



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

3710 Augusta Rd. † Greenville, SC 29605

Church Office Phone
(864) 422-1648

Email: olr@charlestandioocese.org

Website: olr.church

Parish Office Hours

9:00a - 3:00p Monday-Thursday
9:00a - 12:00p Friday

Fr. Dwight Longenecker

dlongenecker@charlestandioocese.org

Fr. Richard Ballard

rballard@charlestandioocese.org

School Office Hours

8:00a - 3:00p, Monday-Friday
School Office Phone: 864-277-5350

***All services are held in
UPPER CHURCH
unless otherwise noted.***

WEEKEND MASS

Saturday 5:00p, Anticipated
Saturday, 8:00p, *Neocatechumenal
Way Mass, Lower Church*
Sunday 8:00a, 10:30a, 5:00p

WEEKEND CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 3:30 - 4:30p
Sunday, 9:00 - 10:00a

DAILY MASS

Monday, 8:30a, *Lower Church*
Tuesday, 12:00p, *Lower Church*
Wednesday, 7:15a and 6:00p
Thursday, 10:00a, *Lower Church*
Friday, 10:00a

DAILY CONFESSIONS

Wednesday, 4:15 - 5:15p, *Lower Church*
Or by appointment

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday, 11a - 5p
Monday, 9a - 1p
Wednesday, 7:15a - 5:15p, *Lower Church*
Thursday, 7 - 8p, *Lower Church*

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

Brothers and Sisters,

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. It has only been called that for 25 years. Why was the name changed? Why does the Church celebrate it? What does it have to do with us here at OLR? It all goes back to an obscure peasant girl from Poland named Helena Kowalska, who became the world famous St. Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Blessed Sacrament. Let me give you some background on Divine Mercy.

Helena Kowalska was born in Głogowiec, Poland in 1905. A vision of the suffering Christ invited Helena to leave the frivolities of the world and dedicate her life to Him as a religious. Eventually, despite not having advanced education or a dowry, she was received into the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy in Krakow and took the name Maria Faustina. During her life with the sisters, Faustina experienced many mystical graces: visions, hidden stigmata, divine union, and the ability to read souls. But most of all, she perceived her calling as one who would, in cooperation with God, share his message of Divine Mercy for the salvation of souls.

Jesus Christ gave St. Faustina the task of being his apostle and “secretary” of Divine Mercy to the world. Our Lord requested that His image of Divine Mercy, given to St. Faustina through a vision, be painted for veneration with the inscription “Jesus I Trust in You.” This is the image at the center of the Divine Mercy shrine in the lower church. A new devotion, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, was also offered by Jesus as a powerful mercy, especially for the dying, and the Feast of the Divine Mercy was established, as well as prayer at the Hour of Mercy (3 p.m.) every day. St. Faustina recorded within her diary her reactions on Divine Mercy and all her mystical encounters with Christ. She endured much suffering from tuberculosis toward the last years of her life, which she offered to God for the sake of sinners. She died at the age of 33.

Because of faulty translations, theologians suppressed her writings and the Divine Mercy devotion for many years, believing them to be in error. However, when a Polish Pope came to St. Peter’s throne in 1978, he reopened the situation for further examination, with the result of clearing up the previous misunderstandings. Her writings, and the devotion, were given official approval. Although the devotion is based upon a private revelation, and no Catholic is required to accept or believe it as an infallible article of faith, nevertheless the Church has determined that it does not violate Catholic doctrine on matters of Faith and Morals and in fact is helpful and useful for the sanctification of souls, and can be believed and used as long as it is approached with theological prudence.

Continued on Page 2

Pope St. John Paul II declared Faustina a saint 25 years ago on April 30 in the Jubilee year 2000, and also established the Second Sunday of Easter as the feast of Divine Mercy for the universal Church. In doing so, the Pope emphasized Jesus' words to St. Faustina that: "Humanity will never find peace until it turns with trust to Divine Mercy. Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity."

As part of the observance of this Sunday, the faithful will be especially interested in two particular aspects of the feast: (1) the special graces that St. Faustina said were promised by Jesus on Divine Mercy Sunday; and (2) the plenary indulgence given by the Church. What is the difference between the plenary indulgence and the promise of Jesus made through St. Faustina?

In the Diary of St. Faustina, "Mercy in My Soul," paragraph 699, Jesus gives an extraordinary promise: "The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to me, even though its sins be as scarlet."

To receive this grace, the only condition is to receive Holy Communion worthily on Divine Mercy Sunday (or the Vigil celebration) by making a good confession, by already being and staying in the state of grace on that day, and by trusting in Divine Mercy. The Holy See's Apostolic Penitentiary has decreed that the required confession can be made within twenty days either before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.

It is important to note that this special grace promised by Jesus on Divine Mercy Sunday does not remit the punishment of eternal damnation. Mortal sin is not forgiven through this special grace. That must be accomplished through the normal means of grace established by Christ for His Church, and this is sacramental confession, or else an act of perfect contrition with the resolution to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation as soon as possible.

What the special grace does is provide all the benefits normally associated with gaining a plenary indulgence, but without the necessity - or difficulty - of fulfilling the usual requirements stipulated by the Church. Even a soul that has imperfect love for God, or imperfect contrition, or imperfect intentions can still receive this grace. It flows solely from the mercy of Jesus, and is not dependent upon any other conditions. As such, the special grace removes all the temporal punishment that we deserve because of our sins. Temporal punishment refers to punishment that takes place in time on earth, or in purgatory. The special grace of this day positions the soul, should it leave this world at that moment, to enter immediately into heaven without the necessity of experiencing purgatory. It "resets the clock," so to speak, so that the soul thus gifted has no punishment of sin left to eradicate. The special grace on Divine Mercy Sunday can only be obtained for one's self.

In addition, the Church offers a plenary indulgence on this day from the authority granted to it by Jesus to remit the temporal punishment due to sin through the power of the keys, the authority to "bind and loose" (Mt 16:17-19) under the usual requirements: prayer for the Holy Father's intentions, confession and Holy Communion, carrying out the special indulgenced work (participating in public devotions to the Divine Mercy, or in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, reciting the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!)), and having no affection for or attachment to any sin whatsoever, even venial. Unlike the special grace, the plenary indulgence can be obtained for one's self, or for the souls in purgatory. Provision is also made for those who cannot go to church, or for the seriously ill who cannot participate in the public devotions, to also receive the indulgence.

In all cases, Divine Mercy Sunday is rich and replete with promises of graces from our Lord. As Jesus said to St. Faustina, this feast day is to be a special "refuge and shelter for the consolation of souls." So, let us with faith, hope, and trust rely upon the Divine Mercy and have confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ! I hope you will be able to join us this afternoon for our special Divine Mercy Sunday program (details in the bulletin).

Fr. Richard Ballard
Parochial Vicar

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

Deacon Bob Connor
bconnor@charlestdioocese.org

Deacon Eric Bricco
ebricco@charlestdioocese.org

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

Organist and Choirmaster

Benjamin Phillips, phillips@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

Director of Outreach

Chris Loewer, cloewer@charlestdioocese.org

Director of Facilities

David Bernard, dbernard@charlestdioocese.org

School Headmaster

Tommy Curtin, thomas.curtin@olrschool.net

Parish Operating Financials

*Not yet published, offertory totals will
be available next week.*

Needed:

Received:

Surplus:

Year-to-Date Collections through Week #44
in the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024.

Needed:

Received:

Surplus:

MOTHER TERESA HOUSE

"Do not imagine that love to be true must be extraordinary. No, what we need in our love is the continuity to love the one we love. See how a lamp burns, by the continual consumption of the little drops of oil. If there are no more of these drops in the lamp, there will be no light. ... What are these drops of oil in our lamps? They are the little things of everyday life: fidelity, punctuality, little words of kindness, just a little thought for others; those little acts of silence, of look, and of thought, of word, and of deed. These are the very drops of love that make our life burn with so much light" **Mother Teresa**

Let us commit, in imitation of Mother Teresa, to our one thing. Let us take up our Rosaries and offer one Divine Mercy Chaplet, one Rosary, for the Church and the world, for peace on earth and peace in every heart. Let us pray for a successful new evangelization, transforming our culture into a culture of life, and thereby ushering in a civilization of love. And let us work while the light lasts, lighting candles in the darkness by performing works of mercy, sharing the Divine Mercy message and devotion to one person at a time, persistently, patiently, planning to continue across the rest of our lives, and beyond.

Let us do one good thing with love. And then another. And another.
(from Divine Mercy website 09-04-18)

Chris Loewer, Director of Outreach
cloewer@charlestdioocese.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says: "Peace be with you!" Indeed, the mercy of God centers our hearts in peace.

During the month of March, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to help the poor by providing food to 247 families and \$1,113 in financial assistance for utilities. Thank You!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nancy Alibozek, Delores Almaraz, Barbara Andersen, Ruth Ballard, Laurie Bernard, Eric Best, Jim Bever, Glen Bischof, 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, Ed Harden, Janet Hardy, Donald Hargis, Theresa Hargreaves, Kathy Hess, Kathy Illingworth, Stacy Isenbarger, Bethe Kitchen, John Knope, Kenneth Landgrover, Gerry Loesch, John Loesch, Katherine Lowry, Anna Lunn, Madeline McKiernan, Mike McMahan, 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, Emily Stiffler, Frank Striplin, Peter Stryker, Tedrick Family, Justin Timbers, Cheryl Wallace, Mary Lou Whelan, Kayla Wiegand, Steve Wiltberger, Marcia Wolff, Jim Wood, Mary Louise Worthy & family, Guesler Zesir, and all who are sick.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

On April 27, we will have our usual meeting with a Divine Mercy Potluck Party from 6-8pm.

Save the Dates in May . . .

May 22 <i>Thursday</i>	6:00pm	Confirmation
May 23 <i>Friday</i>	10:00am	Graduation Mass
May 24 <i>Saturday</i>	10:00am	First Communion
May 26 <i>Monday</i>	Memorial Day - School and Parish Offices Closed	

St. Martha's Book Club will be meeting at a private residence on Monday, **May 5**, from 12-2pm, with lunch and outdoor discussion of "A Severe Mercy" by Sheldon Vanauken. Car pool provided. Call 864-360-2406 for details.



First Saturday Pro-Life Mass for Protection of the Unborn and Pro-Life Warriors will be on **Saturday, May 3**, at 9:30am in Upper Church.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in Upper Church on **Friday, May 2**. It begins immediately following the 10:00am School Mass and continues until the Blessed Sacrament is reposed at 5:00pm.

Diocesan Second Collection for the Weekend of April 27, will be for Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Learn more about Natural Family Planning with the Creighton Model System.

Introductory Sessions will be presented by OLR parishioner and Family Nurse Practitioner, Meghan Pillow, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, on Saturday mornings after the Pro-life Masses at about 10:15am in the GH Classroom on **May 3**, June 7, July 12, and August 2.

For more information, please email Meghan at scnaprofnp@gmail.com.

School and Parish Offices will reopen on Monday, April 28.

There will be a Communion Service on Monday, April 28, at 8:30am in Lower Church.

Family Trivia Night

Join us on Saturday, **May 17**, from 6-9pm in the Gym. We will have a potluck dinner and a family "pub-style" trivia competition. Test your knowledge and your wits as you compete against other OLR families. Prizes will be awarded to the top team. Come enjoy the fun, food, and fellowship!

Campus Clean Up Day

Saturday, May 17, 8am-12pm
Spring Cleaning

Recently baptized was
Josephine Anne Keefe
daughter of
Nolan & Savanna Keefe



We welcome Josephine as a new member of the OLR family.



Respect Life Ministry

All current events and news will now be published at the OLR website [HERE](#).

Please feel free to contact Deacon Bob Connor with any questions, bconnor@charlestdiocese.org.

The **5th annual OLR campout** will be held **May 9-11**, at Lake Hartwell State Park. This is an invitation extended to families of the school and parish. Our hope is to take over as much of the campground as possible.

This is a public campground, so the reservations are open to all (including the public). It is a fun, community-centered weekend. Come, enjoy the fellowship, and great outdoors! Once a reservation is made, we will ask for a \$20-30 donation in the spring to help provide breakfasts and a communal dinner. Reserve a site [HERE](#). Contact Sam at samtraffas@gmail.com with your reservation info.

APRIL - MAY

26 Saturday	27 Divine Mercy Sunday	28 Monday
7:00-9:00a Men's Basketball, Gym 10:00a Baptism, UC 3:00a Divine Mercy Novena, LC Day 9 3:30-4:30p Confessions, UC 4:30p Choir Practice, GH 4:30p Rosary, UC 5:00p Mass, UC <i>For The People</i> 8:00p Neocatechumenal Mass, LC	7:30a Choir Practice, GH 8:00a Mass, UC <i>For Sr. Mary Ruth Bernard, OP</i> 9:00a Choir Practice, UC 9:00-10:00a Confessions, UC 10:00a Rosary, UC 10:30a Mass, UC <i>For Kathy McBride+</i> 2:00p Divine Mercy Adoration, UC 3:00p Divine Mercy Program, UC 4:30p Rosary, UC 5:00p Mass, UC <i>For Sr. Mary St. John of the Lamb of God</i> 6:00-8:00p Youth Group, GH	7:30a Morning Prayer 8:30a Communion Service, LC 9:15a Divine Mercy Chaplet, LC 9:00a-1:00p Adoration, UC
29 Tuesday	30 Wednesday	May 1 Thursday
7:00a Cursillo Group, GH 7:30a Morning Prayer, UC 12:00p Daily Mass, LC <i>For Josephine E. Suit Howard+</i> 12:45p Divine Mercy Chaplet, LC 2:30p Parent Led Rosary, LC 3:00p Girls Choir Practice, UC 7:00p Neocatechumenal Bible Studies, Cafeteria	7:15a Daily Mass, UC 8:00a-5p Adoration, LC 3:00p Schola Choir Practice, UC 4:15-5:15p Confessions, LC 5:15p Benediction, LC 6:00p Mass, UC <i>For Ma'May Grimm+</i> 6:45p Divine Mercy Chaplet, UC	7:30a Morning Prayer, UC 10:00a Daily Mass, LC <i>For Alfie Dondiego+</i> 10:45a Divine Mercy Chaplet, LC 3:00p Boys Choir Practice, UC 7:00-8:00p Adoration, LC
2 Friday	3 Saturday	4 Sunday
7:30a Morning Prayer, UC 10:00a School Mass, UC <i>(May Crowning) For Ma'May Grimm+</i> 10:45a Divine Mercy Chaplet, LC 11:00a-5:00p First Friday Adoration, UC	7:00-9:00a Men's Basketball, Gym 9:30a Pro-Life Mass, UC 10:15a Natural Family Planning, GH Classroom 3:30-4:30p Confessions, UC 5:00p Mass, UC <i>For Richard Lee Roche+</i> 8:00p Neocatechumenal Mass, LC	7:30a Choir Practice, GH 8:00a Mass, UC <i>For The People</i> 9:00a Choir Practice, UC 9:00-10:00a Confessions, UC 10:00a Rosary, UC 10:30a Mass, UC <i>For William Tice+</i> 4:30p Rosary, UC 5:00p Mass, UC <i>For Sr. Catherine Theresa, OP</i> 6:00-8:00p Youth Group, GH