



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 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first three "First Things" were God, Light and Life. The last is Love.

God is the source of all that is. He is the source of Light. He is the source of Life. He is the source of Love.

St John the Evangelist says that not just that God loves or God is loving, but "God IS Love." This is profound stuff. What he is saying is that God's very nature and being is pure, unconditional love.

This Divine Love is not the sentimental stuff of Valentine's cards or mushy movies. This is not romantic or erotic love. Instead, it is the fiery source of life and power in all things. The source of life and power in God is also the source of Love.

God's Divine Love is constantly being outpoured on the world. It is relentless like a river. It is his nature to be pouring out his love and mercy at all times, and at all places, to all people, and to all creation.

Furthermore, the theologians tell us that the Divine Love is the force that binds all things together. It is the force in creation that keeps everything going. It is the energy which burns like a fiery furnace at the heart of all things.

This love comes to us at Christmas in human form. Jesus Christ is the Lord of Light, the Lord of Life and the Lord of Love. The babe of Bethlehem is the radiance of God, the Life of God and the Love of God present for us in a little child.

St Paul teaches that this is the ultimate expression of God's love for humanity--that God's love took human form and became a man and finally suffered and died for us. St John says, "No man has greater love than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends."

As we celebrate Christmas let us remember what we really celebrate--not just the pleasantries of Christmas cards, presents, family times together and the abundance of food and drink and good times.

The heart of our celebration is this astounding truth, that the God who created the world out of the abundance of his light and life and love came to be born of the Blessed Virgin Mary--that his life and light came into our dark and dying world to bring each one of us out of darkness into his own marvelous light.

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

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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. 17, 2023

Needed: \$ 22,000.
 Received: \$ 23,562.
 Surplus: \$ 1,562.

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

Needed: \$ 550,000.
 Received: \$ 546,428.
Deficit: \$ 3,572.

Capital Campaign-Land Acquisition

5.2 acres on Augusta Rd. \$1,230,439. Diocesan
 Loan (total interest & principal to be paid)
 2023-2028: 5-year term

Pledge Commitments Made: \$ 538,387.
 Pledge Payments Received: \$ 348,280.
 Needed: \$ 692,052.

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 23, through Sunday, December 31

(Mass Intentions are shown in italics)

All Masses are held in Upper Church unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, 12/23	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For The People</i>
Sunday, 12/24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve	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 (Family) 8:00 pm - Mass (Solemn)
Monday, 12/25 Christmas Day	8:30 am - Mass, <i>For Josephine & Murray M. Howard, Jr., + & the Suit, Howard, Votava, Sokol, Ayers, O'Barr, Hornaday, and Bagwell Families.</i> 10:30 am - Mass
Tuesday, 12/26 Lower Church	12:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Paul Bever, Jr. +</i>
Wednesday, 12/27	7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Eucharistic Adoration 4:30 - 5:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 6:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Ned Murphy</i>
Thursday, 12/28	10:00am - Mass, <i>For Kathryn Eberle</i>
Friday, 12/29	10:00am - Mass
Saturday, 12/30	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Gary Culbertson+</i>
Sunday, 12/31 Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph, and Mary	8:00 am - Mass, <i>For The People</i> 9:00 - 10:00 am - Confessions (Upper Church) 10:30 am - Mass 5:00 pm - Mass

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

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

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We will NOT have our regular Youth Group meeting this Sunday, Dec. 24. Our next regular meeting will be on Saturday night, January 6, the Epiphany Family Dance.



School News



Dec. 17 - Jan. 2 Christmas Break

Jan. 3 Classes Resume

Jan. 3-9 Interim Semester for MS and US

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

St. (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta

As we prepare to celebrate the Lord's birth, let us always remember the free and unmerited gift of His grace. Grace for all. Grace for you and me. Come let us adore Him!

*Chris Loewer, Director of Outreach
cloewer@charlestandiocese.org*

St. Vincent de Paul

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness, surrounding the hearts of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas. Thank you for your generosity over this past year and wishing you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Please remember that the **special second collections at all the Christmas Masses** will be for the persecuted Christians living in Bethlehem. There are print copies of Fr. Longenecker's explanation letter in the Narthex.

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".

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
808-469-8436

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.



DECEMBER 24
Fourth Sunday
of Advent
Love

May the Lord make you increase and
 abound in love for one another and for all,
 just as we have for you.

I Thessalonians 3:12

Monday, January 1, 2024

**Solemnity of Mary,
 the Holy Mother of God**

Daily Mass at 10:00am only

(NOT a Holy Day of Obligation)



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.

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

St. Martha's Book Club invites you to join our discussions in Guadalupe Hall, 12:30-2:00 pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 2 - **Joy to the World**, by Scott Hahn

Call Marianne at (864) 360-2406 for information.



RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS

Spiritual Adoption
 WEEK 40 December 24



Your spiritually adopted baby was born today nine months after he was conceived. Baby is no different now than before birth except that he breathes and eats differently. our baby is truly a miracle. He began his life at conception with 46 chromosomes and has developed over the past nine months into this unique human person. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is just like your spiritually adopted baby.



**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.