



# Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

3710 Augusta Rd. † Greenville, SC 29605

**Church Office Phone**  
(864) 422-1648

Email: [olr@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:olr@charlestandiocese.org)

Website: [olr.church](http://olr.church)

## **Church Office Hours**

9:00am -3:00pm Monday-Thursday

9:00am - 12:00pm, Friday

## **Fr. Dwight Longenecker**

[dlongenecker@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:dlongenecker@charlestandiocese.org)

## **Fr. Richard Ballard**

[rballard@charlestandiocese.org](mailto: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 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first two "First Things" for Advent were God and Light. The third "First Thing" to consider is Life.

God created all things because his own life overflowed in the act of creation. That's what Life does. It creates more life. Life is that indefinable essence that is infused into all things living. Where does life come from? It is easy to think that it comes from the natural processes of regeneration. A man and woman come together and a new life is formed.

However, just as Light is greater than the sources of light--the sun, moon, and stars--so Life is bigger than the natural sources of life. Life comes from God, and because it comes from God it bears the mark of God. His imprint and his image is in all things. Life is God's essence in all that lives. What is alive is alive in and through the greater life of God.

The right to life therefore is the first and most basic right. Without the gift of life, we are dead. Without the gift of life, we have nothing, and that gift comes to us from God himself.

This is why Catholics are "pro Life" - not just because we think abortion is unpleasant--not just because we are against euthanasia or embryonic stem cell research, not just because we are against the culture of death in all its forms. No. We are pro life because we embrace and affirm the supernatural and wonderful gift of life that comes from God himself, and which is a sign of his own life present and alive in all living things.

In the seven days of creation God's life overflowed to the whole world. Within those seven days his abundance and goodness were shown and his life giving creative power was seen. As he gave life to all things, he revealed who he is. He is the Lord of Life. This is why death is so terrible--because it snuffs out the God Life.

This is also why Jesus Christ the Lord of Life could not remain dead. At Easter he rose because he was not just an ordinary man, but the Source of all things living and the source of Life itself. He rose to show that death has no victory over life, but that God's life is eternal.

It is this life we look forward to welcoming as we celebrate the birth of Christ, for there the source of all things living took the form of a newborn child.

Your Pastor,  
Fr. Longenecker

## Pastoral Staff

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Pastor  
dlongenecker@charlestdiocese.org

Fr. Richard Ballard, Parochial Vicar  
rballard@charlestdiocese.org

Deacon Mike Bannio  
mbannio@charlestdiocese.org

Deacon Jerry Schiffer  
jschiffer@charlestdiocese.org

Parish Office (864) 422-1648  
OLR School (864) 277-5350

### Organist and Choirmaster

Benjamin Phillips, bphillips@charlestdiocese.org

### Director of Faith Formation

JohnMark Cayer, jcayer@charlestdiocese.org

### Director of Finance

Rachel Hutson, rhutson@charlestdiocese.org

### Parish Receptionist

Martha Mahan, mmahan@charlestdiocese.org

### Director of Communications

Donna Craft, dcraft@charlestdiocese.org

### Facilities Manager

Thomas Sohler, tsohler@charlestdiocese.org

### Director of Outreach

Chris Loewer, cloewer@charlestdiocese.org

### Headmaster

Tommy Curtin, thomas.curtin@olrschool.net

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

David Haggard, david.haggard@olrschool.net

## Parish Operating Financials

Weekend Collections for Dec. 10, 2023

Needed: \$ 22,000.  
Received: \$ 30,837.  
Surplus: \$ 8,837.

Fiscal Year-to-Date Collections through  
Week #24 in the Fiscal Year  
beginning July 1, 2023

Needed: \$ 528,000.  
Received: \$ 522,866.  
**Deficit:** \$ 5,134.

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

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Albozek, 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 Culin, 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 16, through Sunday, December 24**

(Mass Intentions are shown in italics)

**All Masses are held in Upper Church unless otherwise noted.**

Saturday, 12/16	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Stephanie Kaufmann</i>
Sunday, 12/17 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	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>
Monday, 12/18 <b>Lower Church</b>	8:30 am - Mass, <i>For Brian &amp; Renee Baldowski</i>
Tuesday, 12/19 <b>Lower Church</b>	12:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Delores Koller+</i>
Wednesday, 12/20	7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Eucharistic Adoration 4:30 - 5:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 6:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Bernadine Collins+</i>
Thursday, 12/21	10:00am - Mass, (School) <i>For Special Intention of Thanksgiving</i>
Friday, 12/22	10:00am - Mass, <i>For Alphonsine DeGras+</i>
Saturday, 12/23	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For The People</i>
Sunday, 12/24 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve</b>	8:00 am - Mass, <i>For Rosemary Schiller+</i> 9:00 - 10:00 am - Confessions (Upper Church) 10:30 am - Mass 5:00 pm - Mass

Please note the school and parish offices will be closed  
for Christmas Break from December 25 - January 2.  
We will reopen on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We will have our regular Youth Group meeting this Sunday, Dec. 17, from 6-8pm. Please remember to bring spiritual reading materials, we will have a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



### MOTHER TERESA HOUSE

*"It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."* **Mother Teresa**

In the final two weeks of Advent, we shift from Jesus' second coming to His birth. Children are most often the victims of our modern culture. Those who believe killing a child in the womb will be the answer to life and bring them peace. Those who treat children as nothing more than possessions and burdens. Those who believe we should force every sort of social experiment on our youth to awaken them to a better world. All of these are evils destroy the child.

How about the parents who allow their children to be adults before they have fully formed good judgement and a deep faith, which is difficult even for young adults in their 20s? How many children have lost their true childhood for this rush to make them into small adults? How often does our society work to pull out the Child Jesus in our lives and kill thoughts of Him by removing Christmas from everything they can? We see the rotten fruits of this every day at Mother Teresa House. This Advent season, pray for the joy a child can bring into our lives, whether our Savior or those small (and big) children around us.

*Chris Loewer, Director of Outreach*  
[cloewer@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:cloewer@charlestdiocese.org)

## School News



**Dec. 17 - Jan. 2** Christmas Break

**Jan. 3** Classes Resume

**Jan. 3-9** Interim Semester for MS and US

### St. Vincent de Paul

*In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.*

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving . . . please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have food, utilities and shelter can share in the blessings of Christmas.

### 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



**Rite of Christian Initiation  
for Adults**

We will pause our December meetings for Christmas Break. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 10, in Guadalupe Hall at 7pm, discussing "Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick".

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.

## Epiphany Family Dance

January 6th 6-10pm

The whole parish is invited!  
This will be a casual gathering with fellowship and fun music for dancing in the OLR gym after the 5pm Mass. We are keeping it simple after the holiday craziness, so bring a heavy appetizer or dessert to share.

Contact Devin Ascheman  
with any questions  
[aschemans@gmail.com](mailto:aschemans@gmail.com)  
808-469-8436



## DECEMBER 17 Third Sunday of Advent *Joy*

### “Gaudete Sunday”

On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored. The word “Gaudete” is Latin for “Rejoice.” This celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning flee away. Isaiah 35:10

### 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](mailto:lcommerford@hotmail.com)



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

**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.

## 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 obligations. 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, trumpet, or sousaphone? 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](mailto:rebecca.lawson@olrschool.net).



## RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS

### Spiritual Adoption WEEK 39 December 17



It is hard to say for sure how big your baby will be, but the average newborn weighs in at a little over 7 pounds and is about 20 inches long. Your baby will continue to grow with every passing day. His skull bones are still separated and they will stay that way to allow the bones to compress enough to fit through the birth canal during labor. It is almost time for Baby's big day!



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

Call or email for an appointment. 864-412-7101  
or [wwmin@proton.me](mailto:wwmin@proton.me)

**YOU COUNT, and we are here to help!**

Please see the OLR websites at [olr.church](http://olr.church) and [olr.school](http://olr.school) for all the most recent news and announcements.