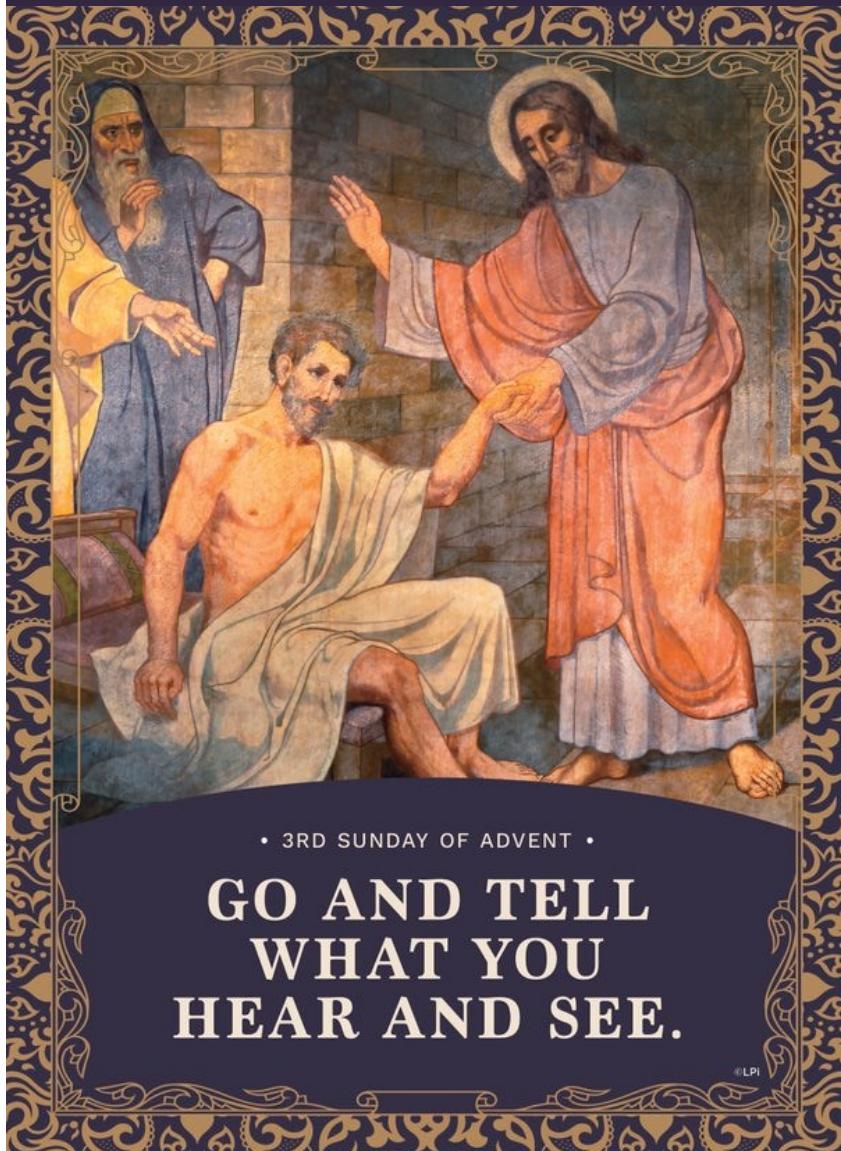




# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday December 14, 2025- Third Sunday of Advent**



• 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT •

**GO AND TELL  
WHAT YOU  
HEAR AND SEE.**

## **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.

### **Parish Administrator:**

**Father John De Britto, m.ss.cc**

[frjohnbritto@charlestondiocese.org](mailto:frjohnbritto@charlestondiocese.org)

**Deacon:** Juan Borges

### **Parish Secretary/Religious Ed. Director**

Alexandra Pérez

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

**Safe Environment:** Pat Binninger

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

**Pro life Director:** Petra Massey

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

**Technology Director:** Israel Ruiz Vega

### **Church Office:**

**Telephone:** 864-226-8621

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

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

### **Office Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am–2:00 pm

# The Holy Father's prayer intention for the month of December 2025

## For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

### 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
- Dried Milk

### **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  
Ida and Rod Fernandez  
Roy Mack

\*\*\*\*\*

### Weekly Collections

**December 6-7**  
**Operating: \$ 28,770**  
**B & G: \$ 40**  
**Food Pantry: \$ 2,200**

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11:2-11

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— Father John Muir

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

### Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146)  
OR  
Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

### Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." (Mt 11:4-5)

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## Live The Liturgy

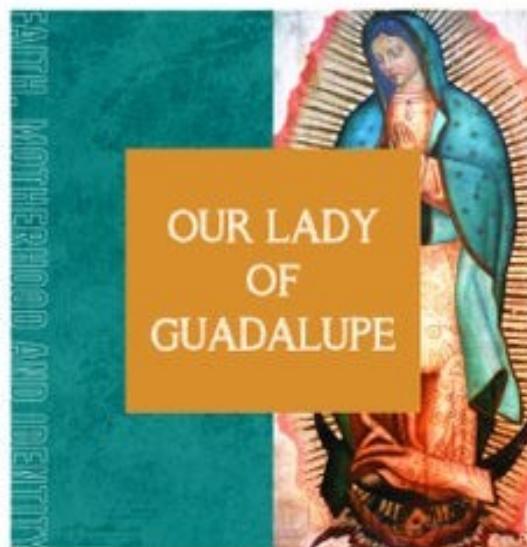
### Inspiration of the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard," Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We have heard. We have seen. We must go and tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who do we think Jesus is?

## Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, Explained!

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico City in 1531. The Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beloved symbol of faith, motherhood and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

## Prayer for Advent - New Growth

Dear God,  
Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates.  
Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts"  
and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted."  
You can redeem and restore,  
bring a new song to my heart.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

### Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

### Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-7

### Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

### Friday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

### Saturday:

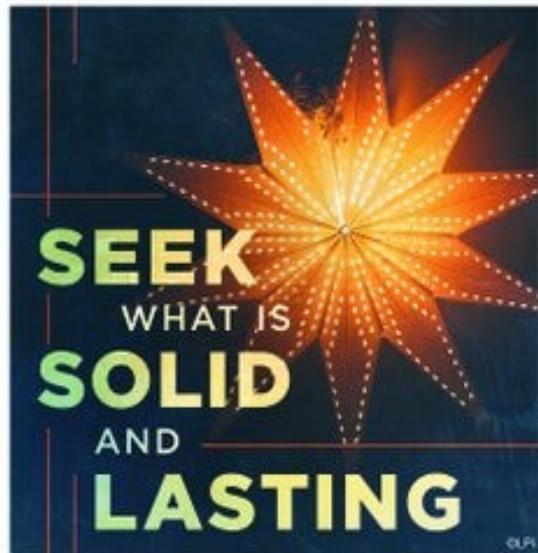
Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

### Next Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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— Father John Muir

## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see?

### What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### Why do we do that?

#### Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

##### Answer:

As Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

## Prayer

Dear God, show me ways to help my friends follow God, too.

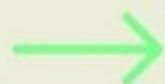
## Mission for the Week

If you have any videos that tell Bible stories, watch one or two together with your family.

## Sharing the Gospel

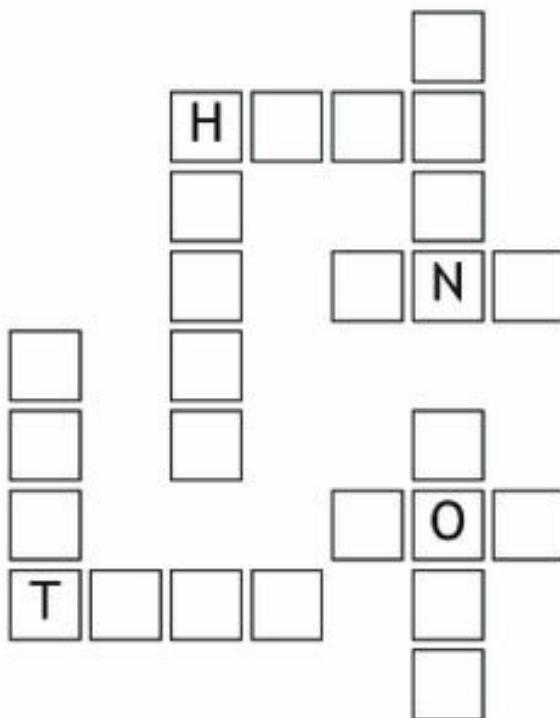
Name someone that you think is very important. Jesus said that John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born. John the Baptist did not live in a big house or wear nice clothes. He was not the president, and he did not own a huge company. You would probably think he was very poor. But John the Baptist was truly great because he loved and trusted God with his whole heart. He helped other people follow God, too.

Now color  
the picture!



Fit this Gospel Message into the empty squares:

**Tell John what you have heard and seen.**



# THE SEASON OF ADVENT

## LA TEMPORADA DE ADVIENTO

Thank you to our parishes  
Men's Club for providing  
the material to build a  
new stable and especially  
to Mr. Tom Neville for  
building it so beautifully  
and quickly.



## Christmas Mass Misa Navideña

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASS MISA DE NOCHE BUENA

December 24 / Diciembre 24  
4:00 pm Christmas Carols  
5:00 pm English  
7:00 pm Español

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASS MISA PARA NAVIDAD

December 25 / Diciembre 25  
10:00 am Bilingual Mass



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church  
Anderson, SC

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR  
CHRISTMAS  
CONFESSiON AND RENEWAL  
A CHAT HOSTED BY  
FATHER J. ANTONY DAS GASPAR

Visiting us from Our Lady of Peace Parish  
in North Augusta, SC  
Chat will start at 5:00 pm  
Confessions to follow from 6:00-7:00 pm

ST. MARY OF THE  
ANGELS, ANDERSON

FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 19

5:00-7:00 PM

COME JOIN US

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE GOOD NEWS  
PROCLAIMED  
**TO THEM.**

MATTHEW 11:5