



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 - THE HOLY FAMILY



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

El niño iba creciendo y fortaleciéndose, se llenaba de
sabiduría y la gracia de Dios estaba con él. - Lc 2, 40

Father Jairo Calderón

jcalderon@charlestdiocese.org

Deacon John DeWolfe

jdewolfe@charlestdiocese.org

Secretary: Maria Finet

mfinet@charlestdiocese.org

Religious Director: Alexandra Pérez

Safe Environment: Pat Binninger

pbinninger@charlestdiocese.org

Church Office 864-226-8621

Email: officesma@charlestdiocese.org

Website: sma43.org

Office Hours:

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

1821 WHITE ST, ANDERSON, SC 29624

864-226-8621 sma43.org

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 2023

For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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
January 1: New Year's Day - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God - Holy Day
10:00 am Bilingual

Minster Schedules

Saturday

30N Perron / D Trimboli

Sunday

New year's mass Steve Shipman 10 am

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:

- Mac n cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Saltines
- Canned hearty soup

THANK YOU

R.C.I.A

6:00pm in the Church.
No class on December 31
ALL ARE INVITED

Art & Paint Lessons

January 6, 1:30-3:30pm - ER Building

Weekly Collections

Dec 23– Dec 24, 2023

Operating: \$7191.00

Food Pantry: \$300.00

Buildings & Grounds: \$817.00

We need \$7,000 per week to meet our weekly expenses

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.

Knights of Columbus

Join the Knights of Columbus. Interested in joining the Knights of Columbus? We are a Catholic men's organization serving our parish and community through donations of funds and time. We have a great group of parish men who do great things for many people and organizations. Anyone interested in finding out more can call Mike Massey at 864-314-3622.

Visit the K of C Yard Sale. One of our major fundraising activities is our huge yard sale/thrift shop located on the Anderson Jockey Lot. Come visit our building and support our fundraiser. We have something for everyone.

Donate House Items to the K of C. Are you moving? Do you have items you are not sure what to do with? You might consider donating them to the K of C for our yard sale. We even pick up items.

For information please call Tom Holahan at 864-314-4444.

Deacon DeWolfe will have a Holy Hour with Benediction. First Friday of the month after Mass 8:30am until 9:30am.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
(Gn 3:4-5)

Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,
even though he was past the normal age
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

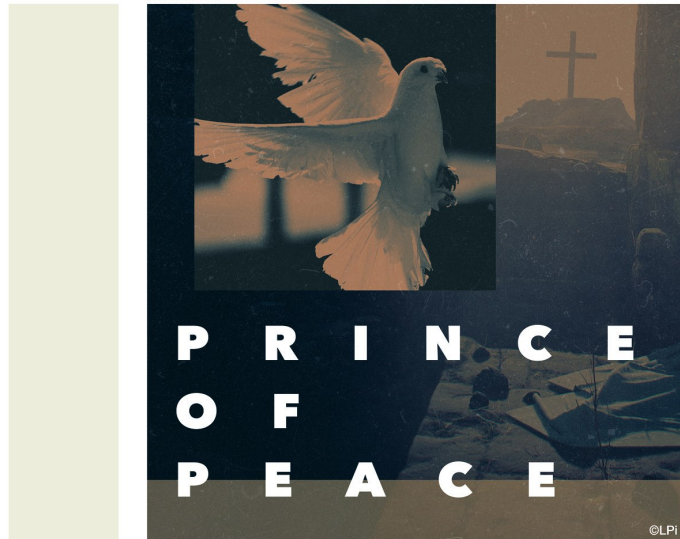
1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,
36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*

Prayer

God, help me to love you enough to do all that you ask me to.

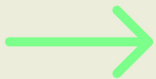
Mission for the Week

Jesus belonged to God. Look up the word “belong” in the dictionary. Thank God that you are his child, too.

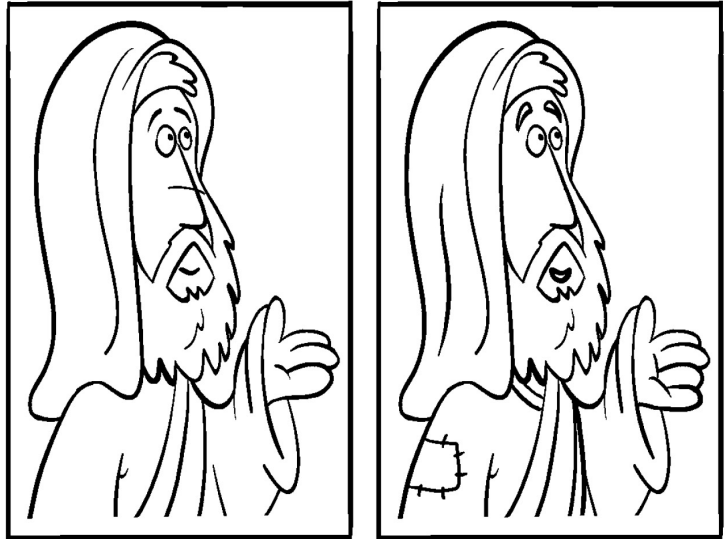
Sharing the Gospel

Love God and trust him with your life. Then you will want to do what God asks. Simeon listened to God. Anna served God for many years in the temple. Mary and Joseph did everything God asked them to do for Jesus. Everyone in the temple knew that Jesus was sent by God to be their Savior. They trusted God with Jesus’ precious life.

Now color the picture!



Find 8 differences



Parish Announcements

HAVE A BLESSED

new year

©LPi

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2024 FROM 10:15– 11:30 AM.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WILL BE ANNOUNCING

THE WINNERS OF THE “KEEP CRIST IN CHRISTMAS” POSTER COMPETITION DURING MASS ON JANUARY 7, 2024.

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December 21, 2023-January 3, 2024

A MOVING CHRISTMAS MEMORY

BY KIM VON KELLER

Whether it's a carol, a children's performance, or a slice of red velvet cake, we expect the hallmarks of Christmas to make their appearances each December.



Father Jairo Calderon

But some holiday experiences are so unexpected, and yet so emblematic, that we are moved to tears. It's what a local resident experienced on a recent visit to St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church on White Street.

It was an average Monday in late fall, cold

and windy and dreary. The reader, who wishes to share her story anonymously, is a member of a running team and wanted a priest to bless some charms of St. Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes. But when she arrived, the parking lot was empty, and the church doors were locked.

“As I was standing at my car, about to leave, I heard

Memory

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

someone yell, ‘May I help you?’ Standing in front of the church rectory was a man I assumed to be the caretaker of the property.

He was wearing old, faded jeans and a black t-shirt, and his hair was a bit disheveled. When I walked over to where he was standing and introduced myself, I noticed a carving of sorts on the porch next to us. I’m looking for the priest to bless some St. Sebastian charms,’ I said.”

As it turns out, she had found him. Father Jairo Calderon, a native of Colombia, has been the administrator of St. Mary of the Angels since 2021. This year, he presides over the church during its 80th anniversary. As St. Mary's is a small church, he often finds himself with time on his hands, and he was happy to help our reader, even as he apologized for his un-priestlike appearance.

“The church is only open a few days a week,” he told her, “so I need to keep busy on my off days. I’m a carpenter, and during my spare time, I carve things like this. It will be a manger scene for our Christmas service.”

Our resident found herself moved to tears. Perhaps it was the warmth of his greeting. Perhaps it was the quiet of an empty parking lot. Or perhaps it was a completely unexpected experience in a season full of expectation.

“I thought,” she said, “What are the chances I would meet a priest, dressed in everyday working man's clothes, who is a carpenter,



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church

who is carving what looks to be a cradle, at Christmas time? It was so surreal. As my hands were shaking, I opened the boxes of charms, and he put his hands over them and began the blessing. It was one of the most beautiful things I had ever heard. I started to weep.”

Following the blessing of the charms, Father Jairo talked about Anderson and St. Mary of the Angels and his parishioners.

“This small church is just right for me, and I love being here,” he said.

When it came time for them to part, Father Jairo asked if he could pray for the resident.

“I instantly said yes,” she said. “He put his warm hands on top of my freezing hands and prayed, again. It was quite moving. It was beautiful. He told me he would continue to pray for me and asked that I do the same for him, and he invited me to come back at Christmas to see the finished Christmas scene. Although I didn't want to leave, we said good-bye. I got in my car and drove away, looking in my rearview mirror at the humble priest standing in the cold by himself. I wept. That was one of the loveliest, most impactful moments of my life. I'll never forget it, or him.”

SEE MEMORY ON PAGE 2