



ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday, February 22—First Sunday of Lent

Parish Administrator:

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Church Office:

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Website: sma43.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am–2:00 pm

1821 White St, Anderson, SC 29624

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

"The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.' He said in reply, 'It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" Mt 4: 1-4

"El tentador se acercó y le dijo: 'Si eres Hijo de Dios, manda que estas piedras se conviertan en panes'. Jesús le respondió: 'Está escrito: No sólo de pan vive el hombre, sino de toda palabra que sale de la boca de Dios'". Mt 4,1-4

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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 February 2026

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength or 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, Fridays 6-7 pm

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:

- 1 Lb. Bags of Rice
- Boxes of Cereal
- Canned Fruit
- Ramen Noodles

THANK YOU

Parish Chorus Practice

Thursdays at 6:00 pm

HeatherJCHiley@gmail.com

Heather Brown

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:

Renee Reid

Roy Mack

Rod and Iva Fernandez

Susan Wicker

Alisha Rambos

Lynette Casey

Jean Gillison

Goerge

Babies Francesca and Becket

Weekly Collections

February 14-15

Operating: \$ 5,675

B & G: \$ 55

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.

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.

Bible Study

From Exodus to Easter: Journey from Slavery to Freedom

Join us for a ten-week Bible study that traces God's saving work from the Exodus to the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, using the parables of Jesus to illuminate our own journey from bondage to freedom. This study invites us to discover how God liberates His people and forms them in faith. Rooted in Scripture and Tradition, the sessions will help us recognize our modern "Egypt," grow in trust during life's wilderness moments, and prepare our hearts for Easter renewal. This study is well suited for Lent and for anyone seeking deeper conversion and lasting spiritual freedom.

We will meet in the Guadalupe Room of the Parish Hall on Thursdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. from January 22 through April 2.
(We will not meet on February 12.)

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

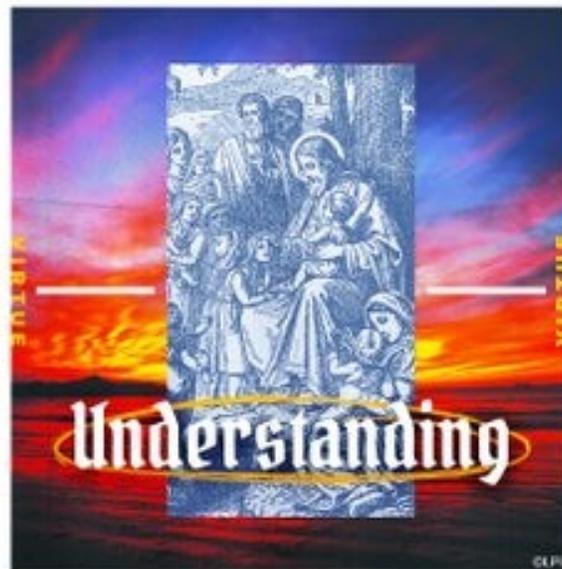
Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent

Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Virtues, Explained!

Understanding is the "food" of faith. "I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith.



MONTHLY ACTIVITY

February | Podcast

Try listening to a Catholic podcast — there are many excellent free options available.



UNDERSTAND THE FAITH

charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).** The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: There are many reasons why the Word became flesh. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world.

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so *hard to be good*? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What does Jesus mean when he talks about taking up our cross?

Answer:

Our journey of faith begins in baptism. When we are faithful to it, we find God's plan for us, his way of allowing us to participate in his saving work, which in turn becomes for us our own salvation. Stated simply, we share in the mission of Jesus each day. We live our life with all of its ups, downs, joys, and sorrows in union with the mission of Jesus. Our work then is holy. It is joined to the cross, God's will for Jesus — the way in which he destroys sin and death and makes eternal life possible. His sacrifice accomplishes what we ourselves cannot do.

To take up the cross, then, means that we share in the mission of Jesus and so embrace the sufferings of the cross. It is our daily life made holy, given a redemptive mission. It is our purpose and goal to unite our life to that of Christ. St. Paul says it best, "If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Rom 6:5).

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save me from the devil's tricks.

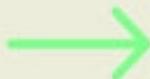
Mission for the Week

One really good way to fight the devil's tricks is to pray often. Pray in the morning, at noon, and at night.

Sharing the Gospel

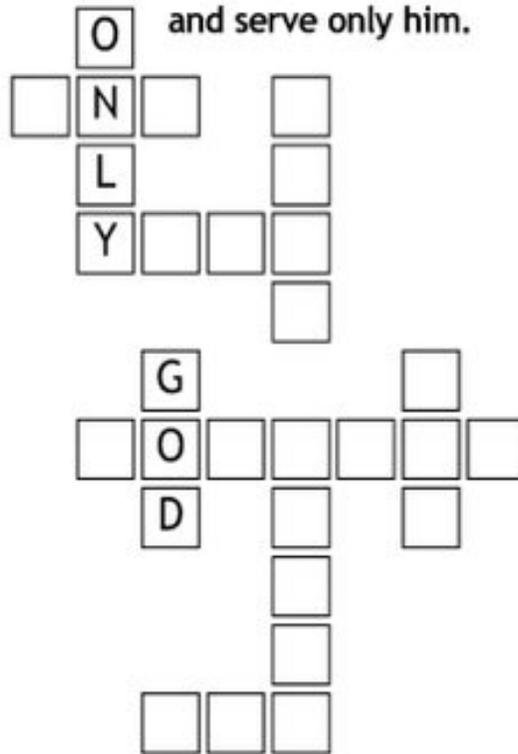
After Jesus' baptism, Jesus went 40 days without eating. Imagine how weak, hungry, tired and cranky you could be if you went that long without eating. That was the moment the devil chose to try to trick Jesus into using God's power selfishly. But Jesus was still strong. Jesus had been praying those 40 days, getting ready to save you and the whole world from the devil's tricks. Jesus would never give in to his enemy.

Now color the picture!



Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Worship the Lord your God
and serve only him.



Feb. 1, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the weekend of Feb. 21-22, our diocese will take up the second collection for the Black and Indian Mission Collection.

The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground.

Financial support of the Black and Indian Mission Office will enable the Mission to help form children in the faith, educate young people, and build hope – a hope often so hard to find in the areas our missionaries serve.

Your generous donations are most welcome during this turbulent time. May your contributions help enlighten the path of the affected faithful.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, 'Your God is King!'" (Is 52:7).

In Christ's love,



Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston

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VIA FIDELIS:
THE FAITHFUL WAY

UNDERSTAND THE FAITH
YEAR 2 STUDY GUIDES

Monthly study guides can be used in personal prayer and for small group reflection.

FEBRUARY 2026

SCRIPTURE

Read: Proverbs 2:1-22

REFLECT:

- 1.This poetic chapter of Proverbs discusses the importance of seeking wisdom and understanding. What does this passage say about this task? Do any particular portions of this passage resonate with you?
- 2.In what ways can we avoid following the wrong path in life? How do we ensure that we are truly following God's will?
- 3.What is the connection between knowledge, understanding and wisdom on the one hand, and how we live and act on the other?

READ: A selection from *Via Fidelis* — Chapter 1

2026: Understand the Faith. In our second year, we will focus on refreshing our knowledge of the faith as a diocesan family, which will also clarify our shared mission. Once we make an effort to understand our beliefs, we will be more equipped to explain it to others who want to learn more about the profound mysteries of faith.

REFLECT:

- 1.In this very brief selection from the early part of the bishop's pastoral letter, the bishop gives a brief description of the upcoming year two of *Via Fidelis* (which begins Ash Wednesday), dedicated to understanding the faith: catechesis. What are your personal hopes and goals for this coming year?
- 2.The bishop here connects the task of understanding the faith with that of proclaiming the faith. What is this connection? Why must these two things go together in the Christian life?
- 3.What are some ways that you can help others grow in their understanding of the faith?



charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis

Saint Mary of the Angels

LENTEN
RETREAT

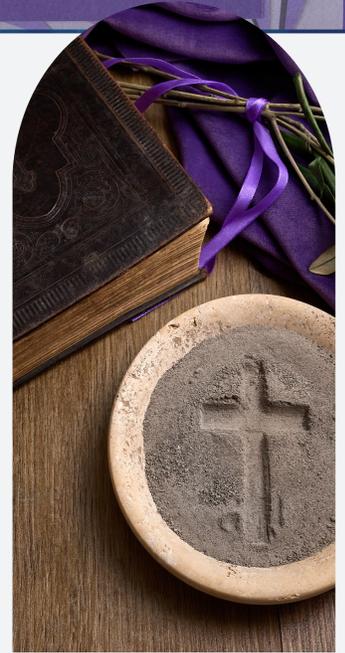
"Be Renewed: Change as the Language of Lent"

Presented by:
Rev. Antony Gaspar, PhD
Visiting us from Our Lady of Peace in North Augusta, SC

You're invited come as you are!

Friday March 6
4:00 pm

Retreat will be followed by Confession



BACK COVER

STATEWIDE

- 96 parishes
- 20 missions
- 32 schools
- 30 seminarians
- 109 diocesan priests
- 16 campus ministries
- 85 youth ministry programs
- 46 permanent deacons
- Catholic Charities of SC locations

GIFT PLANS TO CONSIDER
(Based on 10-month pledge)

Daily Sacrifice	Monthly Sacrifice	Total Gift
\$32.68	\$1,000	\$10,000
\$16.34	\$500	\$5,000
\$8.17	\$250	\$2,500
\$5.10	\$150	\$1,500
\$2.50	\$75	\$750
\$1.67	\$50	\$500
88¢	\$25	\$250

NOTE: A 10% down payment is encouraged but not required.

CATHOLIC APPEAL
of South Carolina



OPTIONS FOR GIVING

Each family is asked to prayerfully consider a contribution in one of the following ways:

- A ONE-TIME GIFT
- A PLEDGE that is payable over 10 months
- An AUTOMATICALLY RECURRING GIFT that continues until you elect otherwise (must be fulfilled electronically).

His Garden Society

His Garden Society offers a special way to join the Bishop as he leads the flock. Members of His Garden Society take a leadership role in supporting the Catholic Appeal of South Carolina with an annual gift of \$1,500 or more, or with a recurring monthly gift.

HIS GARDEN SOCIETY GIVING LEVELS

	Any monthly recurring gifts
St. Francis Circle	\$1,500 - \$4,999
Camellia Circle	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Magnolia Circle	\$10,000+
Azalea Circle	

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE





To make a donation using stocks or mutual funds, please visit our website for instructions: charlestondiocese.org/catholic-appeal

901 Orange Grove Road | Charleston, South Carolina | charlestondiocese.org **The CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FASTED

FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 —