

St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church

January 18, 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

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM / 10:00 AM / 1:00 PM (Spanish)
Monday: 8:00 AM
Tuesday: No Mass
Wednesday: No Mass Wednesday, January 21, 2026
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

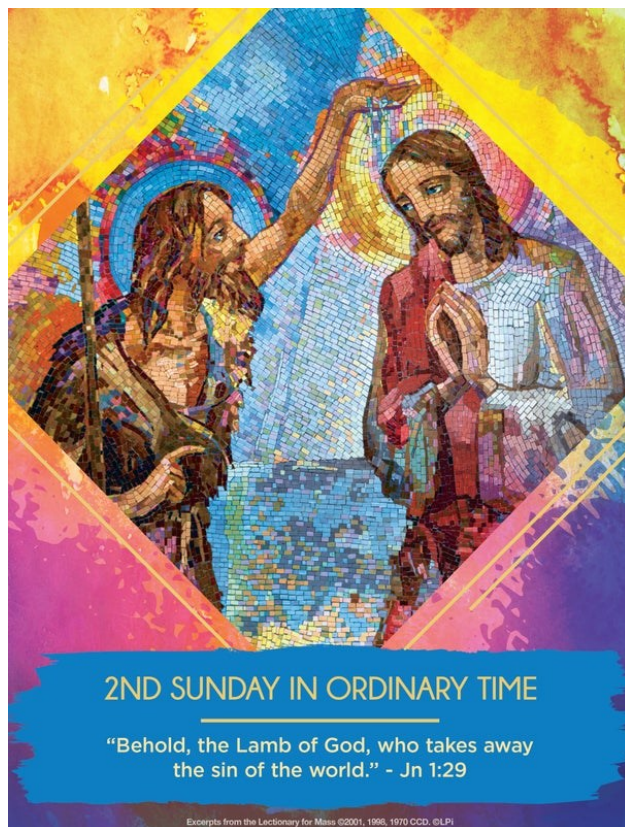
2

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/>



January 18, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 17, 5:00 PM

†Peggy Sheehan
By Mary Sheehan

Sunday, January 18, 8:00 AM

†James Courtney
By Bob & Neena McMahan

Sunday, January 18, 10:00 AM

Thomas J. Howard, Jr & Family
By Claudia Howard

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 PM

People of the Parish

Monday, January 19, 8:00 AM

Fr Anthony Swamy
By Cecilia Carlton

Tuesday, January 20

No Mass

Wednesday, January 21

No Mass

Thursday, January 22, 8:00 AM

†Steve Bulgajewski
By Bill Markunas

Friday, January 23, 8:00 AM

Kathy Adams
By Cecilia Carlton

Saturday, January 24, 5:00 PM

†Michael Linder & †Robert Schaefer
By Michelle Linder

Sunday, January 25, 8:00 AM

Our Fifty-First Wedding Anniversary
By Bob & Neena McMahan

Sunday, January 25, 10:00 AM

†J. Thomas Davidson, MD
By Tom & Mary Mcmanus

Sunday, January 25, 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, Maura Duggan and Jeff Johnson.

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

Priest Convocation—Fr Anthony Out after Mass

Church Office Closed

No Mass

Altar Society Meeting at 10:00AM

No Mass

Fr Anthony returns, Mass at 8:00AM

Plating Grace Meeting at 10:00AM

Hispanic Ministries Meeting at 7:00PM

Escuela De La Fe Graduate Recognition at 1:00PM Mass

Plating Grace Luncheon 12 -2:00PM

Parish Dinner Dance at 6:15PM

Finance Council Meeting 5:00PM

Knights of Columbus Pancake Supper 6-7:00PM

Pastoral Council Meeting 6:00PM

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

John 1:29-34

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

Father John Muir



Knights Corner

"Holy Family Light Our Way in Love and Charity"

Council 3067 will host a breakfast on Sunday, February 1st from 9:00 AM - 11:30 am. Donations will be accepted to support two seminarians that are sponsored by our council. The breakfast includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, and french toast. We hope to see many parishioners attend.

The Knights of Columbus has initiated a faith program for men. The program is called COR. Cor is a flexible framework of prayer, formation and fraternity that helps focus men on Jesus through building Christ-centered brotherhood. Men do not need to be a Knight of Columbus to participate. Council 3067 is implementing the COR program at St. Mary our Lady of Ransom. The first COR meeting is scheduled for January 29th at 6:00 PM at the Parish Life Center. The topic of this meeting will be the history of the rosary.

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

*Congratulations to Hugo Santos Trejo and Abigail Torres on the Baptism of their daughters,
Alessia Santos and Selena Santos
December 27, 2025.*

Parish Support

The combined offertory collection for January 1st, 3rd and 4th was \$11,228.65 **This includes \$2,808.00 from online giving.** This is \$4,528.65 over our weekly goal of \$6,700.00.

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

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

Join us for our next Plating Grace Luncheon on **Wednesday, February 4, at 12 PM** as we celebrate the theme: **Seasons of Life Through Mary's Eyes**. Enjoy a meal, Scripture reflections, and uplifting fellowship for everyone. Let us know if you'll be attending so we can reserve a special place just for you! To RSVP, please **call or text Joyce Fick at 843-359-8613** on or before **Monday, February 2nd**.

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Weekly Readings

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6 Ps 40:2, 4-10 1 Cor 1:1-3
Jn 1:29-34

Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23
Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20-22, 27-28
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51
Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10 Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3, 9-13
Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21 Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11 Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27
Ps 80:2-3, 5-7 Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Liturgical Roles

January 24 Saturday 5:00 PM	January 25 Sunday 8:00 AM	January 25 Sunday 10:00 AM
Lector: M Roberts	E Teller	C Howard
Ushers: J Blevins	T Clarke B Roberts C Bryant	J Tupacz C Carrasco B Kwarteng C Lindner
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Altar Servers: M Carlton	N Giesler	F Morales L Mezquite A Angeles
Altar Care: C Ramsey	MJ Clark	L Ortiz L Hernandez M Huerta
If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please remember to find a substitute.		

In the interest of protecting the health of our parishioners during flu season, we will not be offering the Blood of Christ at Communion.

Devotions, Explained!

Peace, Explained!

Peace. There may be no other word in the English language, writes Msgr. Stuart Swetland in Catholic Answers, "more susceptible to sloganeering, and thus misunderstanding." But what is peace, in the context of Catholic virtue?

The peace of God, writes Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, "surpasses all understanding." (Phil. 4:7) Peace is both a fruit of charity (CCC 1829) and a fruit of the Spirit (CCC 1832). Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of shalom, or wholeness, and it refers not just to an absence of violence (mandated by the fifth commandment) but to a personal reconciliation with one's Creator. Peace is a spiritual effect of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1496).

Our search for interior peace in our hearts parallels the historic struggle of mankind to realize peace in the world by practicing justice. "When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters," said Pope Benedict, "we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love." ©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 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



St. Mary's 4th annual Dinner and DANCE
Saturday February 7th at 6:15 PM
Enjoy a Full Course Dinner, Music, Dancing and a Good Time!
Includes: Appetizers, Salad, Main Course, and Dessert
Tickets are \$65/couple and \$35/Individual



The Diocesan 35th Annual High School Youth Conference will be March 6-8, 2026, at the Columbia Convention Center. The theme is "I Believe!", and the conference will be celebrated by Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, with feature keynote speakers Mari Pablo and Tanner Kalina, and music by Abraham Salas. Registration is \$150 through February 1st. After February 1st, the cost increases to \$200. Registration closes on February 5th, and late registrants will not receive a T-shirt. Please contact Cecilia

Our community of faith extends their deepest sympathy to the family of James Courtney who passed away on Monday, January 5th. Please keep Randy, Diane and the Courtney family in your prayers May his soul rest in peace.

Everyday Stewardship

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Play That One Again

How many times have you sung the church song, "Here I Am, Lord"? If you grew up Catholic and are around my age (still 50!), the answer is more than you can count. The song that quotes various verses of Scripture is sung using guitar, piano, or organ, by cantors and choirs, in traditional and modern churches. It is truly a Catholic greatest hit of the modern Church. The question is how many times when singing the refrain have you really taken to heart what you were singing.

"Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night." Like the biblical figure Samuel, we are responding to the call of God by asking for clarification that we are indeed the one being called. We then follow up the question with a profound statement: "I will go if You lead me." It is profound because we are pledging to our God that we are willing to go wherever He wants. We are accepting the challenge put forth in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response," to become mature disciples who respond to the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We have sung this pledge repeatedly for many years.

We never have any idea what God will call us to do and where to go. Sometimes the request can ask us for quite a lot. Hopefully, we respond like a mature disciple. If not, maybe we should reflect more the next time this song is played. The melody will not allow for the words, "I will see if I am busy and then decide to go if you lead me." Then again, I don't want to sing that to God, the source of all life anyway. Do you?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPI



CONGRATULATIONS
Hector Angeles Cruz and Patricia Comunidad Hernandez
United in marriage on December 20, 2025.

