



# Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

3710 Augusta Rd. † Greenville, SC 29605

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

Email: [olr@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:olr@charlestdiocese.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@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:dlongenecker@charlestdiocese.org)

## **Fr. Richard Ballard**

[rballard@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:rballard@charlestdiocese.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

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## **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

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

At OLR Greenville at the 10:30 High Mass—and on Holy Days of Obligation, we use lots of incense. Why do we do that? Is it just because we happen to like "smells and bells"? We *do* like incense and the sanctus bell, but what's the point? Is it just that the altar servers like playing with fire? The altar boys do enjoy wielding the thuribles and ringing the bells, but of course there is more to it than these superficialities.

The "sanctus bell" came into Catholic worship at a time when multiple Masses would have been offered in large churches at all times during the day. Ordinary folk would drop into their local church to find Masses being offered at various altars. They would stop to pray and when the priest elevated the host the servers would ring the bell to draw the people's attention to the fact that here at this point of time and at this particular altar the Lord was present. The person would then turn toward that altar and genuflect or kneel in adoration. This custom has come down to us so that the bells ringing help to draw our attention back to what is happening at the altar.

Incense has been used in worship from time immemorial and virtually universally in world religions. The first mention of the use of incense in worship is from Egypt in the third millennium BC, and incense (or fragrant smoke in some form) is used in worship in Eastern religions, primitive and sophisticated religions down through history. In the pagan religions of the ancient Middle East incense was offered to the gods in virtually all the pagan temples. The Jews used incense in the worship of the tabernacle in the wilderness, then in the Jerusalem temple, and St. John's vision of heaven in the Book of Revelation includes angels offering incense at the throne of God in heaven itself.

Incense is therefore a universal aspect of religious practice. It is a venerable link with the past and provides a little glimpse of the glory of heaven itself. What does it mean? The symbolism is made clear in the Old Testament when it says the prayers of the faithful are a sweet smelling fragrance in the nostrils of God. In other words, the smoke rising to heaven is a symbol of the prayers and worship ascending to God. But there is more to it than that--the physical things we use in worship are blessed--consecrated and set apart for worship. The candles, the holy water, the vestments, the sacred vessels--all are blessed and therefore are sacramentals--the special physical things that draw us closer to God through dedicated worship.

Within worship in a beautiful building the incense adds something else. It provides a "cloud of glory" The cloud of glory reminds us of the cloud that took Jesus from the sight of the apostles at his ascension. It is the cloud that appeared at his baptism from which the Lord's voice was heard. It is the cloud covering Mount Sinai when the law was given. It was the cloudy pillar of fire that led the Hebrews through the wilderness to the promised land. Finally, it is the cloud of mystery that surrounds the sacrament and fills the holy place. The smoke of incense infuses the worship with an ethereal, mystical aura that helps the mind and heart to transcend everyday mundane realities and be open to the glory of the divine realm.

PS: Please note that we understand some people have a lower tolerance than others for incense. That's why the two evening masses and the 8:00 Sunday morning masses are celebrated without incense.

Your Pastor,  
Fr. Longenecker

## Pastoral Staff

Fr. Dwight Longenecker, Pastor  
dlongenecker@charlestdioocese.org

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

Deacon Mike Bannio  
mbannio@charlestdioocese.org

Deacon Jerry Schiffer  
jschiffer@charlestdioocese.org

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

### Organist and Choirmaster

Benjamin Phillips, bphillips@charlestdioocese.org

### Director of Faith Formation

JohnMark Cayer, jcayer@charlestdioocese.org

### Director of Finance

Rachel Hutson, rhutson@charlestdioocese.org

### Parish Receptionist

Martha Mahan, mmahan@charlestdioocese.org

### Director of Communications

Donna Craft, dcraft@charlestdioocese.org

### Facilities Manager

Thomas Sohler, tsohler@charlestdioocese.org

### Director of Outreach

Chris Loewer, cloewer@charlestdioocese.org

### Headmaster

Tommy Curtin, thomas.curtin@olrschool.net

### Youth Ministry Coordinator

David Haggard, david.haggard@olrschool.net

## Parish Operating Financials

Collections for the week ending Jan. 21, 2024

Needed: \$ 22,000.

Received: \$ 28,954.

Surplus: \$ 6,954.

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

Needed: \$ 660,000.

Received: \$ 679,000.

Surplus: \$ 19,000.

## 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: \$ 591,415.

Pledge Payments Received: \$ 415,233.

Needed: \$ 639,024.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Alibozek, Delores Almaraz, Barbara Andersen, Ruth Ballard, Laurie Bernard, Eric Best, Jim Bever, Glen Bishof, Sandra Brock, Doug Bryant, 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, Bethe 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, Carolyn Watson, Mary Lou Whelan, Kayla Wiegand, Steve Wiltberger, Marcia Wolff, Jim Wood, Mary Louise Worthy & family, and all who are sick.

## PARISH CALENDAR

**Saturday, January 27, through Sunday, February 4**

(Mass Intentions are shown in italics)

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

Saturday, 1/27	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Eileen Lucey+</i>
Sunday, 1/28	8:00 am - Mass, <i>For The People</i> 9:00 - 10:00 am - Confessions (Upper Church) 10:30 am - Mass, <i>For Ma'May Grimm</i> 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Carissa Wascher</i>
Monday, 1/29 <b>Lower Church</b>	8:30 am - Mass, <i>For Susannah Strong+</i>
Tuesday, 1/30 <b>Lower Church</b>	12:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Bob Kallio &amp; Family</i>
Wednesday, 1/31	7:00 am - 5:00 pm - Eucharistic Adoration 4:30 - 5:30 pm - Confessions 6:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Fr. Richard &amp; Ruth Ballard</i>
Thursday, 2/1	10:00 am - Mass, <i>For Robert Cousino+</i>
Friday, 2/2 <b>Lower Church</b>	10:00am - Mass
Saturday, 2/3	3:30 - 4:30 pm - Confessions (Upper Church) 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Andre Nadeau+</i>
Sunday, 2/4	8:00 am - Mass, <i>For The People</i> 9:00 - 10:00 am - Confessions (Upper Church) 10:30 am - Mass, <i>For Katie O'Brien Vogg+</i> 5:00 pm - Mass, <i>For Bradshaw Family</i>

**Catholic Schools Week**  
**January 28 - February 3**

**Special thanks to our faculty, staff, and PTO**

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



We will NOT meet this Sunday, Jan. 28. Our next regular meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 6-8pm.

If you would like a 2023 tax contribution letter, please contact Rachel Hutson, Director of Finance, at [rhutson@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:rhutson@charlestandiocese.org)

### MOTHER TERESA HOUSE

"Good works are links that form a chain of love."  
Mother Teresa

Recently, I had wonderful surprise from our school community and I have forgotten to say "Thank you". The students gathered items to make the hygiene kits we use at MTH for the homeless. They were so successful in this good work; they brought me hundreds of kits. These good works formed a chain of love as those kits were shared with Place of Hope, the Rescue Mission and Triune Mercy Center.

Thank you, students and our school community, for serving the least of our brothers and sisters, our Jesus in disguise.

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

For personal and security reasons, Fr. Longenecker has decided to withdraw from the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May. However, Steve Ray is still confident that the trip is possible and the area will be secure by then. If you registered for the trip any questions you have should be directed to Corporate Travel—the company that organizes the pilgrimage.



**A major relic of St. Jude**, the Apostle of impossible causes and desperate situations, will be coming to OLR on **Friday, Feb. 16**. Veneration of the relic begins at 2:00 pm. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 pm, and veneration will continue until 10:00 pm. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity for many to venerate this relic that is normally kept in Rome. Reserve the date so that you don't miss this important event! **We need 35 volunteers to assist with the many visitors on campus for this event.**

Please email Thomas at [tsohler@charlestandiocese.org](mailto:tsohler@charlestandiocese.org) or call the parish office if you can help.

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

Monday, Feb. 5 - **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr

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

## School News



**Jan. 28 - Feb. 3** Catholic Schools Week

**Feb. 1** Deadline for re-enrollment and new sibling students.

**Feb. 3** All School Family Pot Luck, 6-9pm, G. Hall

### St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Please see our Year End Report in this week's bulletin and in the Narthex and see where Jesus may be calling you to serve.

### Healing Service and St. Blaise on Saturday, Feb. 3

In order to provide an opportunity for the faithful to receive this ministry we are incorporating this intention into the monthly first Saturday pro-life Mass. After this **Mass at 9:30 am** on the first Saturdays there will be a time for the faithful to receive healing prayers with one of the priests and a small team of laypeople. The first Pro-Life Mass with healing prayers will be Saturday, Feb. 3. This is also the memorial of St. Blaise—a day when we will be offering the  **blessing of throats after Mass.**

### CANDLEMAS

You are invited to bring any candles that you would like to have blessed to the **10am Mass on Friday, Feb 2**. There will be a table where the candles can be placed, to be blessed after the Mass.

**Diocesan Second Collection for the weekend of January 28, will be for the Church in Latin America.**



### RCIA

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 31**, in Guadalupe Hall at 7pm, discussing "The Liturgy".

### SHROVE TUESDAY February 13

Please join us for coffee and donuts in the Narthex, after the 12 pm Daily Mass. Mass will be held in **Upper Church**.



Please note that the **Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14)** evening Mass will be at the usual time of 6:00 pm, with confessions at 4:30 and stations of the cross at 5:30.

The penitential service, with the deacons presiding, remains at 12:15 pm, and school Mass at 10:00 am.

# RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY NEWS

**40 Days for Life:** 40 Days for Life is a national, and international, campaign of prayer and fasting, of public vigil at abortion facilities, and of community outreach for the purpose of ending abortion. You are invited to join Christians throughout the Upstate in our spring campaign, **February 14 – March 24**. With the S.C. Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Fetal Heartbeat Bill we have seen a dramatic drop in abortions in our state. However, abortions are still performed before a heartbeat is detected, for rape and incest, and fetal anomalies. We must continue to pray and draw attention to this human tragedy until life is protected from conception to natural death. God tells us to deliver the helpless from destruction: "Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter" (Proverbs 24:11). Will you join us in fasting, and in praying outside the Greenville abortion facility?



The National Organization requires that those participating in a campaign sign a promise to conduct themselves in a peaceful, respectful manner. Be the ONE to make this a priority in your life and join us. Please visit: [www.40daysforlife.com/greenville](http://www.40daysforlife.com/greenville), or contact Judy 864-506-0964 or Ingrid 864-329-0044. Help spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort.

**40 Days for Life Kickoff Rally: Tuesday, Feb. 13, 6:30 – 7:45 pm**, Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, Guadalupe Hall, 3710 Augusta Road. (enter by way of Frontage Road) > Guest Speaker will be Mary Anne Moroney, registered nurse with a story to tell. Pastor Johnson of Greenville's Church Without Walls will offer the opening prayer. Amy Schiera, mezzo-soprano and professional soloist and choral musician, will lead us in song. Deacon Bill Hudson from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church will lead the closing prayer. Please join us! Parking is on the premises. Please visit: [www.40daysforlife.com/greenville](http://www.40daysforlife.com/greenville) to sign up or contact Judy 864-506-0964 or Ingrid 864-329-0044. Help spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort.

## First Thursday Adoration



**February 1, 6-8pm**, in Lower Church. Please join the Respect Life Committee as we pray for further protections for the unborn and vulnerable among us, for our priests, deacons and religious, all who pray and counsel at the abortion clinic, as well as the volunteers and clients of OLR's Walking with Moms in Need program.

## First Saturday Pro-Life Mass for the Protection of the Unborn and Pro-Life Warriors

OLR's next First Saturday Pro-Life Mass for Protection of the Unborn and Pro-Life Warriors will be on **Saturday, Feb. 3, at 9:30 am** in Upper Church. Sidewalk Advocates, 40 Days for Life and OLR's Respect Life Committee will provide updates on pro-life issues and all are encouraged to join us in praying the rosary at the abortion clinic afterwards located at 1142 Grove Road. For info, call 864-772-9020. Thank you!



**JAN 2024 Pro-Life Legislative Update:** Since the Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act became effective in September of 2023, South Carolina saw a tremendous reduction in abortions. Abortion clinics located in Greenville, Columbia and in Charleston had averaged a combined total of 900 abortions per month. Once the bill went into effect in September 2023, the total fell to 161 abortions. Thank you for your prayers, actions and witness in 2023!

## Christian Authors Course

Fr. Longenecker is teaming up with well known author, Joseph Pearce, to teach a twelve week course on "*Four Christian Writers of the 20th Century: T.S. Eliot, Evelyn Waugh, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.*"

The weekly sessions begin on **Feb. 19, in Guadalupe Hall at 7 pm**. This is an opportunity to learn about these famous writers and their work, and to be informed about a new educational initiative in Greenville coming soon in Fall 2024. The sessions will last one hour and a \$100 donation per person for the whole course is requested.

Register at Sign Up Genius [HERE](#).

## The Problem with "The Pill"

Have you ever wondered why the Church teaches against contraception? Do you know the effects hormonal contraception have on women? On relationships? What about other forms of contraception? What about the deceptive practices involved in the development of "The Pill" decades ago?

Join parishioners Jeannie & Vincent Weaver for a presentation and discussion on all of these questions and more in Guadalupe Hall on **Wednesday, February 21**, after the 6pm Mass (starting at about 6:45pm). This event is free and open to the public, but would not be appropriate for anyone under 16. Feel free to bring an appetizer, drinks, or a dessert to share. Contact Vincent with any questions at: [upstatefamilyhonor@protonmail.com](mailto:upstatefamilyhonor@protonmail.com). Parents who have attended Family Honor programs in the past should find this to be a particularly helpful follow-up on this topic. Recent RCIA participants will likely also benefit from this discussion.

*Sponsored by Fellowship of St. Joseph*

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.

## **SVdP 2023 End of Year Report**

**In 2023, the SVdP Society OLR Conference provided the following assistance to the needy in the area:**

The members of SVdP donated 4,400 hours of service to the poor in 2023 helping over 1000 households in need of assistance through the various ministries of SVdP.

There were 1913 clients served in the food pantry which is open every Saturday except holidays. We were open 45 Saturdays in 2023. We received 55,708 lbs. of food at a cost of \$2,371 from Harvest Hope. SVdP members contributed 2,225 service hours to this ministry. We also prepared emergency food bags for the homeless and other needy and delivered food to a few clients that have no transportation to the pantry. Thanks to Ed and Colette Roberts for running this ministry.

The Financial Assistance Ministry assisted a total of 83 households with their utility and rent bills at a cost of \$22,669. Eleven volunteers from SVdP contributed 231 service hours to this ministry. Thanks to Marianne Stoddard for chairing this committee.

SVdP assisted the MTH Ministry by providing financial assistance for dentures to 5 qualified individuals. The total expenditure was \$2,500. Thanks to Chris Loewer for organizing these donations.

Over twenty homebound ministers visited 15 homebound or seniors in nursing homes, bringing them Holy Communion if requested, on a weekly or biweekly basis, for a total of 276 visits. That represents 540 hours of service. Thanks to Victoria Norris for chairing this ministry.

SVdP donated \$500 for food and 8 members volunteered at the Christmas in the Park celebration for the needy in Greenville County on December 10.

Special thanks to SVdP Vice President Marianne Stoddard for coordinating the 40 volunteers from the 14 OLR families, who assisted several other groups with Thanksgiving Meal deliveries. Over 2,000 meals were delivered, of which 150 went to Meals on Wheels recipients.

SVdP donated \$500 to Pastor Johnson towards the purchase of bicycles that were distributed at his annual Christmas Party for the needy that reside in the vicinity of his church. SVdP also provided the contents for 100 Easter Baskets for Pastor Johnson's Easter celebration. Special thanks to a generous donor for providing stuffed animals for each of the baskets and the St. Martha's Women's Group for putting them all together.

SVdP and the Knights of Columbus donated 15 food boxes to Pastor Johnson which he delivered to those in need that live in the vicinity of his church.

SVdP worked with Greenville County picking up trash along James Drive and around the church property each month. Bernie Degres and Ed Roberts chair this ministry.

**The SVdP Society – OLR Conference would like to thank Fr. Longenecker and the parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Church for their generous support of our ministries in 2023.**

In Christ's Service,  
Peg Verranault, President