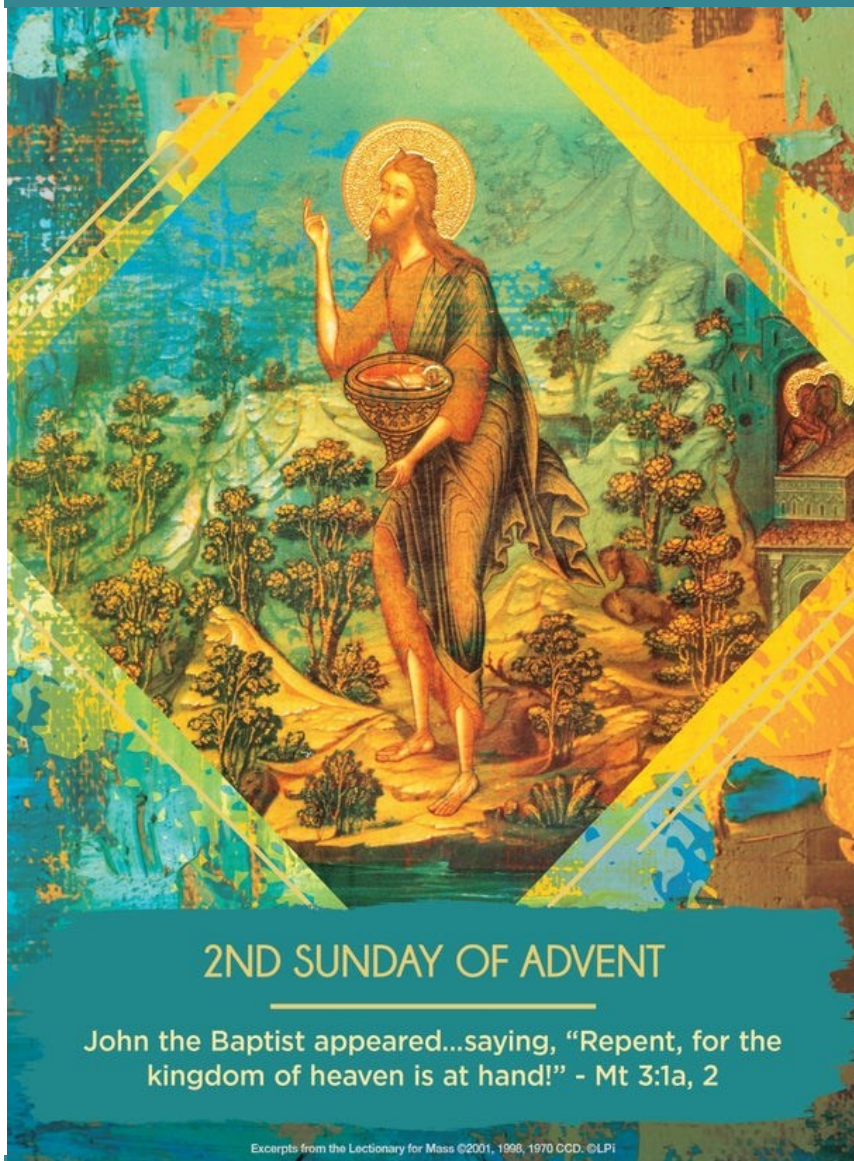




ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday December 7, 2025– Second Sunday of Advent



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" - Mt 3:1a, 2

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

Parish Administrator:

Father John De Britto, m.ss.cc

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Parish Secretary/Religious Ed. Director

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nothingcouldbefiner@charter.net

Technology Director: Israel Ruiz Vega

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 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

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

Ida Rodrigo

Rod Rodrigo

Weekly Collections

November 29-30

Operating: \$ 5,061

B & G: \$ 20

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.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Dec. 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating "locusts and wild honey" (Mark 1:6). It's not just a strange historical detail. It's a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts. But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we're each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it's time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It's time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That's the honey. Savor it!

John didn't avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we'll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
(Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

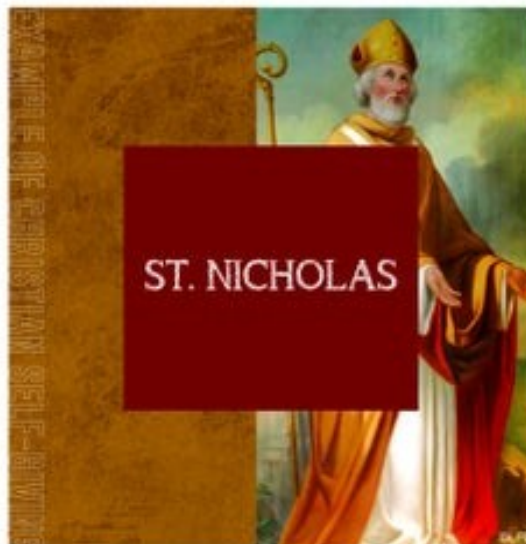
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Friday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent



Devotions, Explained!

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!
Bring your peace to our world.
Inspire reconciliation, heal
divisions, bind wounds,
rewrite scripts.
You are the Prince of Peace,
bring that light into every space.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/
Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next 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



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “locusts and wild honey” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

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— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

Prayer

Lord, teach me to be truly sorry when I do something wrong.

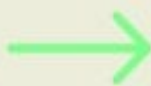
Mission for the Week

I pray that people thinking of doing evil will choose God's way instead.

Sharing the Gospel

Today you are with John the Baptist. He is wearing a camel skin coat and has a leather strap around his waist. He shares two grasshoppers and a little wild honey with you. He says, "Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will be here soon." You tell John, "I am very sorry for my sins. I am now obeying God's laws." Then John baptizes you in the Jordan River to make you ready for the kingdom of heaven.

Now color the picture!



Match John the Baptist to his right shadow.



MONDAY DECEMBER 8TH

Immaculate Conception of Mary

8:00 AM MASS, ENGLISH



IN LOVING MEMORY OF



Friar Aubrey McNeil OSM

FEBRUARY 16, 1945- DECEMBER 5, 2017

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in perfect peace, amen

Anniversary of his death

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

COME JOIN US

ST. MARY OF THE
ANGELS, ANDERSON

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19

5:00-7:00 PM

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

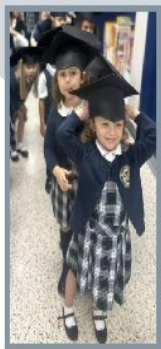
December 25 / Diciembre 25

10:00 am Bilingual Mass

St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Church
Anderson, SC

*Thank
you*

To all those who were able to
participate in our Parish Clean
Up Day. With your help all is
possible.



What We Offer

- PreK-8th grade – Now offering 3K!
- 3K tuition is less than the average cost of daycare!
- New Middle School Facility – 2026!
- Daily prayer and religious instruction
- Cognia Accredited and STEM Certified
- Special areas of study including STREAM, Art, Physical Education, Music/Choir, Spanish, and Latin
- The integration of hands-on learning experiences and technology to complement classroom instruction
- Discipline that focuses on individual responsibility and conflict resolution skills
- After school care until 5:30pm
- SC ESTF Provider
- Financial Aid available

St. Joseph Catholic School

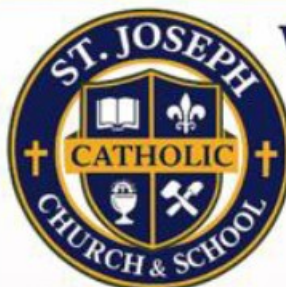
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

864-760-1619
www.sjccs.net



St. Joseph
Catholic School
3K-8th Grade

✦ Join Our Mission — *Educating for Eternity!* ✦



We're growing!

Our Catholic school family is seeking joyful, faith-filled educators who feel called to inspire young hearts.

Positions:

- Pre-K Teacher (Starting January)
- K3 Teacher (2026-2027 School Year)

✦ Become part of a community where faith, love, and learning flourish. Apply today!

✉ Email: Haymee.Giuliani@sjccs.net

✦ Become part of a community where faith, love, and learning flourish. Apply today!

Virtue • Academic Excellence • Discipleship





SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MAKE STRAIGHT **HIS PATHS.**

— MATTHEW 3:3 —

— SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 —

CLPI