



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

3710 Augusta Rd. † Greenville, SC 29605

Church Office Phone
(864) 422-1648

Email: olr@charlestandiocese.org

Website: olr.church

Church Office Hours

9:00am -3:00pm Monday-Thursday
9:00am - 12:00pm, Friday

Fr. Dwight Longenecker

dlongenecker@charlestandiocese.org

Fr. Richard Ballard

rballard@charlestandiocese.org

School Office Hours

8:00 am - 3:00 pm, Monday-Friday
School Office Phone: 864-277-5350

WEEKEND MASS

Upper Church

Saturday 5:00 pm, Anticipated

**Saturday, 8:00pm, Neocatechumenal
Way Mass (Lower Church)**

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 5:00 pm

WEEKEND CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:30-4:30 pm

Sunday, 9:00-10:00 am

DAILY MASS

Monday, 8:30 am, Lower Church

Tuesday, 12:00 pm, Lower Church

Wednesday, 6:00 pm Upper Church

Thursday, 10:00 am, Upper Church

Friday, 10:00 am, Lower Church

DAILY CONFESSIONS

Upper Church

Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 pm

Or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday, 11am-5pm, Lower Church

Wednesday, 7am-5pm, Upper Church

Thursday, 7-8 pm, Lower Church

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is traditional to preach during Advent on the “four Last Things”—Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell. However, over the years I have turned this on its head to preach about “The Four First Things” During Advent we are meant to be watchful and alert, so it is worth looking at things from a fresh perspective and expect some Advent surprises.

The first of the “First Things” is “God” who is the source of our existence. When he revealed himself to Moses at the burning bush God said his name was “I AM.” The church teaches that this is the revelation that God is not just the creator, and not just the source of life, but that he is the very essence of being itself. To put it another way, “God does not ‘exist’ instead he IS existence.”

If God is the first of the First Things, the second “First Thing” to consider for this second week of Advent is Light.

The first thing God created was Light. Critics of the Catholic faith like to scoff and say, “Look at that silly creation story! God created light on the first day, but didn’t create the sun, moon and stars until the fourth day! How dumb is that?”

Not dumb. Pretty smart. Those who told the creation stories were not writing a scientific treatise. They were more concerned with the meaning of God’s act of creation than recording a historical or scientific account of the beginning of the world.

God created Light first because light itself is greater than the sun, moon and stars which create or reflect the light. That is to say, light exists beyond the physical sources of light. This truth is reflected in the final book of the Bible--Revelation. There we have a vision of heaven where we are told that there is neither sun, nor moon for the Lamb--Christ himself is the Light.

Jesus understands his own destiny and identity when he says, “I am the Light of the World.” The church teaches that God the Son--the second person of the Holy Trinity--was present at the foundation of the world. The world was created not just by God the Father, but by the Son and by the Holy Spirit. This is why, in that opening passage of the Book of Genesis it says that God created the heavens and earth and the Spirit was moving over the face of the waters and God said, “Let there be Light.”

The creative Word of God brings Light into the world, and later John the Evangelist says, “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory--or “his radiance.”

Advent is a particular celebration of Light. We light the Advent candles and we welcome the coming of the Light of Christ into the world on Christmas night. This is the same light that was at the beginning--the Light of the World and the light of the heavenly kingdom--Christ Jesus the Lord.

Your Pastor,
Fr. Longenecker

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Pastor
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Fr. Richard Ballard, Parochial Vicar
rballard@charlestdioocese.org

Deacon Mike Bannio
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Deacon Jerry Schiffer
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OLR School (864) 277-5350

Organist and Choirmaster

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Tommy Curtin, thomas.curtin@olrschool.net

Youth Ministry Coordinator

David Haggard, david.haggard@olrschool.net

Parish Operating Financials

Weekend Collections for Dec. 3, 2023

Needed: \$ 22,000.
Received: \$ 24,759.
Surplus: \$ 2,759.

Fiscal Year-to-Date Collections through
Week #23 in the Fiscal Year
beginning July 1, 2023

Needed: \$ 506,000.
Received: \$ 492,029.
Deficit: \$ 13,971.

Please remember to pray for those who are homebound or mourn the loss of loved ones, especially during the holidays.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Alibozek, Delores Almaraz, Barbara Andersen, Ruth Ballard, Laurie Bernard, Jim Bever, Glen Bishof, Sandra Brock, Will Busby, Martha Catel, Claudia Caldwell, Alex Camp, Carson Family, Kathleen Crawford, Margaret Culkin, Rose Cusumano, Christy Dias, Marian Eleazer, Sarah & Teresa Fuller, Larry & Cynthia Good, Bridget Gracon, Michael Granger, Phillip Greene, Ma'May Grimm, Ed Harden, Janet Hardy, Donald Hargis, Theresa Hargreaves, Kathy Hess, Kathy Illingworth, Ingrid Ireland, Bob Jackowski, Stephanie Kaufmann, Beth Kitchen, Kenneth Landgrover, Gerry Loesch, John Loesch, Katherine Lowry, Anna Lunn, Madeline McKiernan, Lisa Meyer, Dianne Morrison, Marjorie Munson, Mrs. That Nguyen, Kim Orr, Marlowe Pastor, Dcn. Ray & Nancy Perham, Thien Pham, Andres Prestoza, Jacob & Jaxson Rivera, David Rubardt, Sonam Sherpa, Nancy & Earl Smith, Frank Striplin, Peter Stryker, Tedrick Family, Justin Timbers, Cheryl Wallace, Mary Lou Whelan, Kayla Wiegand, Steve Wiltberger, Marcia Wolff, Jim Wood, Will Woodward, Mary Louise Worthy & family, and all who are sick.

PARISH CALENDAR

Saturday, December 9, through Sunday, December 17
(Mass Intentions are shown in italics)

All Masses are held in Upper Church unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, 12/9	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For The People</i>
Sunday, 12/10 Second Sunday of Advent	8:00 am - Mass, <i>For Isaac Hunter+</i> 9:00 - 10:00 am - Confessions (Upper Church) 10:30 am - Mass, <i>For Frank Walker+</i> 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Jim Kerchner+</i>
Monday, 12/11 Lower Church	8:30 am - Mass, <i>For Mitchell Buchanan</i>
Tuesday, 12/12 Lower Church	12:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Carol Moldenauer+</i>
Wednesday, 12/13	7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Eucharistic Adoration 4:30 - 5:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 6:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Special Intention</i>
Thursday, 12/14	10:00am - Mass, (School) <i>For Daniel Earl Hakes+</i>
Friday, 12/15	10:00am - Mass, <i>For Al Mininni+</i>
Saturday, 12/16	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Stephanie Kaufmann</i>
Sunday, 12/17 Third Sunday of Advent	8:00 am - Mass, <i>For Benefactors of the Dominican Nuns</i> 9:00 - 10:00 am - Confessions (Upper Church) 10:30 am - Mass, <i>For The People</i> 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Matthew Craft+</i>

Offering Envelopes for Christmas Flowers are now available in the Narthex.

Go [HERE](#) for photos from our Advent Lessons and Carols Service.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10, we will be helping at the Benefit in Honor of Ma'May Grimm. There will not be a regularly scheduled 6-8pm meeting.



School News



- Dec. 15** NOON Dismissal - No Aftercare
Dec. 17 - Jan. 2 Christmas Break
Jan. 3 Classes Resume

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE

"I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I do know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will NOT ask, how many good things have you done in your life? rather he will ask, how much LOVE did you put into what you did?"

Mother Teresa

During this time of Advent, we are talking about the end times, Jesus' second coming. I often think of all times I have failed Him and not all the good things I have done. A lesson learned in our work at Mother Teresa House is how much do we do for Him, versus how much we do to make us feel good, "look all I have done Lord". It is easy to slip into pride.

Everyone we deal with, whether in our family life or work life, can be chance for us to show His love for them and never just to make us feel good. In our work with the poor, people often count what we have done, donations, food, money to those on the street to make themselves feel good. We should always strive to place love of Him in all actions, whether with family, friends, coworkers or the poor and not be prideful in all we have done. The paradox is, it is in that humility; we find true joy.

Chris Loewer, Director of Outreach
cloewer@charlestandioocese.org

If you have not yet seen the revised plans for the new school and parish facilities please either pick up a brochure from the church narthex or school office or go to the parish website to view the drawings and explanatory letter from Fr. Longenecker.

There will not be an Advent Day of Mercy this year, but there will be an extra hour of Confessions after the 10:00am Mass on Dec. 14. This time is added for the school children to make their confessions. Others are welcome, but please be aware that wait times may be a bit long.

Christmas Car Magnets

Knights of Columbus Council 1668 would like to thank all of those who purchased "The Reason for the Season" car magnets after Masses on the previous two weekends. Thanks to your generosity, **we are sold out!** Therefore, we will no longer sell magnets after Masses this weekend.

Again, thank you so much for supporting our charitable giving efforts!



St. Vincent de Paul

In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord." We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need.

To bring the true meaning of Christmas alive in our own hearts, please consider answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We will be having a meeting on Monday, **Dec. 11**, at 6:30 pm in Guadalupe Hall. We would love for current members to attend as well as anyone who may be interested in learning more about joining us in this ministry. Hope to see you there!

Divine Mercy Ministry for the Dying

Perhaps you are not in a "holiday mood" because someone you love is gravely ill. Remember that the word "holiday" comes from "holy day" - and what days are holier than those of a loved one on the threshold of eternal life? OLR has a new parish ministry devoted to praying the powerful Divine Mercy Chaplet daily for one week (renewable) for those near the end of life.

Please reach out to the Divine Mercy Cenacle to request these prayers by contacting Martha Mahan in the parish office.

RCIA

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 13, in Guadalupe Hall at 7pm, discussing "The Incarnation".



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Sunday, Dec. 10, 1-5pm in the OLR GYM

Benefit, Bake Sale and Christmas Bazaar For the Grimm Family



Ma'May Grimm was recently diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation [HERE](#).

Due to inclement weather, please note the location has now been changed to the OLR Gym.



DECEMBER 10
Second Sunday
of Advent
Peace

A voice of one crying out in the desert,
 Prepare the way of the Lord.
 Matthew 3:3

Help Decorate Our Church for Christmas
 Saturday, Dec. 23, at 10:00 am

Children are welcome, but parents must supervise
 School families may claim volunteer hours
 Contact Lisa with any questions: lcommerford@hotmail.com

The Diocesan Second Collection for this weekend
 will be for Retirement Fund for Religious.

The Tithe Committee will make a donation on behalf
 of OLR, however, there will also be a basket in the
 Narthex if you wish to make an additional donation.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Because the last Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve
 fall on the same day this year, some have asked about
 their Mass obligations for those days. Catholics are
 obliged to attend Mass every Sunday, including the
 Fourth Sunday of Advent, and they are also obliged to
 go to Mass for the Solemnity of Christmas.

**Those two obligations are distinct and have to be
 met separately.** One Mass does not fulfill two obliga-
 tions. Here is the schedule at OLR for those days:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 23, 5:00pm (Vigil Mass)
 Sunday, Dec. 24, 8:00am
 10:30am

Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 24, 5:00pm (Family)
 8:00pm (Solemn)
 Monday, Dec. 25, 8:30am
 10:30am

Have any old **band instruments** collecting
 dust? Maybe a lonely flute, sousaphone or
 trumpet? OLR school is building a student
 band program and needs your gently used
 instruments or donations toward purchases. Contact
 Rebecca Lawson at rebecca.lawson@olrschool.net.



Marriage Troubles? If your marriage has become troubled
 and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you might have grown
 cold and distant; or even if you are divorced or separated,
 or are thinking about it, Retrouvaille can help...as it has
 already helped tens of thousands of others.

Our next program begins **January 19-21, 2024**. For information, visit www.helpourmarriage.org, or call
 (727) 343-6701. Not counseling or group therapy. All contacts and names held in absolute confidence.

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS

Spiritual Adoption
 WEEK 38 December 10



Your baby is ready to greet the world! He
 continues to build a layer of fat to help control his
 body temperature after birth, but it is likely he
 already measures about 20 inches and weighs a
 bit over 7 pounds. Your baby's organs are fully
 developed and in place. The outer layers of skin are
 sloughing off as new skin forms underneath.



**Providing comfort and assistance
 to Moms in Need.**

Call or email for an appointment. 864-412-7101
 or wwmin@proton.me

YOU COUNT, and we are here to help!

Please see the OLR websites at olr.church and olr.school for all the
 most recent news and announcements.