



SAINT JAMES THE GREATER CATHOLIC CHURCH

🌿 *200th Anniversary Celebration* 🌿

September 12-13, 2026

Historic Parish Grounds,
3087 Ritter Road, Walterboro, SC



🌟 Celebrating 200 Years of Faith, Resilience & Legacy

Founded in **1826** by Irish plantation owners and enslaved African Americans, **Saint James the Greater** is a rare and remarkable example of a **rural African American Roman Catholic parish** that has remained intact for two centuries.

Our church, schoolhouse (built in 1897), and cemetery (dating to 1835) form a campus of deep spiritual and historical importance. Many of our parishioners today are descendants of those who worshipped here without a priest or church building for over 40 years — guided by the powerful leadership of **Vincent de Paul Davis**, a formerly enslaved catechist who kept the flame of Catholic faith alive.

🕯 Experience the Journey

Join us as we honor the **inspiring legacy of a community** that survived slavery, fought through segregation, and held tightly to their Catholic faith.

🎨 Anniversary Weekend Highlights

- **Live Historian Presentation** (with visuals):
"From Slavery to Sanctuary"
- **Church Chorus** featuring antebellum-era spirituals
- **Brick Dedication** for parish families
- **Community Cookout & Picnic**
- **Afternoon Anniversary Banquet**
- **Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

✝ "This is a story that must be told — and an experience of faith that must be felt."
— Saint James the Greater Catholic Church

🙏 ALL ARE WELCOME

Parishioners, descendants, neighboring churches, and community members are invited to join us for this historic celebration.



Anniversary Weekend Schedule



SATURDAY — HISTORICAL CELEBRATION DAY

September 12, 2026 | 11:00am – 4:00pm

11:00am – 11:30am

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Church History Intro & Events Overview

11:30am – 3:30pm

Guided Historical Tours

Church & Campus Tours

Gallery with Photos and Artifacts

Historical Presentations

11:30am – 3:00pm

Silent Auction (ongoing)

Bidding throughout the day (Parish Hall)

11:30am – 3:30pm

Keepsake & Souvenir Booth (ongoing)

200th Anniversary commemorative items

Historical booklets and apparel

3:00pm – 3:30pm

Silent Auction Winners Announced

3:45pm – 4:00pm

Closing Reflections & Prayer

Light Refreshments & Fellowship (Throughout the Day)



SUNDAY — ANNIVERSARY MASS & RECEPTION

September 13, 2026 | 12:30pm – 4:00pm

12:30pm – 2:00pm

200th Anniversary Mass

Recognition of past and present parish leadership

2:00pm – 2:30pm

Proclamation & Special Remarks

Presentation of Bicentennial Proclamation

Message from the Bishop

2:30pm – 4:00pm

Anniversary Reception — Parish Hall

Catered fellowship hosted by the Women's Club



Event Contact: Parish Council Chairman - Tyrus Roberts

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Walterboro, SC 29488

Pastor: Rev. Bruce Barnett

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina



Visit us online: <https://www.saintjamesthegreater.com/>