

# WHAT'S GOING ON AT SMA

MISA EN HONOR A  
LA VIRGEN DE LA ALTAGRACIA

Sábado 18 de enero de 2025 a las 7:00 p.m.



La comunidad dominicana de  
la Iglesia Católica Santa María Magdalena invita  
a toda la comunidad hispana a celebrar la misa en honor a  
**la Virgen de la Altagracia**  
presidida por el obispo Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS.

St. Mary Magdalene  
Catholic Church  
2252 Woodruff Rd.  
Simpsonville, SC 29681

Escanee el Código QR  
para confirmar su asistencia




**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.

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



**HOLY HOUR/ADORATION**

**ALL DAY THURSDAYS**

**STARTING AFTER 8:00 AM MASS**

PLEASE SUBMIT ANY ANNOUNCEMENT BY WEDNES-  
DAYS 12 NOON .

THEY WOULD BE POSTED IN THAT SUNDAYS BULLETIN.

## Kids Corner

### Prayer

God, I want to make you  
and my parents happy.

### Mission for the Week

Find out what makes God  
happy. As a family, read  
John 15:9-12.

### Sharing the Gospel

Your Dad says, "Wash  
your hands, please. It  
is almost time to eat."  
After you wash your  
hands really well, your  
Dad smiles. He says,  
"That's my boy. You did  
a good job!" In today's  
Gospel, it was time for  
Jesus to be baptized.  
After his baptism, Jesus  
talked to God his Father  
in prayer. Jesus did  
everything his Father  
asked. God was happy  
with his Son and said,  
"I'm pleased with you."

Now color  
the picture! →

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

JOHN	WATER	HOLY SPIRIT
MESSIAH	POWERFUL	FIRE
BAPTIZING	SANDALS	JESUS

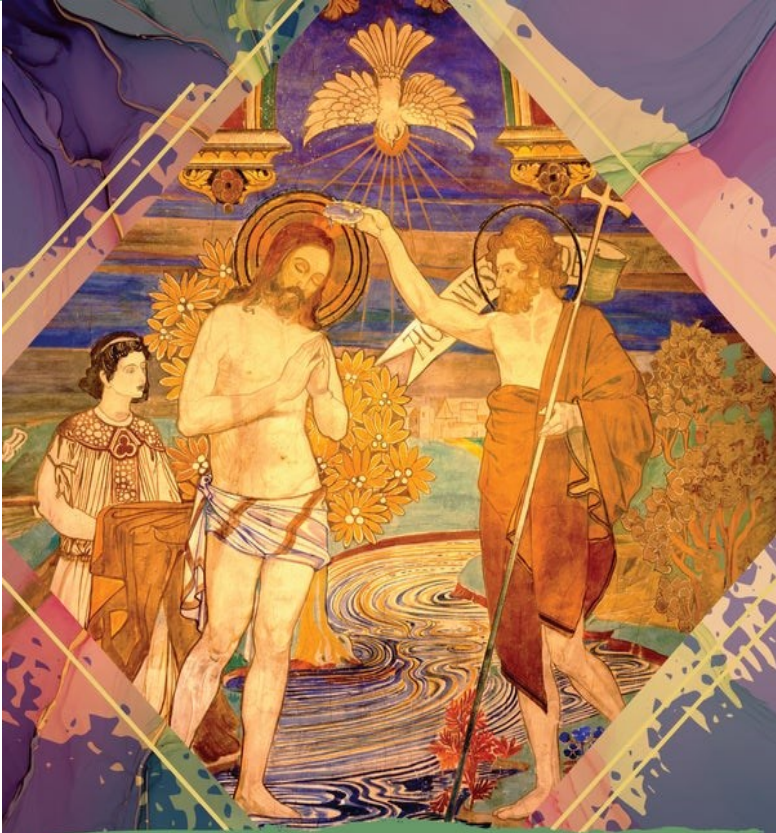
A J T U A R B Y W E N  
H O L Y S P I R I T O  
E H A I T O S U F A M  
J N E G Y W A T E R E  
I Y B E H E U P L M S  
H S I N U R M O A Y S  
J U P A W F I R E C I  
E M O Z T U Y M S U A  
S A N D A L S E O T H  
U D Y T O E A N G E D  
S O B A P T I Z I N G





# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th – The Baptism of the Lord



## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Holy Spirit descended upon him. - Lk 3:21-22a

## EL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR

El Espíritu Santo bajó sobre él. - Lc 3, 21-22

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### **Father Jairo Calderón**

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**Deacon:** Juan Borges

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**Safe Environment:** Pat Binninger

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**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@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:officesma@charlestdiocese.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 January 2025

## For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

### 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)

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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:

- Ramen Noodles
- Oatmeal Packets
- Snack Bars
- Breakfast Bars
- Cereal Boxes
- Jelly in plastic jars

### THANK YOU

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### Parish Chorus Practice

Thursdays at 6:00 pm

[HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com](mailto: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@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:officesma@charlestandiocese.org)

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### Weekly Collections

Jan. 4-5

Operating: \$7,073.00

B&G: \$678

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

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](mailto:charlie ofs@gmail.com) and include "Bible Study" in the subject line.

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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.

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# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)

### Psalm:

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

### Second Reading:

He saved us through the bath of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)

### Gospel:

After all the people had been baptized  
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,  
heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him  
in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:22)

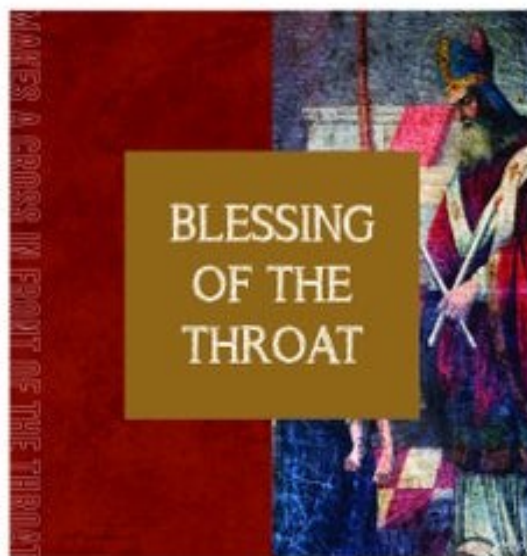
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"The people were filled with expectation," writes Luke. And so we find ourselves, two thousand years later, filled with expectation, with longing. Who can give us what we seek? Only the one upon whom the dove descended. Follow him.

## Observances for the week of January 12, 2025

- Sunday:** The Baptism of the Lord  
**Monday:** St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
**Tuesday:**  
**Wednesday:**  
**Thursday:**  
**Friday:** St. Anthony, Abbot  
**Saturday:** January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
**Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat on the feast day of St. Blaise (Feb. 3), who was a bishop and martyr of fourth-century Armenia. During the blessing, a cross is formed from two blessed candles that are held over the throat.

## Prayer for Baptism

Oh God,  
You desire each of us to  
be a part of Your sacred  
family, called and invited into  
relationship with You. May  
the grace of our Baptisms  
surround us anew, who are  
beloved and chosen by You.

Amen.



# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of January 12, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/  
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

### Monday:

Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/  
Mk 1:14-20

### Tuesday:

Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Mk 1:21-28

### Wednesday:

Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/  
Mk 1:29-39

### Thursday:

Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/  
Mk 1:40-45

### Friday:

Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/  
Mk 2:1-12

### Saturday:

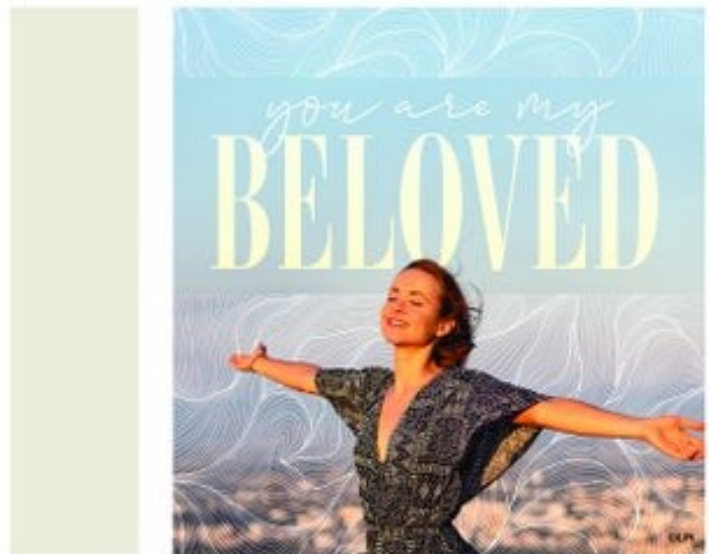
Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

### Next Sunday:

Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/  
1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words **'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased'** (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from heaven to all of us. Jesus' baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself — or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love — until those words find a home in your heart.

— *Father John Muir*

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. But the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow.

### **Beneath the Surface**

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

#### Answer:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

THE HOLY GHOST  
DESCENDED LIKE

**A DOVE.**

LUKE 3:21