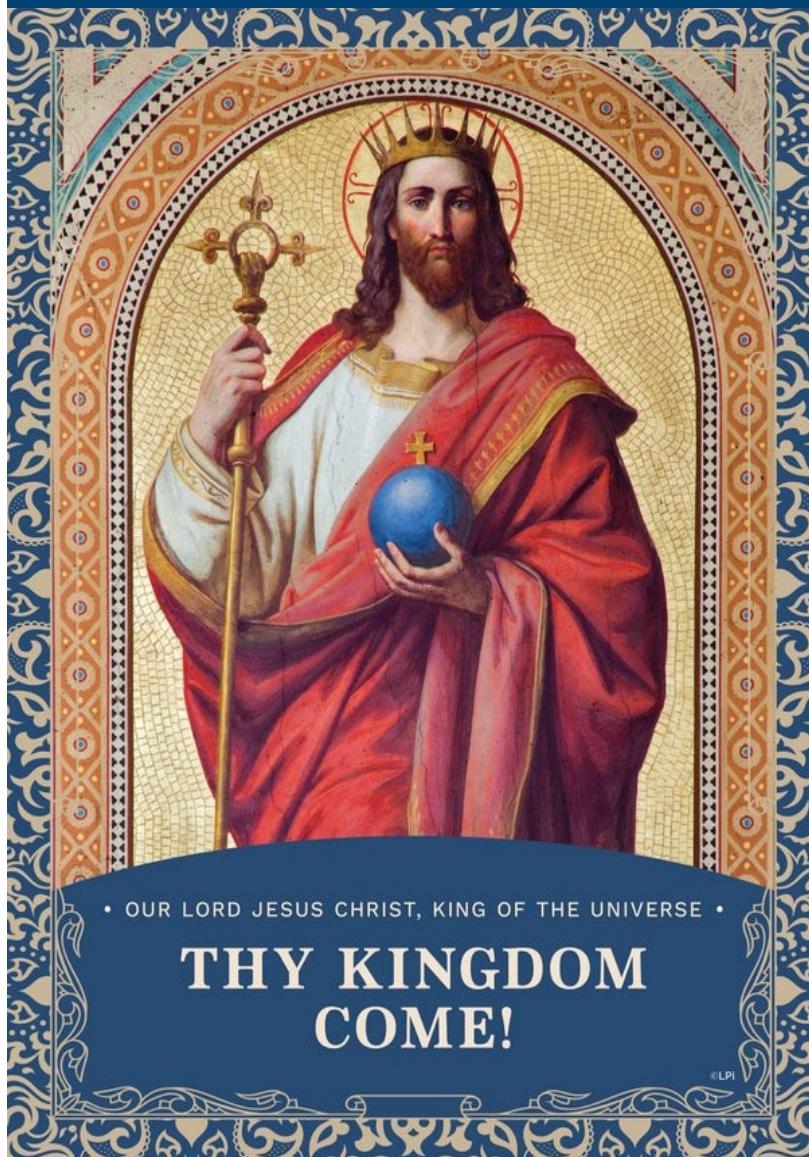




# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday November 23, 2025- Our Lord Jesus Christ, king of the Universe**



**Parish Administrator:**

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**Pro life Director:** Petra Massey

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**Church Office:**

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

**Website:** [sma43.net](http://sma43.net)

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am–2:00 pm

## 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 November 2025

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

## Mass Schedule

**Sunday:** 9:00 am (English) 12:30 pm (Español)  
**Monday:** No Mass  
**Tuesday:** 4:00 pm (English)  
**Wednesday-Friday:** 8:00 am (English)  
**Wednesday & Friday:** 7:00 pm (Español)  
**Saturday:** 4:00 pm (English)  
**Confessions:** 1/2 hour before each Mass.  
**Holy Adoration:** Thursdays after morning Mass  
\*\*\*\*\*

## 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
- Oatmeal Packets
- Canned Fruit

## **THANK YOU**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Parish Chorus Practice

**Thursdays at 6:00 pm**

**HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com**  
**Heather Brown, Music Director**  
\*\*\*\*\*

## Prayer Warriors:

We are a group of parishioners who pray for you, your family, and / or friends.

To join our faith filled ministry or to request prayer, please contact Judy Hanson at 434-944-2636

## Prayer Intentions for this week:

Marina Osborn  
Randy Kolb  
Steve Quam  
Elvin Young  
Baby Francesca  
Lenin Flores  
Veronica Bueno  
Melanie Qualters  
Michelle Lenox  
Loretta Gilbert

All of our martyred brothers and sisters in Nigeria who are being killed every day for their faith

## Weekly Collections

**November 15-16**

**Operating: \$ 8,091**

**B & G: \$ 170**

**Food Pantry: \$ 250**

**Donation for the Poor Box: \$ 1,691**

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## Knights of Columbus

We are a Catholic men's organization serving our parish and community through time and support of charitable organizations  
Anyone interested in finding out more can call Mike Massey at 864-314-3622.

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## Hispanic Ministry / Ministerio Hispano

Serves the growing Hispanic/Latino population by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate pastoral care, fostering their engagement and leadership in the Church, and welcoming them into the broader Catholic community. Meetings are once a month on a Thursday. Meeting dates will be announced.

Sirve a la creciente población Hispana/Latina brindándoles atención pastoral y lingüísticamente apropiada. Fomentando su participación y liderazgo en la Iglesia y dándoles la bienvenida a una comunidad Católica más amplia. Juntas una vez al mes en Jueves. Las fechas para las juntas serán anunciadas.

## 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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The money donated to the "Change for the Poor" bottle will be distributed between the parish food pantry, Clean Start, Anderson Soup Kitchen and other charitable needs.

We thank you all for your kind donations.

If you wish to contribute to this fund, we have a wood box next to the St. Francis statue in the parish narthex.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"And the LORD said to you,  
'You shall shepherd my people Israel  
and shall be commander of Israel.'" (2 Sm 5:2)

### Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

### Second Reading:

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,  
and through him to reconcile all things for him,  
making peace by the blood of his cross  
through him, whether those on earth or those  
in heaven. (Col 1:19-20)

### Gospel:

He replied to him,  
"Amen, I say to you,  
today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43)

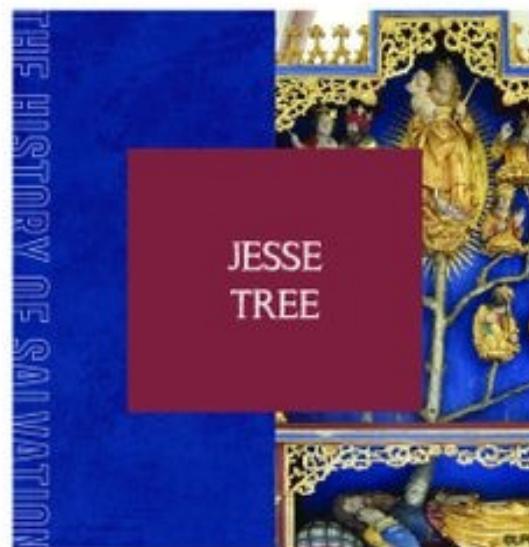
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our king wears a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold. His glory is not in riches but in suffering. His law is written in his own blood, shed for the love of us. Do we understand the gift that it is, to be subject to such a king?

## Observances for the week of November 23, 2025

**Sunday:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
**Monday:** St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs  
**Tuesday:** St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr  
**Thursday:** Thanksgiving Day  
**Next Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, Explained!

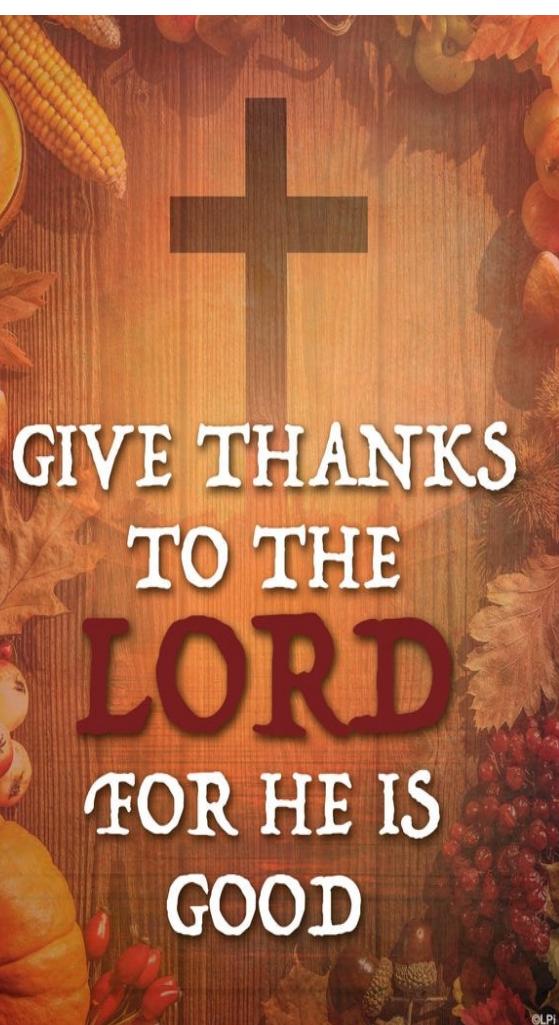
The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold "shoot from the stump of Jesse" who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

## Jesus is King

Dear Jesus,  
I see the kingdom you love,  
the one full of the broken and forgotten.  
I see the crown you wear —  
thorns out of love for me.  
I pick you as my King.  
Mold my heart to be a worthy member of your kingdom.  
Amen.

# JOIN THE CLEAN UP CREW

Please join us for a Parish Clean Up Day on November 29<sup>th</sup>  
from 8:00am - 12:00 noon



Thank you to our food pantry volunteers! With their time and dedication we were able to serve 71 families this week. Thank you for following our Lord's teachings and lending a helping hand.

## **Message from the Food Pantry:**

We are looking for an extra volunteer for the food pantry. We work on Tuesdays from 8:45 am -12:00 noon. We make bags of food to distribute to our clients. If you are interested, please contact the parish office 864-226-8621



THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2025

8:30 AM BILINGUAL MASS



CHANGE OF VENUE FOR SANDWICH MAKING: IT WILL BE DONE EVERY SATURDAY OF NOVEMBER, EXCEPT FOR NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON AT THE SOUP KITCHEN.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

### Sunday:

2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

### Monday:

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/  
Lk 21:1-4

### Tuesday:

Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/  
Lk 21:5-11

### Wednesday:

Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63,  
64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

### Thursday:

Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73,  
74/Lk 21:20-28

### Friday:

Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/  
Lk 21:29-33

### Saturday:

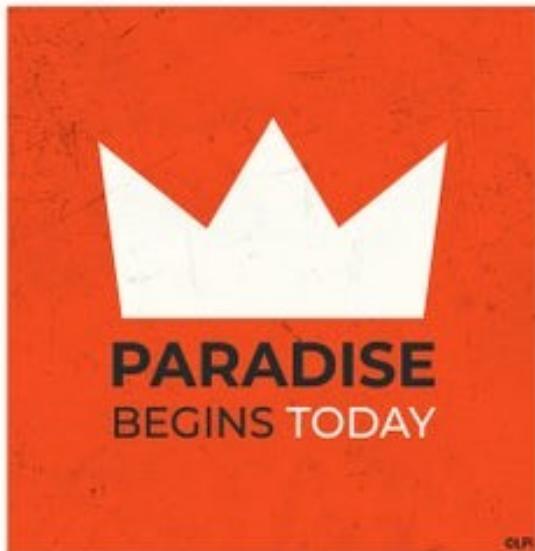
Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/  
Lk 21:34-36

### Next Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom**" (Luke 23:42). That word — *remember* — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "**Today you will be with me in paradise.**"

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "**You will be with me.**"

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas, "the bad thief." I am as close to Jesus as he was, and I ask for all the wrong things.

### The King Who Hangs Beside Us

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

##### Answer:

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with "benediction," the blessing of the faith with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion.

**VIA FIDELIS:**  
THE FAITHFUL WAY

MONTHLY ACTIVITY  
ACTIVIDAD MENSUAL

[charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis](http://charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis)



## **November | Find**

Find ways as an individual, family, or a parish group to find Jesus in your brother(s)/ sister(s) and to serve with love and joy.

## **Noviembre | Encuentra**

Como individuo, familia o grupo parroquial, busca maneras de encontrar a Jesús en tus hermanos y hermanas a través del servicio con amor y alegría.



Nov. 3, 2025

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This month in *Via Fidelis*, we turn our focus to seeing the face of God in our neighbors. Sometimes, we get caught up in the day-to-day rush and forget that, despite how we are feeling in the moment, everyone deserves respect as living images of our Creator.

Christ called us to spread the Gospel in every aspect of our lives — not just at church, but at home, at work and in our daily interactions. The fullness of the Good News culminates in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, where he taught us truly how to love one another. "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you" (Jn 15:12). Once we live this instruction, our lives become a testimony to the *kerygma*.

We may find the love of Jesus in every part of God's creation and must especially see that love in our brothers and sisters. Let us focus on recognizing the face of Christ in everyone we meet this month so we may serve them with love, joy and humility. This might mean offering patient words to someone who frustrates us, showing kindness to a worker at a drive-thru, or reaching out to someone who is lonely.

November is dedicated to the saints and the departed faithful. We know that Christ's salvation was offered once and to all, so we pray for those who have gone before us. Their salvation is at hand, and our prayers support their journey to eternal life with God. We are not separated by death from those whom we love.

I encourage you to participate in Mass celebrations, to pray the rosary and to perform acts of charity. What a beautiful gift we can offer through our prayers, and may our understanding of and love for the Gospel bring us and others to everlasting life. As we do these things as a diocese, and continue our personal and parish activities, we will make an indelible mark in South Carolina.

Thank you for answering the call to become disciples of the Lord and seeing his face in the people and the world around you.

## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to forgive my sins, too.

## Mission for the Week

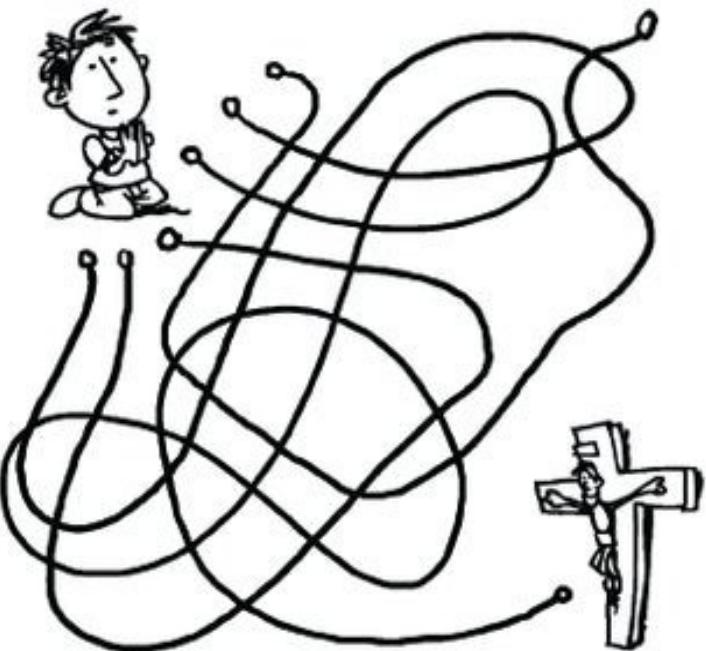
Jesus forgave the people who killed him. He expects you to forgive people who hurt you, too. Think of one person with whom you have been angry. Ask God to help you forgive that person, because Jesus forgives you.

## Sharing the Gospel

When the soldiers hurt Jesus, they were only doing their job. They did not understand that they were killing God's Son. Jesus saw into the hearts of those soldiers, and he forgave them. A man next to Jesus on the cross had done terrible things. He knew he deserved to die on a cross, and he was truly sorry. This criminal believed that Jesus was God's Son. Jesus saw into that criminal's heart, and Jesus forgave him, too.

Now color  
the picture!

Find the path that leads to Jesus.



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

# ARE YOU NOT THE **CHRIST?**

— LUKE 23:39 —



— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025 —