



# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday November 30, 2025– First Sunday of Advent**



## 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know  
on which day your Lord will come.” - Mt 24:42

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©LPI

### **Parish Administrator:**

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### **Church Office:**

**Telephone:** 864-226-8621

**Email:** officesma@charlestandiocese.org

**Website:** 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

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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:

- Boxes of Cereal
- Oatmeal Packets
- Canned Fruit

## THANK YOU

\*\*\*\*\*

## Parish Chorus Practice

**Thursdays at 6:00 pm**

**HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com**

**Heather Brown, Music Director**

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## 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

Please pray for the children of St. Mary's Catholic School in Nigeria who were kidnapped as well as their families

## Weekly Collections

**November 22-23**

**Operating: \$ 6,377**

**B & G: \$ 25**

**Food Pantry: \$ 100**

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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.

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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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GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

First Sunday of Advent

Matthew 24:37-44

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing – someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive. That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos will come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief – not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

– Father John Mui



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

O house of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isa 2:5)

### Psalm:

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

### Second Reading:

You know the time;  
it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.  
For our salvation is nearer now than when  
we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

### Gospel:

"So too, you also must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect,  
the Son of Man will come." (Mt 24:44)

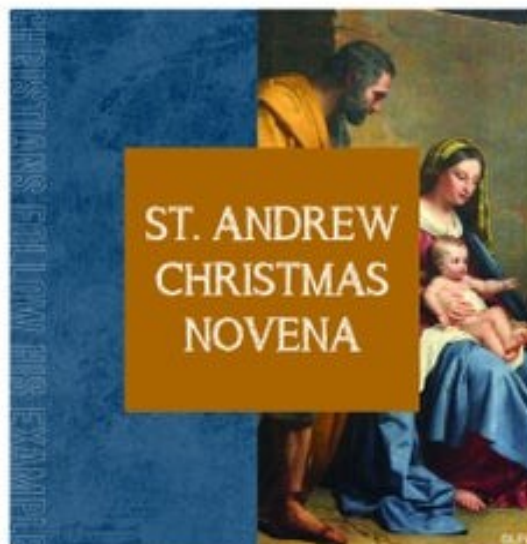
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"You do not know on which day your Lord will come," Jesus says. He is reminding us that we do not know the mind of God. But we do know the heart of God, and we know that it is filled with mercy for those who heed the warning: Stay awake!

## Observances for the week of November 30, 2025

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent; Respect Life Sunday  
**Wednesday:** St. Francis Xavier, Priest  
**Thursday:** St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
**Saturday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop  
**Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, *Explained!*

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from Nov. 30 through Christmas Eve. St. Andrew was the first disciple of Christ, and in saying this prayer Christians follow his example of prescient faithfulness throughout the days of Advent.

## Prayer for Advent - Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!  
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.  
Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent.  
Inspire us with new visions.  
Be with us as we climb closer to You.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

### 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

### Monday:

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Mt 8:5-11

### Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/  
Lk 10:21-24

### Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/  
Mt 15:29-37

### Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/  
Mt 7:21, 24-27

### Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

### Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/  
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### Next Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/  
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



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Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

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This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— Father John Muir



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And His Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth. "But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

### Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

#### Answer:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

**VIA FIDELIS:**  
THE FAITHFUL WAY

MONTHLY ACTIVITY  
ACTIVIDAD MENSUAL

[charlestdiocese.org/via-fidelis](http://charlestdiocese.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.



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
OF **CHARLESTON**  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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.



MONDAY DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

# Immaculate Conception of Mary

8:00 AM MASS, ENGLISH



FIRST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

Let us walk  
in the light  
of the Lord

CLPI

## 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

# FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS  
DECEMBER 6, 2025 AT 8:00 AM

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS  
TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

- GO TO CONFESSION (8 DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER IF YOU ARE IN STATE OF GRACE)
- RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION
- PRAY 5 DECADES OF THE ROSARY
- KEEP OUR LADY COMPANY FOR 15 MIN. WHILE MEDITATING ON ONE OR MORE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

THE PROMISE: OUR LADY PROMISED TO ASSIST ALL THOSE WHO WILL PRACTICE THE DEVOTION OF THE FIRST SATURDAY ON FIVE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS WITH THE GRACES NECESSARY FOR SALVATION AT THE HOUR OF THEIR DEATH

## Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.

## Mission for the Week

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.

## Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.

Now color  
the picture! →

Find and circle the words from today's Gospel:

NOAH EATING DRINKING	MARRIED FLOOD TOGETHER	TAKEN LEFT READY
S	T	B
F	L	O
O	D	E
O		
N	O	A
H	N	Y
	U	R
	M	G
U	G	R
D	O	D
T	K	A
N		
O	E	A
T	I	N
G	W	R
H		
N	T	Y
A	U	R
L	O	R
L		
W	H	I
K	L	C
M	H	I
M		
O	E	N
E	R	S
E	V	E
L		
D	R	I
N	K	I
N	G	D
E		
N	O	W
H	N	T
H	I	E
F		
I	S	R
E	A	D
Y	C	O
T		



A person wearing a white, flowing robe is shown from the side, with their arms outstretched towards the right. The background is a bright, warm, golden light, possibly from a window or a sunset, creating a soft, ethereal atmosphere. The person's hand is open, palm facing up.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YOU ALSO  
MUST BE  
**PREPARED.**

— MATTHEW 24:44 —

— SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025 —