarterly and parishioners are welcome to attend any of the meetings. The next meeting is February 15, 2025.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah  
too small to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

### Second Reading:

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,  
behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

### Gospel:

"And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Blessed are you who believed," Elizabeth tells Mary. Do we believe? When we hear the voice of God whispering in our heart, do we listen — or do we ignore, out of fear and uncertainty? This last week of Advent, follow Mary's example, and believe.

## Observances for the week of December 22, 2024

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent  
**Monday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest  
**Tuesday:** Christmas Eve  
**Wednesday:** The Nativity of the Lord  
**Thursday:** St. Stephen, First Martyr  
**Friday:** St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
**Saturday:** The Holy Innocents, martyrs  
**Next Sunday:** The Holy Family



## Saint of the week

St. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586), the pearl of York hid priests and allowed Mass to be celebrated in her home, a criminal offence at the time. She was pressed to death. Margaret was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as one of 40 martyrs of England and Wales.

## Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,

The news of your coming was met with boundless joy — fill us anew with the wonder of your presence. You are Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.



# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

### Sunday:

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/  
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

### Monday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10  
and 14/Lk 1:57-66

### Tuesday:

*Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

### Wednesday:

*Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or  
1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12,  
13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/  
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18  
or 1:1-5, 9-14

### Thursday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6  
and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

### Friday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/  
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

### Saturday:

1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/  
Mt 2:13-18

### Next Sunday:

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10  
(see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary "blessed" for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady's belief that **"there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord"** (Luke 1:45). Mary is "blessed" entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our "motherly" contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus' presence. Pray: "Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her."

— *Father John Muir*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### The Hidden Truth

If you have ever been visibly pregnant, chances are that someone, somewhere, whom you do *not* know, has reached out to touch your stomach.

I've had this happen to me, and sure, it's a little strange. Generally, I prefer people to ask before they touch me. But it's also very sweet, this great mystical excitement inspired by a pregnant belly. We know that belly is special. We know enclosed within it is hope and potential — the very future of our world. Hidden, but real. How can we help but venerate it?

It's why the pregnant Madonna is my favorite devotional image. I even prefer it over the depictions of the Madonna and Child because I find in the sight of Mary's swollen belly more to meditate upon than I find in the unveiled face of the Christ Child. Salvation and redemption, enclosed in flesh, moving, and growing and breathing, but I cannot see it. It's real and it's true and it's *there*.

And it is hidden.

There is much about God that we know with certainty. But there is so much that remains beyond our sight, beyond our comprehension. Questions of evil and sorrow. Pain and tragedy. Life and death. Why don't we have all the answers? We grow very impatient about this. We're like teenagers who want to be trusted with all the family secrets. We hate feeling left out of the loop.

But truth, like life, does not come to us showing its face. Perhaps this is because we could not bear its terrible beauty. Perhaps it's because we would not recognize it if it was laid bare for us to see.

But it's there, right in front of us. We can reach out and touch it. We may not see it. We may not understand it. But we can know it.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

##### Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.



## Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to trust you and to remember that you are the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen.

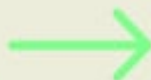
## Mission for the Week

You belong to a larger family than just the people in your home. See how many of your relatives you can name before you visit them at Christmas. When you do see them, wish them "Merry Christmas!"

## Sharing the Gospel

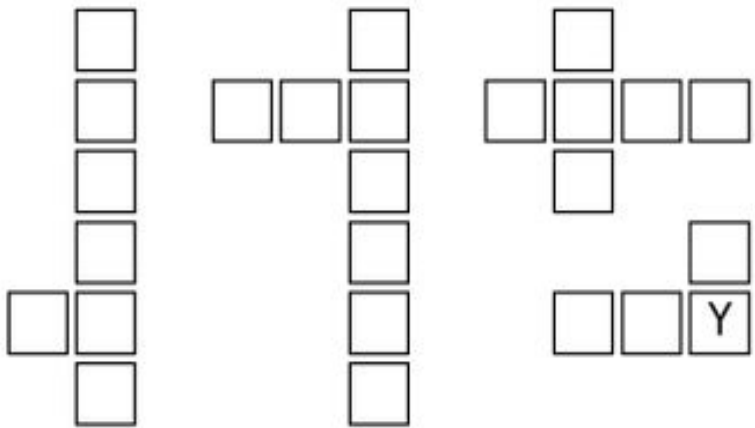
Mary couldn't wait to visit her much older cousin, Elizabeth, up in the hills of Judea. Both of them were expecting babies. Each of them knew that the birth of her child was a special event that could only happen because they trusted God. Your own mother trusted that God would give you life in this world. Both Mary and Elizabeth watched their children grow up to do good things. You can grow up to do good things too, if you trust in God.

Now color  
the picture!



Fit the following words from today's Gospel into the empty squares below:

The infant in my womb leaped for joy.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**MARY**  
TRAVELED TO THE  
HILL COUNTRY  
IN HASTE.

— LUKE 1:39 —

— SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 —