

# St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church

December 14, 2025

317 Broad Street (Corner Broad & Highmarket), Georgetown, SC 29440 \* Established 1899 \* Dedicated 1902



## A Church of the Diocese of Charleston

**Rev. Anthony Swamy, MSSCC**

*Parish Administrator*

**Rev. Deacon Michael Brescia**

**Charlotte Skipper**

*Parish Secretary*

**Cecilia Carlton**

*Director of Religious Education*

**Kathy Adams**

*Hispanic Ministries Coordinator*

**Email:** stmarygeorgetown@charlestondiocese.org

**Website:** www.stmaryourladyofransom.org

**Facebook:** St Mary Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church

### Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM / 10:00 AM / 1:00 PM (Spanish)  
Monday: 8:00 AM  
Tuesday: No Mass  
Wednesday: 5:30 PM and Adoration 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Thursday & Friday: 8:00 AM  
Saturday: 5:00 PM  
Confessions: Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 PM  
Sunday 12:15 - 12:45 PM (or by appt.)

### Parish Organizations

#### **Pastoral Council:**

Bob McMahan

#### **Hispanic Ministry Council:**

Max Angeles

#### **Finance Council:**

Mary Lee

#### **Buildings and Grounds Task Force:**

Phil Lazzari

#### **Organist/Choir Director:**

Edwin Hopkins

Choir Practice: Sunday 9:15 AM

#### **Altar Society:**

Amy Wagner, President

Suzanne Frazier, Vice-President

#### **Lazarus Committee:**

Diane Macedo

Neena McMahan

#### **Knights of Columbus:**

Dwight Frazier

#### **Office Hours:**

**Monday 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

**Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

**Phone: 843-546-7416**

**Fax: 843-546-7003**

## VIA FIDELIS

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# 2025

### Evangelization

Proclaiming the Good News should be at the forefront of our hearts and minds and especially in sharing our faith with others.

For more information:

<https://charlestondiocese.org/via-fidelis-home/>



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

December 14, 2025

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 13, 5:00 PM  
† Edward Kruk  
By Diane Stamm

Sunday, December 14, 8:00 AM  
† Rosa Bassett  
By Paul & Jeanette Duncan

Sunday, December 14, 10:00 AM  
† Michelle O'Brien  
By Patrick & Renee O'Brien

Sunday, December 14, 1:00 PM  
People of the Parish

Monday, December 15, 12:00 PM  
† Cheryl DeSmet  
By Mike & Donna Saguto

Tuesday, December 16  
**No Mass**

Wednesday, December 17, 5:30 PM  
† Darrell Denault  
By Patrick & Renee O'Brien

Thursday, December 11, 8:00 AM  
† James and Mary Cox  
By Danny Tursi

Friday, December 19, 12:00 PM  
† Rita Benson  
By Mike & Donna Saguto

Saturday, December 20, 5:00 PM  
For her God-Children  
By Anne Starnes

Sunday, December 21, 8:00 AM  
† John Kabas and Theresa Chandler  
By Paul & Jeanette Duncan

Sunday, December 21, 10:00 AM  
† Helen and Red Walsh  
By Trudy Walsh

Sunday, December 21, 1:00 PM  
People of the Parish



**Pray for the homebound, those in healthcare centers, and those who need your continuous thoughts and prayers:**

Betty Barr, James A. Harrelson Sr and Louise Ullman.

**Pray for the speedy, or continued, recovery of:**

Ed Wozniak, Jim Lauro, Fred Fisher, Tom Lusby, Sigrid Smith, London Gomez, Cheyanne Gomez, Maria Handy, Diane Maslowski, Ann Boone, Mandy Moore, Barbara Natoli, Sharon Jordan, Jill Saporito, Stephanie Marsh Johnston, Brandi Gunter, Betty Chrismon, Helena Blackowitz, Bill Fowler, Brian L. Brodzik, Mary Cavalieri, Andy Crocker, Chet Maslowski, Cecilia McGee, Sandy Peterson, Fr. Dan Carson, Ann Wilson, Maura Duggan and Scott Stecz.

**Pray for those in our Military:**

Nathan Greene, Brandon Parker, Joseph Fairfield, J. Thomas Joseph, Jason A. Schroeder, Tirik Drayton, Jay Rivers, Brian Eduardo Vazquez, Matthew Mathis, Alexis Martinez Bermudez, Paloma Martinez Bermudez, Ricky Rogerson, Myles Starnes, Julio Madrigal Martinez and Ivan Morales.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 14  
Monday, December 15  
Tuesday, December 16  
Wednesday, December 24  
Thursday, December 25  
Thursday, December 25  
Friday, December 26  
Friday, December 26

Knights of Columbus Christmas Party at 6:00PM - Parish Hall  
Columbarium Meeting 9:00 AM  
Altar Society Luncheon 12:00 Noon - Parish Hall  
Office Closes at 12:00 Noon  
Office Closed  
Christmas Mass 10:00AM Bilingual, 1:00PM Spanish  
Office Closed  
No Mass

## Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

### 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 ©LPI



## Knights Corner

"Holy Family Light Our Way in Love and Charity"

The Thanksgiving for Those in Need was a success. We delivered 397 turkey dinners to residents throughout Georgetown County, making their Thanksgiving a little brighter.

Our annual council Christmas party will be held on Sunday, December 14th at the parish hall. As in the past, we will also have a Secret Santa gift swap for those who want to participate.

As always, Mike Allen who is our District Field Agent, is available to answer any questions a brother Knight may have concerning the Knights of Columbus insurance and financial products. You can contact Mike Allen at 803-397-7803 or mallen1072@aol.com

*Congratulations to Luis David Elias Reyes and Zuleima Santos Yanez on the Baptism of their son, Liam Elias Santos on November 28, 2025.*

## Parish Support

The offertory collection for November 29th and 30th was \$6,815.83 **This includes \$1,143.00 from online giving.** This is \$115.83 over our weekly goal of \$6,700.00.

## Advent Penance Services Myrtle Beach Deanery

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Tuesday<br>December 16   | St Michael<br>Murrells Inlet<br>5:00—7:00PM Bilingual         |
| Wednesday<br>December 17 | Our Lady Star of the Sea<br>N Myrtle Beach<br>11:00AM English |
| Thursday<br>December 18  | Precious Blood of Christ<br>Pawleys Island<br>6:00PM English  |

**The Benefits of Membership** • Active membership is determined by regular attendance at Mass, regular use of your envelope to support the Parish, and having a registration form on file for at least six months. Various facilities and services are available to active members. Requests for envelopes should be accompanied by a registration form, which are available in the Parish Office or by calling the Parish secretary at 843-546-7416.

## Attention All Volunteers!

Please make sure to complete all Safe Environment requirements in order to be in compliance with the Diocese. If you have any interactions with children or vulnerable adults which include any person over the age of 18 whose ability to perform normal activities of daily living is impaired due to a mental, emotional, long-term physical or developmental disability or dysfunction, brain damage, or the infirmities of aging.

## Third Sunday of Advent



### Weekly Readings

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10  
Mt 11:2-11  
**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Mt 21:23-27  
**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32  
**Wednesday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17  
**Thursday:** Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25  
**Friday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25  
**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38  
**Next Sunday:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7  
Mt 1:18-24

## Liturgical Roles

| <b>December 20<br/>Saturday<br/>5:00 PM</b>                         | <b>December 21<br/>Sunday<br/>8:00 AM</b>         | <b>December 21<br/>Sunday<br/>10:00 AM</b>        |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Lector:</b><br>P Ness  | B Clark   | T Howard  |
| <b>Ushers:</b><br>P Wolfe<br>P Medved                               | T Clarke<br>B Roberts<br>C Bryant                 | J Tupacz<br>C Carrasco<br>B Kwarteng<br>C Lindler |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:</b>                   |   |   |
| A Starnes<br>A Wagner   | B/N McMahan<br>B Pittman                          | M/L Walsh<br>G Swierk                             |
| <b>Altar Servers:</b><br>B Mathis                                   | C Humphries                                       | P Lux<br>L Lux<br>A Angeles                       |
| <b>Altar Care:</b><br>M Roberts                                     | D Stamm   | L Ortiz<br>L Hernandez<br>M Huerta                |
| <b>December 24<br/>Christmas Eve<br/>4:00 PM</b>                    | <b>December 24<br/>Christmas Eve<br/>10:00 PM</b> |   |
| <b>Lector:</b><br>N McMahan   | Volunteer   |   |
| <b>Ushers:</b><br>J Blevins   | Volunteer   |   |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:</b>                   |   |   |
| T Howard<br>M Pucheta   | M Lee<br>B Mathis<br>G Swierk                     |   |
| <b>Altar Servers:</b><br>B McMahan<br>C Velasquez<br>Y Perez        | M Carlton   |   |
| <b>Altar Care:</b><br>L Ortiz<br>L Hernandez<br>M Huerta            | Volunteer   |   |
| <b>December 25<br/>Christmas Day<br/>10:00 AM</b>                   | <b>December 25<br/>Christmas Day<br/>1:00 PM</b>  |   |
| <b>Lector:</b><br>C Carrasco  | Volunteer   |   |
| <b>Ushers:</b><br>T McManus<br>E Kimbrough<br>B Yacavino<br>H Moore | Volunteer   |   |
| <b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:</b>                   |   |   |
| P Lareau<br>D Stamm   | Volunteer<br>Volunteer                            |   |
| <b>Altar Servers:</b><br>B Mathis                                   | D Ramos<br>R Angeles<br>C Hernandez               |   |
| <b>Altar Care:</b><br>Volunteer                                     | L Ortiz<br>L Hernandez<br>M Huerta                |   |

**If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please remember to find a substitute.**

## PARISH EVENTS



**Mass Intentions** may be arranged by calling the Parish Office at 843-546-7416.



**To Dedicate Flowers for the Altar for 2025** please contact the Parish Office to confirm names and dates.

### Gospel Study Group

The Gospel Study Group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the parish hall classroom. All are welcome to join in a discussion of the readings for the coming Sunday. Bring your Lector Wookbook, Bible or Word Among Us to follow along.

### St. Mary's Altar Society

St. Mary's Altar Society meets from September thru May on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall. All ladies of the parish are invited to become active members. Please join us for a meeting to see if you would like to help with Altar care or linen laundry.

### St. Mary's Rosary Group

St. Mary's Rosary group meets each Tuesday at 1:15 PM in the church to pray for special intentions and needs of family and friends. All are welcome (men and women) to come and pray the rosary together.

### Communion to the Homebound

Please let us know if you or your loved one are confined to your home or are recovering from surgery and are now at home and unable to attend Mass. Please call the parish office at 843-546-7416 and we will be happy to find someone to bring communion to you.

### Religious Education

#### World Youth Day 2027 - Seoul, South Korea

Preparations for World Youth Day, taking place in August 2027, are now underway. To help us gauge interest, please contact Cecilia Carlton if you are considering attending. An informational meeting will be held in early January, but please do not wait until then to let us know of your interest.

### Everyday Stewardship

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

#### The Season That Gives Back

I don't have anything left to give.

You can't pour from an empty cup.

All I do is give. Who is giving to me?

Raise your hand if these thoughts have ever run through your head. I'm sure they occur to all of us from time to time. We can become so easily depleted by the fast pace of life and whatever vocation God has called us to, whether that's parenthood, a demanding professional career or the caretaking of friends and family (or as so often happens, a hybrid of all three). Many of us also undergo certain seasons — seasons of the year, but also seasons of life — that seem to sap us of energy and leave us totally empty.

In these times, it seems impossible to continue in the spirituality of Everyday Stewardship. Graciousness, mindfulness, prayerfulness, gratitude, accountability — maintaining some semblance of these characteristics in our daily life feels not only overly optimistic, but totally impossible.

The Church gives us certain liturgical seasons that are meant to fill us up, almost like spiritual pit stops. Advent is one such season, and the Scriptural passages we reflect on at Mass during these four weeks are filled with images of nature defied. We see the dry steppe blooming. We see the weak made firm. We see the frightened made strong. We see the lame walk. We see the Virgin give birth.

If you think you don't have anything left to give this Advent, think again. This is the season of miracles when what we thought was depleted brings new life.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



**ST MARY'S ANGEL TREE**  
Our Parish's Advent Outreach



This advent season our parish is teaming up with Cross Catholic Outreach to help build homes for deeply impoverished families in Guatemala. Your generosity can give children the opportunity to overcome poverty in the communities by empowering local Catholic leaders to build homes in rural villages.