

St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church

February 1, 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: 8:00 AM Feast day of St. Blaise
Blessing of the Throats
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

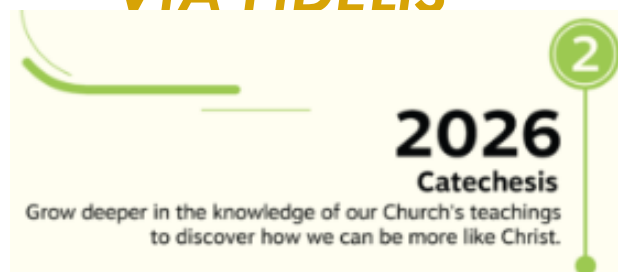
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Phone: 843-546-7416

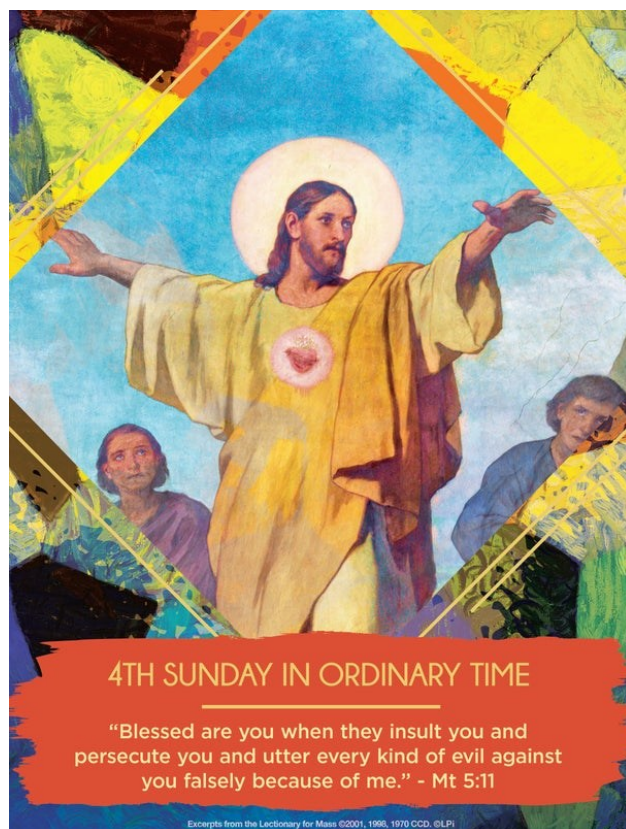
Fax: 843-546-7003

VIA FIDELIS



For more information:

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



February 1, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 31, 5:00 PM
†Diana Davis
By the Kiluk Family

Sunday, February 1, 8:00 AM

Sunday, February 1, 10:00 AM
Maura Duggan
By Mary Flynn

Sunday, February 1, 1:00 PM
People of the Parish

Monday, February 2, 8:00 AM
†Marianna and †Francis Wawer
By Barbara Mika

Tuesday, February 3, 8:00 AM
Feast Day of St. Blaise
Blessing of the Throats

Wednesday, February 4, 5:30 PM
†John Ross
By Grace Swierk

Thursday, February 5, 8:00 AM
†James Courtney
By Bob & Mary Roberts

Friday, February 6, 8:00 AM

Saturday, February 7, 5:00 PM
†John Howard, Sr.
By Claudia Howard

Sunday, February 8, 8:00 AM
†James Courtney
By Grace Swierk

Sunday, February 8, 10:00 AM
Carol & Bernie Wesolowski
By Matt & Carolyn Wesolowski

Sunday, February 8, 1:00 PM
People of the Parish

Parish Support

The combined offertory collection for January 17th and 18th was \$8,220.25 **This includes \$1,193.00 from online giving.** This is \$1,520.25 over our weekly goal of \$6,700.00.

The combined offertory collection for January 24th and 25th was \$5,514.00 **This includes \$793.00 from online giving.** This is \$1,186.00 under our weekly goal of \$6,700.00.

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.

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.



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, Scott Stecz, Jeff Johnson 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

Feast of St Blaise, Blessing of the Throats, 8:00 AM Mass
Plating Grace Luncheon 12-2:00PM
Parish Dinner Dance 6:15PM
Finance Council Meeting 5:00PM
Knights of Columbus Pancake Supper 6-7:00PM
Red Cross Blood Drive, Parish Hall 11:00AM-7:00PM
Ash Wednesday Masses 12:00PM English 7:00PM Spanish
Building & Grounds Meeting at 5:00PM

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12a

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad"** (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

Father John Muir ©LPI



Knights Corner

"Holy Family Light Our Way in Love and Charity"

Council 3067 is hosting breakfast Sunday, February 1st from 9:00-11:00AM. Donations are being accepted to support two seminarians that are being sponsored by our council. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and French toast. We hope to see many parishioners attend.

The parish is hosting a "Fat Tuesday" pancake and egg dinner on Monday, February 16th from 5:00-7:00PM. We are having the dinner on Monday rather than Tuesday as the Red Cross Blood Drive will be utilizing the hall on Tuesday.

Council 3067 is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, February 17th from 1:00-6:00PM at St Mary Our Lady of Ransom Parish Life Center. If you are able to donate blood, please register on the Red Cross website or contact Jim Lauro at 610-513-2869.

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.

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 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Weekly Readings

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 Ps 146:6-10
1 Cor 1:26-31 Mt 5:1-12a

Monday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3
Ps 86:1-6 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 1 Chr 29:10-12
Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10 Ps 112:4-9 1 Cor 2:1-5
Mt 5:13-16

Liturgical Roles

February 7 Saturday 5:00 PM	February 8 Sunday 8:00 AM	February 8 Sunday 10:00 AM
Lector: L Goldbach	R Humphries	T Howard
Ushers: J Blevins	T Clarke N Giesler T/D Corvelli	M/S Edwards G Martinez J Martinez
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: M Lee K Macedo	B/MJ Clark D Stamm	T Howard J Pizzi D Wright
Altar Servers: B Mathis	C Humphries	P Lux L Lux
Altar Care: C Ramsey	MJ Clark	Assigned Extraordinary Ministers
<u>If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please remember to find a substitute.</u>		

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!

St. Blaise Blessing of the Throat, Explained

Perhaps it's an example of divine providence that the feast of St. Blaise falls on Feb. 3 — right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a layperson. During the blessing, the minister takes two candles that were blessed on the feast of the Presentation and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness." A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross.

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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



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.

Our community of faith extends their deepest sympathy to the family of Matthew Heiler who passed away on Saturday, January 10, 2026. Please keep Grace Swierk and the Heiler and Swierk families in your prayers. May his soul rest in peace.

Religious Education

Jesus is our savior, our redeemer, our Lord, and our God. Our belief in Jesus is what makes us who we are as Catholics, as Christians, but do we really know Him as we should? Is Jesus a part of your life, or is he at the center of your life as he should be? We invite you to make him the center of your life by joining us for Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life, a 10-week video study program that explores the entirety of Jesus' life and what he means for us as Catholics today. St. Mary's will begin the Jesus study on February 16th at 5:30pm. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Edward Sri, followed by a lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to register, contact Cecilia Carlton. We hope you can join us!

Food Lion cards are back! The Knights of Columbus will be supplying \$50 Food Lion cards with the proceeds going to the World Youth event. It's easy and it does not cost you any addition costs. Purchase a Food Lion card from one of the World Youth participants for \$50. The card is worth \$50 but after you make your purchase, Food Lion will give back a small percentage to be credited to our fund-raising efforts.

The Diocesan Youth Conference for Highschoolers (DYC) will be March 6-8th and the theme for this year is "I Believe!" Our keynote speakers will be Mari Pablo and Tanner Kalina, and our featured musician will be Abraham Salas. The cost is \$150 per student and the deadline for registering is **February 1st, 2026**. Please see Cecilia Carlton for more information.

Everyday Stewardship

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Countercultural Then and Now

Sometimes I wonder what this world will look like when my children get to be my age. Everything seems to be changing so rapidly and much of that change doesn't seem to be for the good. I do think in some ways the Church is experiencing resurgence and a strengthening, but it will have to be in the face of an increasing culture of atheism and selfishness.

Of course, I bet my parents wondered the same thing when I was a child. As much as things change, they remain the same. When Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, I would guess some parents there were having the same kind of worries. But Jesus proposed a way of life in the beatitudes that was countercultural then and is countercultural now.

In his book, Life of Christ, Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, eternally speaking.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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