



# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday December 21, 2025– Fourth Sunday of Advent**



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord  
had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

- Mt 1:24

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### **Parish Administrator:**

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

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**Deacon:** Juan Borges

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### **Church Office:**

**Telephone:** 864-226-8621

**Email:** officesma@charlestdiocese.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 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

**Parish office closed December 24-January 2.**

**We will open on Tuesday January 6.**

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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 Fernandez

Rod Fernandez

## Weekly Collections

**December 13-14**

**Operating: \$ 10,415**

**B & G: \$ 50**

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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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## **Devotions, Explained! Las Posadas**

Mini Explanation —

Las Posadas, typically celebrated between Dec. 16 and Dec. 25, is a Mexican tradition which recreates the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. A novenario, or a devotion which extends over a period of nine days, Las Posadas is a celebration of anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ, who seeks refuge in the heart of every man and woman. Each night of Las Posadas, a couple portraying Mary and Joseph knocks on the doors of different homes looking for a place to stay. Traditionally, the Holy Family is accompanied by a procession of people singing hymns and bearing candles who stand outside the home as they are denied entry again and again. Finally, they come to the "inn," the house or church that welcomes them. Carols are sung, a feast is enjoyed and star-shaped piñatas are broken open.

Still practiced in Mexico today, Las Posadas has also become an important cultural and spiritual touchstone for communities of Mexican immigrants who have moved abroad.

\*\* If you would like to experience a Posada, a different family from our Hispanic community will be hosting a Posada each day in the Parish Hall between now and December 24th \*\*



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

### Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

### Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

### Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,  
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.  
For it is through the Holy Spirit  
that this child has been conceived in her.  
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

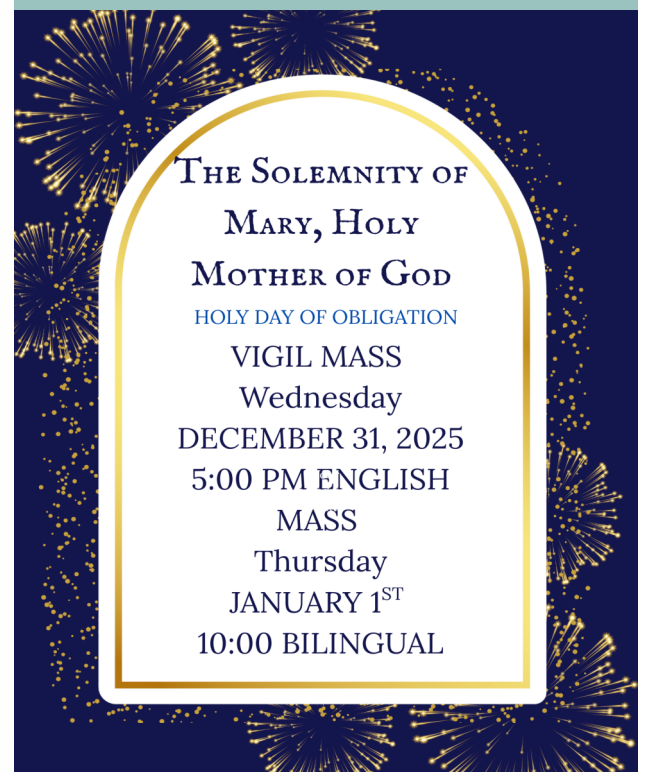
Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

## Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	4th Sunday of Advent
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. John of Kanty, Priest
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Christmas Eve
<b>Thursday:</b>	The Nativity of the Lord
<b>Friday:</b>	St. Stephen, First Martyr
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	The Holy Family



St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church  
Anderson, SC



# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

### Sunday:

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

### Monday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Lk 1:46-56

### Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66

### Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps  
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

### Thursday:

*Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or  
1:18-25

*Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13  
(Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

*Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/  
Lk 2:15-20

*Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/  
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

### Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and  
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

### Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

### Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: **"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20).** When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— Father John Muir



## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

### The First Transfiguration

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that?

### Catholic Life Explained

#### Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

#### Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

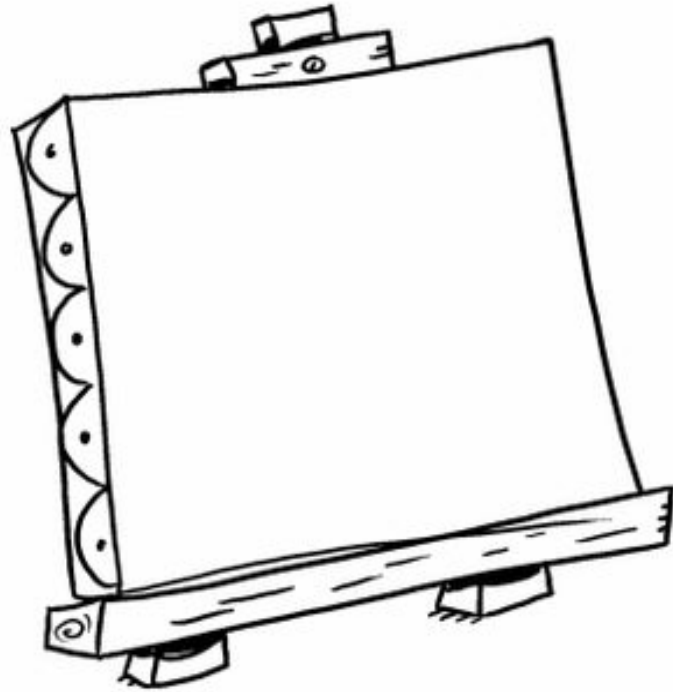
### Prayer

I am proud that I am your child, Father God.

### Mission for the Week

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.

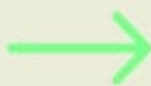
Draw a picture of yourself when you were a baby.



### Sharing the Gospel

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

Now color  
the picture!





ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS

*A Christmas Message from Fr. John De Britto, m.ss.cc*

**Christmas: God Enters Our Story**

During these holy Christmas days, we are surrounded by activity—busy schedules, hurried preparations, gifts, lights, and celebrations. Amid all this movement, the Church gently invites us to do something countercultural: to pause.

On Christmas Night, we are invited to reflect on the great mystery at the center of our faith—the Incarnation, when the eternal Son of God chose to enter human history. The Gospel proclaimed that the Vigil of Christmas might surprise us. Instead of angels and shepherds, Saint Matthew presents us with a genealogy. Yet this Gospel reveals a profound truth: before Christ is born in the manger, He is born into a family.

Saint Matthew traces Jesus' lineage through generations characterized by holiness and sin, faithfulness and failure, kings and outsiders. This reminds us that Christmas is not a fairy tale or legend; it is salvation history. God does not wait for a perfect world or perfect people. He enters real human history, with all its brokenness and complexity, to redeem it from within.

At the core of this Gospel is Saint Joseph, silent and faithful. He says nothing, yet his life demonstrates trust and obedience. When fear could have taken over, faith guided his actions. Through Saint Joseph, the Church sees that holiness is often lived not in big speeches, but in silence, courage, and daily faithfulness to God's will.

The child born this night is named Emmanuel—God with us. Not distant. Not removed. But present in our joys, struggles, families, and daily lives.

Christmas doesn't end at the manger; it continues whenever Christ is welcomed into our hearts—through faith, the Sacraments, acts of charity, and love of neighbor.

May the joy of the Nativity fill your hearts with peace, hope, and renewed faith.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and holy Christmas.





SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE VIRGIN SHALL  
**CONCEIVE.**

MATTHEW 1:23