

St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom

Catholic Church

January 4, 2026

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

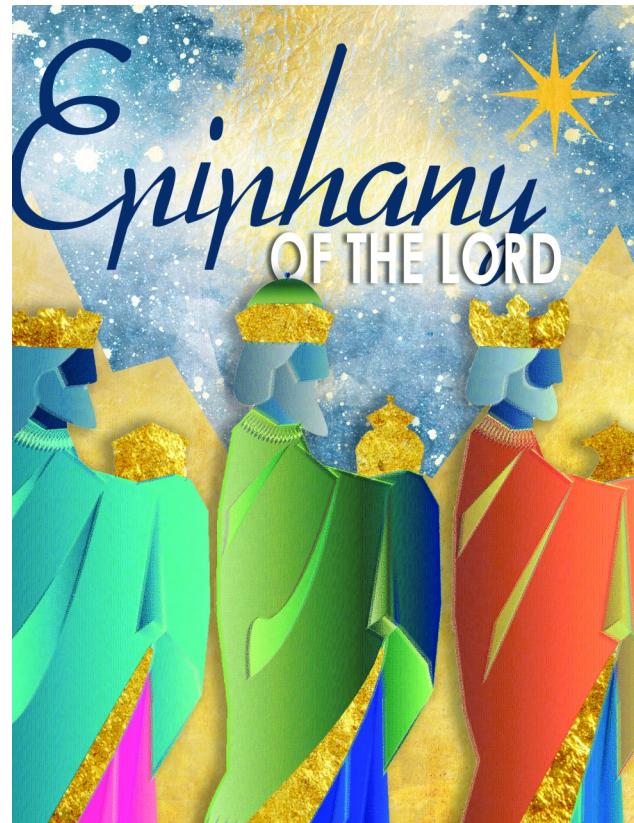
VIA FIDELIS

2

2026
Catechesis

Grow deeper in the knowledge of our Church's teachings
to discover how we can be more like Christ.

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



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

January 4, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 3, 5:00 PM
†Leon Wojciechoski
By Mary Lou Leonard

Sunday, January 4, 8:00 AM
†Jeffrey Kravitz
By Frank & Suzanne Brecka

Sunday, January 4, 10:00 AM
†Barbara O'Brien
By Patrick & Renee O'Brien

Sunday, January 4, 1:00 PM
People of the Parish

Monday, January 5, 8:00 AM
†Donald DePorter
By Mike & Donna Saguto

Tuesday, January 6
No Mass

Wednesday, January 7, 5:30 PM
†Carl Schneider
Patrick & Renee O'Brien

Thursday, January 8, 8:00 AM
†Laura Schneider
Patrick & Renee O'Brien

Friday, January 9, 8:00 AM
†Doris Cordrey
Mike & Donna Saguto

Saturday, January 10, 5:00 PM
†Oliver Fiedler
By Gina Henry

Sunday, January 11, 8:00 AM
†Lynn Smith
Bob & Neena McMahan

Sunday, January 11, 10:00 AM
†Frank O'Brien III
By Patrick & Renee O'Brien

Sunday, January 11, 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 Saparito, 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, Scott Stecz and Maura Duggan.



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

Monday, January 12

Columbarium Meeting 9:00AM

Monday, January 12

Building and Grounds Meeting at 5:00PM

Saturday, January 17

Two by Two Evangelization Rally, Columbia, SC

Monday, January 19

Priest Convocation—Fr Anthony Out after Mass

Tuesday, January 20

No Mass

Wednesday, January 21

No Mass

Thursday, January 22

Fr Anthony returns, Mass at 8:00AM

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Matthew 2:1-12

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

Father John Muir ©LPi



Knights Corner

"Holy Family Light Our Way in Love and Charity"

The Council's January business meeting will be held on Thursday January 8th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM followed by the lecture. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. All Knights are encouraged to attend.

We encourage men of the parish that are not already Knights, to become a Knight of Columbus. You will find that becoming part of an organization that is based on Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism, and being a good Catholic gentleman is very fulfilling. If you are interested in becoming a Knight, you can contact Grand Knight Dwight Frazier at 609-351-4422, or any member of our council.

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

A Promise to Protect, A Pledge to Heal

Our goal at St Mary remains that the Parish be aware of and support the Safe Environment we seek to foster.

To Report Abuse

The Diocese of Charleston treats all allegations of sexual misconduct seriously and deals with all allegations in a prompt, confidential thorough manner. To Report Abuse, call Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Louisa Storen, LISW at 843-856-0748 or 800-921-8122.

Sign Up For Online Giving

Visit our parish website www.stmaryourladyofransom.org, select "Parish Life," and then "Online Giving". Click on the Online Giving Give Your Gift Today box to set up your account.

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.

Parish Support

The offertory collection for December 20th and 21st was \$12,019.00. **This includes \$4,973.00 from online giving.** This is \$5,319.00 over our weekly goal of \$6,700.00.

Because of the holiday printing schedule, the collection amount for last weekend was unavailable at the time the bulletin was sent to the printing company.



Courage International, a Catholic apostolate and support group serving men and women who experience same-sex attractions, who freely choose to live a chaste life in accordance with Roman Catholic Church teaching will be meeting soon.

For more information, please contact Bill at 201-849-5409.

The Epiphany of the Lord



Weekly Readings

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-1
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a
Tuesday:	Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Mt 3:13-1

Liturgical Roles

January 10 Saturday 5:00 PM	January 11 Sunday 8:00 AM	January 11 Sunday 10:00 AM
Lector: M Roberts	L Altman	J Pizzi
Ushers: J Blevins	T Clarke J Joseph T/D Corvelli	T McManus E Kimbrough B Yacavino H Moore
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: A Starnes A Wagner	B/MJ Clark D Stamm	T Howard J Pizzi D Wright
Altar Servers: M Carlton	B McMahan	D Angeles A Angeles R Angeles
Altar Care: D Macedo	C Humphries	L Ortiz L Hernandez M Huerta
<u>If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please remember to find a substitute.</u>		

Congratulations to Roberto Sanchez Munoz and Sarahi Olgun Santos on the Baptism of their daughter, Valentina Sanchez Santos on December 13, 2025.

Devotions, Explained!

Epiphany Blessing, Explained

The Epiphany household blessing is a centuries-old tradition that invokes God's blessing on all who enter one's home.

All you need for an Epiphany blessing is chalk, which is usually made available by parishes either on the feast of the Epiphany or in the weeks leading up to it. There are a few different formulas for blessings out there, but the essence of the ritual is always the same: a priest or the head of the household calls down God's blessing on the house and everyone who comes into it, and an inscription is made above the door in chalk.

The inscription reads: the first two digits of the year + C + M + B + the last two digits of the year. The initials C, M and B represent the names of the magi — Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar — and also signify the Latin phrase Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house."

©LPi

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.

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 Workbook, 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

Thank you to all who participated with our students in caroling at The Landings at Georgetown Senior Facility on Sunday, December 20th. The residents were delighted to see and hear the children perform, and their appreciation was evident throughout the visit. In the evening of the same day, our high school students gathered for a prayer meeting, offering prayers for the intentions listed in the prayer book in the Narthex, as well as their own personal intentions. Thank you for allowing us to pray for you. Following the prayer meeting, the students enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship at 810 Entertainment Center as part of their holiday celebration.

Our Prayer This New Year

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

Practicing Catholic – Beneath The Surface

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPi

The Stars We Follow

Everyone follows a star.

It is human nature to seek. If we are rich, we want to be richer. If we are smart, we want to be smarter. If we are powerful, we want to be more powerful.

We cannot stay in one place, so to speak — to say, "I am what I am, I have what I have, and it is enough." Even the very act of maintaining a status quo, be it health or wealth or spiritual goodness, requires action. It requires effort. It requires movement. This is human nature. There is nothing wrong with it. When we stop seeking, we die.

But what are we looking for? Where are we going?

I often wonder if the Magi knew what they were seeking — really, truly knew. They were seeking "the newborn king of the Jews," yes, but did they understand who he was? What he was? I don't see how they could have. They were wise men, but they were not prophets. They simply knew this was an endeavor they had to undertake. They knew it in their souls.

There really is very little that we know for certain about the Magi. We don't know how many of them there were. We don't know their religion. We don't know where they came from. All we know for certain is that they listened to a voice they heard deep within themselves. And, hearing that voice, they went forth.

And what did they find? They found what we all seek, even if, foolishly, we seek it in riches or power.

They found the face of the Child.

So tell me this. Of all the stars you could follow, which one does the voice — that one deep within you — tell you to chase?

Point to it. And go forth.