

# St. Mary Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Church

February 8, 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](mailto:stmarygeorgetown@charlestondiocese.org)

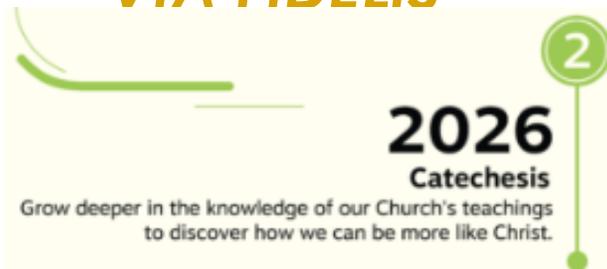
**Website:** [www.stmaryourladyofransom.org](http://www.stmaryourladyofransom.org)

**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.)*

## VIA FIDELIS



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:**

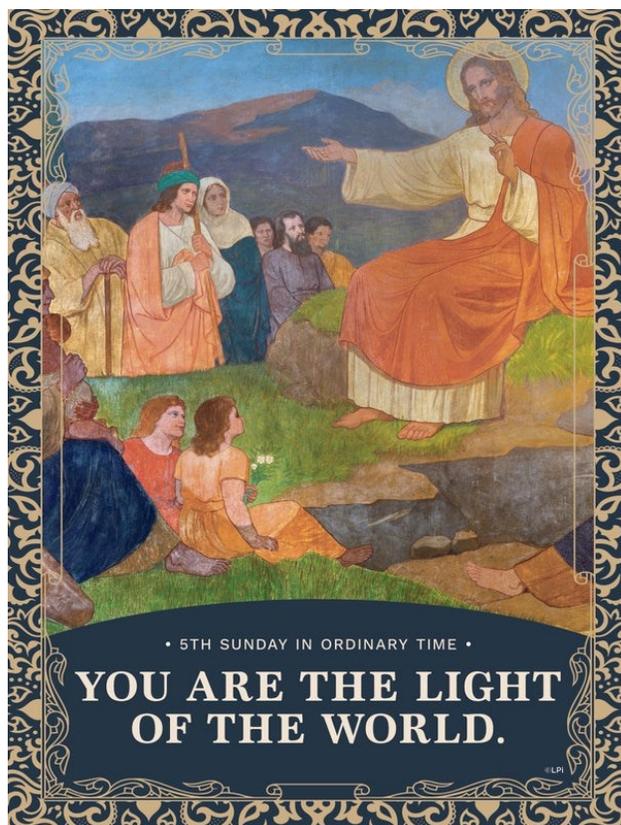
**Monday 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**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**



**MASS INTENTIONS**

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 Weslowski  
 By Matt & Carolyn Weslowski

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

Monday, February 9, 8:00 AM  
 †Larry Lambert  
 Jim & Peggy Hughes

Tuesday, February 10  
**No Mass**

Wednesday, February 11, 5:30 PM

Thursday, February 12, 8:00 AM

Friday, February 13, 8:00 AM  
 †Matthew Heiler  
 By Grace Swierk

Saturday, February 14, 5:00 PM  
 †Innocent Victims,  
 American Citizens and Immigrants,  
 Of ICE Campaigns in America  
 By Jim Dumm

Sunday, February 15, 8:00 AM  
 †John (Pat) Wiley  
 By Mary Lou Leonard

Sunday, February 15, 10:00 AM  
 †Donald Williams  
 By Matt & Carolyn Wesolowski

Sunday, February 15, 1:00 PM  
 People of the Parish

**Parish Support**

The combined offertory collection for February 1st and 2nd was \$4,805.00 **This includes \$1,768.00 from online giving.** This is \$1,895.00 under our weekly goal of \$6,700.00.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held in English every Friday morning after the 8:00AM Mass.

Bilingual Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening at 6:30PM.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a "Soup and Bread Supper" in the Parish Hall immediately after the evening Stations of the Cross.

Sign up sheets to provide soup, bread or drinks are located in the Narthex. Please join us!



**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, Jeff Johnson, Maura Duggan, Thomas Clark and Carlos Carrasco.



**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, February 9  
 Monday, February 16  
 Tuesday, February 17  
 Wednesday, February 18  
 Thursday, February 19  
 Friday, February 20

Monday, February 23

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  
 Stations of the Cross after 8:00AM Mass in English  
 Bilingual Stations of the Cross at 6:30PM  
 Followed by Lenten Soup Meal  
 Pastoral Council Meeting at 6:00PM

**Gospel Meditation**

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

**Matthew 5:13-16**

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).**

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

Father John Muir ©LPI



**Knights Corner**

"Holy Family Light Our Way in Love and Charity"

The parish is hosting a "Fat Tuesday" pancake and egg dinner on Monday February 16th from 5:00 -7:00 PM. 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 - 6:00 PM 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.

The annual free throw competition will be held this Sunday, February 8th at 2:00 PM in the Courtyard at St Mary's Catholic Church. Boys and girls ages 9-14 are encouraged to participate. Children do not need to be parishioners to participate in the challenge.

The Council monthly business meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th. Dinner and a lecture will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by the business meeting. All council members are encouraged to attend.

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

**LENTE DISCIPLINES OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE**

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

©LPI

# The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Weekly Readings

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

**Monday:** 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Ps 132:6-10 Mk 6:53-56

**Tuesday:** 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Ps 84:3-5, 10-11  
Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday:** 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40  
Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40  
Mk 7:24-30

**Friday:** 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Ps 81:10-15  
Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday:** 1Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Ps 106:6-7,  
19-22 Mk 8:1-10

**Next Sunday:** Sir 15:15-20 Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18,  
33-34, 1Cor 2:6-10 Mt 5:17-37  
or Mt 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34, 37

## Liturgical Roles

February 14 <u>Saturday</u> 5:00 PM	February 15 <u>Sunday</u> 8:00 AM	February 15 <u>Sunday</u> 10:00 AM
<b>Lector:</b> D Wagner	B Clark	M Duggan
<b>Ushers:</b> P Wolfe P Medved	T Clarke B Roberts C Bryant	J Tupacz B Kwarteng C Lindner
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:</b> P Lareau A Vega	B/N McMahan B Pittman	M/L Walsh G Swierk
<b>Altar Servers:</b> B Mathis	R Arreaga I Arreaga	J Angeles A Mezquite M Mezquite
<b>Altar Care:</b> P Hughes	M Roberts	Assigned Extraordinary Ministers
<b><u>If you are unable to serve when you are scheduled, please remember to find a substitute.</u></b>		

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!

#### Prayer to St. Joseph, Explained

For centuries, Christians have relied on the intercessory prayers of Joseph, earthly spouse of the Blessed Virgin and foster father of Christ, who was obedient to the will of God in all things.

One particular novena prayer to St. Joseph is often called "the unfailing prayer to St. Joseph." It is thought to have originated in the first century A.D. and was sent by the pope to Emperor Charles as he went into battle. It is said that those who recite this prayer will not suffer a sudden death and will likewise be protected from drowning, the effects of poison and fire, falling into the hands of the enemy or being overpowered in battle.

For a full text of this prayer, visit [ewtn.com/catholicism/library/novena-to-st-joseph-11865](http://ewtn.com/catholicism/library/novena-to-st-joseph-11865). ©LPI

#### Celebrate Your Marriage

Marriage Anniversary Mass, Sunday, February 15, 2026 with Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS.

Precious Blood of Christ Church. For more information: FamilyLife@charlestowndiocese.org

To register: <https://tinyurl.com/2026MarriageMass>

#### BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

There is a critical need for blood donors of all types. Please take time to donate at the Knights of Columbus sponsored blood drive, February 17th between 1 PM and 6 PM in the parish hall. Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or contact Jim Lauro at 610-513-2869. Thank you.

## 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

We invite you to make Jesus 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 Jesus' life and what he means for us as Catholics today. The Jesus study begins February 16th at 5:30pm. Participants will meet every week to view a video presentation by Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Jeff Cavins, and Edward Sri, followed by 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.

Quinceañera preparation classes begin on February 19 at 6:00 PM. Please note that the next opportunity to begin classes after this session will not be until September. All five required classes must be completed before the Quinceañera celebration can be scheduled. If you plan to celebrate a Quinceañera this year, it is very important to attend this February session. Please contact Cecilia Carlton to register or if you have any questions.

### Practicing Catholic – Beneath The Surface

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman ©LPI

#### Be Salty

I want you to close your eyes. Are they closed? (I'm serious.) Okay. Now think of the greatest saint in history.

I don't care who you're thinking of. It's going to be different for everyone. Just think of that person. Think of his or her life. And answer the question: Why is he or she a great saint?

You're all thinking of different people, but the answer is the same for everyone. And it's not "Because he did great things for God" or "Because she sacrificed everything she had for the poor." Those answers show evidence of the reason. But the reason is something more.

The greatest saints in history were not great at holiness. God brought holiness about within them because (ding ding ding! Here's the answer!) the greatest saints in history were great at being who they were meant to be.

Not who they wanted to be. Not who they thought they should be. Who they were meant to be.

Simply put, they gave themselves to God. All of themselves. Flaws and all. And God took them, in their totality, and said: "Now watch this."

Just imagine if salt was ashamed of being salty. Imagine if it looked at the sodium content on its nutrition label and thought, "That's embarrassing," and decided it was going to stop being salt. Well, great. Now it's just a box of tiny rocks.

Wouldn't it have been better for the salt to trust the baker using it?

There is a plan for each of us. There is a path to holiness for each of us. This path doesn't bypass our flaws or our weaknesses; it incorporates them. It transforms them. It fulfills them.

So be salty. Be who you were meant to be.