



St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

Office: 828-586-9496 Fax: 828-586-2167

9/12/21 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

XXIV Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Pastor: Rev. Paul Asoh, MSP

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Matthew Newsome

Deacon: Rev. Mr. John Szarek

Staff:

Director of Religious Education: Luci Castillo

Organist: Brad Martin

Office Volunteers:

Bookkeeper: Ellen Miller

Music Director: Joe Conway

St. Mary's Book Rack: Mary Ann Kuehl

Receptionists: Sheila Painschab & Beth Fields

Office Assistants: Courtney McLaughlin

MASS TIMES at St. Mary's

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm (Español)

Sunday at 8:30 am 11:30 am

Daily Masses:

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at
9:00 am; Wednesday at 5:30 pm

Misas de fin de semana:

Vigilia del sábado a las 7:00 pm (Español)

Domingo a las 8:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

Misas diarias:

Lunes, jueves, viernes y sábados a las 9:00 a.m.

Miércoles a las 5:30 p.m.

Mass Times at WCU: Catholic Campus Ministry

(during the academic school year) Sunday: 4:00 pm

Friday Daily Mass: 12:15 pm

CONFESSION/CONFESIONES at St. Mary's

Sunday: 10:45 until 11:15 am

Wednesdays at 4:45 pm, Friday at 9:30 am
and Saturday at 5:00 pm

Or by appointment

Tiempos de confesiones

Miércoles de 4:45-5:15 pm

Viernes 9:30-10:30 am durante la Adoración

Sábado 5:00-6:00 pm

O con cita previa

Adoration and Benediction

Every Friday following Mass until 10:30 am

1st Friday from 9:30 am -10:00 pm

1st Saturday Holy Hour after Mass

Adoración y Bendición

Todos los viernes después de la misa hasta las 10:30

a.m. 1er viernes de 9:30 a.m. a 10:00 p.m.

1er sábado hora santa después de la misa

Main Line/Reception: 828-586-9496 Sacrament Emergency: 828-631-0576

Email: smmgooffice@stmarymotherofgod.com

Calendar – September 12th to 19th

Sunday **8:30 am** **Sunday Mass** *Jim Alexander*
 11:30 am **Sunday Mass** *Pro Populo*
 4:00 pm **Sunday Mass (at WCU)**

Monday: **9:00 am** **Daily Mass**

Tuesday: 6:00 pm RCIA Parish Hall

Wednesday: **5:30 pm** **Daily Mass**

Thursday: **9:00 am** **Daily Mass**

Parish Eucharistic Congress

Friday: **9:00 am** **Daily Mass**
 9:45 am Confessions (until 11:00 am)
 7:00 pm Adoration, Office of Readings & Vespers

Saturday: **9:00 am** **Daily Mass**
 Eucharistic Procession (after Mass)
 6:00 pm Congreso Eucarístico P. Edwin Alberto Romo García
 7:00 pm **Vigil Mass (Spanish):**

Sunday **8:30 am** **Sunday Mass** **Pro Populo**
 10:00am Eucharistic Congress Talk Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla
 11:30 am **Sunday Mass** **Martha MacNeil Stelling**



Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla

Theme: 'St. Gianna and Pietro Molla: My Saint Mom and My Holy Dad. Living by Their Powerful Example of Love'



P. Edwin Alberto Romo García

Tema: "Eucaristía: Servicio, Entrega y Amor"

Romo

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Second Corinthians 12:9 – "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

God will give you strength when you're dealing with the storms of life. When it comes to dealing with life's circumstances, know that there are certain things outside your control, so don't focus on changing every little thing. Instead, identify, celebrate and embrace what you can learn from the situation. Instead of dwelling on the "what ifs" and the negatives of a given situation, focus on the power you have within yourself to define your own happiness; living one day at a time and enjoying one moment at a time. When you let go of the little things, you can see life in an entirely new way.

As we prepare to join the Diocese of Charlotte to celebrate the annual Eucharistic Congress in our Parish, in midst of disasters in different parts of our country and a surge of Covid 19 cases among mostly unvaccinated persons and some breakthrough cases, we have to continue to remember that God is Always Present! We serve a loving God, who knows and shares in our situations and pain. God who is present come rain or shine. He is even present when we fail to realize it. It's important that we not only turn our focus back to praise when we begin to lose hope but also that we turn to praise in times of abundance.

That is the reason we will praise Jesus, present in the Holy Eucharist. In the midst of the divisions and acrimony in our Society, Jesus reminds us in the theme of this year's Eucharistic Congress to "Love one another as I have loved you"..... "Forgive one another as I forgive you". Many of us are quick to question God when things go wrong, but slow to honor Him when things go well. One of the biggest challenges here is turning every blessing He pours into our lives back into praise. One way we can do this is through gratitude. The book of Psalm exhorts this and us: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His spirits with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name" (Psalm 100:4-5). No matter what you're going through right now, glorify God and remember that He is working on your life. I invite everyone to participate actively in this weekend's Eucharistic Congress starting on Friday through to Sunday. God bless you all.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor, Fr. Paul Asoh, MSP

Housekeeping:

1. There are still Welcome Back letters in English and Spanish in the Narthex of the Church. Please feel free to pick one if you did not receive any in the mail.
2. The Eucharistic Congress of the Diocese takes place from Friday September 17th through Sunday the 19th. The Eucharistic Congress will now be held here at the Parish. Parishioners are invited to participate in a Eucharistic Procession and the Congress at St. Mary this coming weekend. The program and timetable are in the bulletin and on the Parish website.
3. There will be a Hispanic celebration and fundraiser this Sunday September 12 at Bridge Park to celebrate Mexico's independence. Activities begin at 3 pm after a blessing given by the Pastor at 2 pm. Please let us all support our Parish and the Hispanic Community in the celebration and fundraising.
4. The Welcome Back Candles for God's blessings and protection on our families and the Parish, and an end to the Covid 19 pandemic, are being given out to all families this weekend. We will have a Welcome Back celebration after 11:30 am Mass on September 26th, 2021.
5. There will be a Second collection for Priest retirement at all the weekend Masses September 25th and 26th.



Desde el Escritorio del Pastor

Mis queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Segunda de Corintios 12: 9 - "Pero él me ha dicho: Bástate mi gracia, porque mi poder se perfecciona en la debilidad. me."

Dios te dará fuerzas cuando estés lidiando con las tormentas de la vida. Cuando se trata de lidiar con las circunstancias de la vida, sepa que hay ciertas cosas fuera de su control, así que no se concentre en cambiar cada pequeña cosa. En su lugar, identifique, celebre y acepte lo que pueda aprender de la situación. En lugar de pensar en los "qué pasaría si" y los aspectos negativos de una situación determinada, concéntrese en el poder que tiene dentro de usted mismo para definir su propia felicidad; viviendo un día a la vez y disfrutando un momento a la vez. Cuando dejas ir las pequeñas cosas, puedes ver la vida de una manera completamente nueva.

Mientras nos preparamos para unirnos a la Diócesis de Charlotte para celebrar el Congreso Eucarístico anual en nuestra parroquia, en medio de desastres en diferentes partes de nuestro país y un aumento de casos de Covid 19 entre personas en su mayoría no vacunadas y algunos casos importantes, tenemos que continuar ¡recuerda que Dios está siempre presente! Servimos a un Dios amoroso, que conoce y comparte nuestras situaciones y dolores. Dios que está presente, llueva o haga sol. Incluso está presente cuando no nos damos cuenta. Es importante que no solo volvamos nuestro enfoque a la alabanza cuando comenzamos a perder la esperanza, sino también que nos volvamos a la alabanza en tiempos de abundancia.

Por eso alabaremos a Jesús, presente en la Sagrada Eucaristía. En medio de las divisiones y la acritud de nuestra Compañía, Jesús nos recuerda en el tema del Congreso Eucarístico de este año "Amaos los unos a los otros como yo os he amado" ... "Perdónanos como yo os perdono". Muchos de nosotros somos rápidos en cuestionar a Dios cuando las cosas van mal, pero lentos para honrarlo cuando las cosas van bien. Uno de los mayores desafíos aquí es convertir cada bendición que Él derrama en nuestras vidas nuevamente en alabanza. Una forma en que podemos hacer esto es a través de la gratitud. El libro de los Salmos exhorta a esto ya nosotros: "Entrad por sus puertas con acción de gracias y su espíritu con alabanza; alabadle y alabad su nombre" (Salmo 100: 4-5). No importa por lo que esté pasando en este momento, glorifique a Dios y recuerde que Él está obrando en su vida. Los invito a todos a participar activamente en el Congreso Eucarístico de este fin de semana desde el viernes hasta el domingo. Dios los bendiga a todos.

Sinceramente en Cristo, Pastor, P. Paul Asoh, MSP

Noticias:

1. Todavía hay cartas de Bienvenida en Inglés y Español en el Nártex de la Iglesia. No dude en elegir uno si no recibió ninguno por correo.
2. El Congreso Eucarístico de la Diócesis se lleva a cabo desde el viernes 17 de septiembre hasta el domingo 19 de septiembre. El Congreso Eucarístico ahora se llevará a cabo aquí en la Parroquia. Los feligreses están invitados a participar en una Procesión Eucarística y el Congreso en St. Mary el próximo fin de semana. El programa y el horario están en el boletín y en el sitio web de la parroquia.
3. Habrá una celebración hispana y una recaudación de fondos este domingo 12 de septiembre en Bridge Park para celebrar la independencia de México. Las actividades comienzan a las 3 pm después de una bendición dada por el pastor a las 2 pm. Permítanos apoyar a nuestra parroquia y la comunidad hispana en la celebración y la recaudación de fondos.
4. Las Velas de Bienvenida para las bendiciones y la protección de Dios para nuestras familias y la parroquia, y el fin de la pandemia de Covid 19, se entregarán a todas las familias este fin de semana. Tendremos una celebración de bienvenida después de la misa de las 11:30 am el 26 de septiembre de 2021.
5. Habrá una segunda colecta para la jubilación del sacerdote en todas las misas de fin de semana del 25 y 26 de septiembre.



Religious Education

Next Faith Formation Session September 22nd at 6:30pm

You may pick up USB card of previous sacramental photos and certificates.

Próxima sesión de formación en la fe 22 de septiembre a las 6:30 pm

Puede recoger una tarjeta USB de fotografías y certificados sacramentales anteriores.

Stewardship

The offertory collection last weekend was \$3,575; Month to date: \$3,575

The second collection for flood relief in Haywood County raised \$1,603

Priests Retirement: \$1,470 has been collected toward our goal of \$4,611

La recaudación del ofertorio el semana pasado fue de \$3,575; Mes: \$3,575

La segunda colecta para alivio de inundaciones recaudó \$1,603

Jubilación de sacerdotes: Se han recaudado \$1,470 para nuestra meta de \$4,611

WCU Campus Ministry

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Catholic Campus Ministry at WCU is open to all college age individuals whether enrolled at Western Carolina University, Southwestern Community College, or not. We have Mass on campus, student Bible studies, weekly fellowship meals, catechesis, service opportunities and more!

Check out our schedule each week at www.WCUCatholic.org/schedule
or contact the campus minister, Deacon Matt Newsome, at ccm@wcucatholic.org.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook at WCUCatholic.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS - POR FAVOR GUARDE EN SUS ORACIONES:

Mary Ann Asbury, Justin Basenese, Jacki Bautista, Michael Burke, Moon Chung, Jim Clark, Sheila Coller, Will Crain, Diane Glover, Jim Glover, Rory Glover, Monica Glover, Debbie Hentschel, Barbara Jakiela, Skip Karby, Souhair Kwaham, Rita Lamanna, Daniella Machado, Tim Mann, Karen Matulis, Peter Namotka, Georgia Newsom, William Newsom, Jr., William Newsom, Sr., William Owen, Cathleen Pilch, Stephen Pilch, Zig Pilch, Cynthia Pitts, Alicia Ramirez, Stuart and Janet Snyder, Jay Thorne, Allen Thurston, Joshua Turner, Lewis Turner, Joe Waters, Pauline Watson, Bonnie Welch, Elaine Wilkes

Those Called to Active Duty: Luke Turner

Serving a Vocation: Sr. Catherine, OCD and Fr. Joseph Wasswa (Diocese of Charlotte)

and for all the prayers written in our parish book of prayers.

*If you know of someone to be added to the prayer list
or is homebound that would like a visit
please email or call the office.*



Parish Organizations

Parish Council

Chair: Brian Raming

Secretary: Sue Szarek

Parish Finance Council

Chair: Robin Starrs

Buildings & Grounds Commission

Chair: Don Pierce

Communications & Evangelization Commission

Chair: Mike Ensley

- Online & Social Media Resources:
Deacon. Matt and Steve Kuehl

Community Outreach Commission

Chair: Elaina Quijada

- Food Pantry: Yenny Sanchez
- Respect Life: Sue Szarek
- Prison Ministry: Steve Kuehl

Faith Education & Formation Commission

DRE: Luci Castillo

- Sacramental Preparation: Joannie Newsome
 - RCIA Coordinator: Mike Ensley
- Small Group Bible Studies: Tom Asbury

Liturgical Commission

Chair: Joe Conway

- Altar Guild: Sue Szarek

Hispanic Community Commission

Chair: Javier and Marta Espinoza

Parish Life Commission

Chair: Beth Fields

- Deputy Chair: Bonny Dodge
- Knights of Columbus: Jonathan Fischer
- Lay Carmelites: Director: Jean Burton

Stewardship Committee

Chair: Brian Raming

WCU Campus Ministry

Campus Minister: Deacon Matt Newsome

Email:

smmgoffice@stmarymotherofgod.com

Website:

stmarymotherofgod.com

Social Media:

facebook.com/stmarysylv

instagram.com/stmarysylv

youtube.com/c/StMaryMotherofGod

Main Line/Reception: 828-586-9496

Sacramental Emergency: 828-631-0576

New to the parish?

Please stop by the Welcome Desk in the Hall and complete a registration form.

**If interested in volunteer opportunities please call the office
and we will help you share your time and talents within the parish.**

¿Nuevo en la parroquia?

Pase por el mostrador de bienvenida en el salón y complete un formulario de registro.

**Si está interesado en oportunidades de voluntariado, llame a la oficina
y veremos cómo compartir su tiempo y talentos dentro de la parroquia.**

Religious Exemption or Conscientious Objection?

Deacon Matthew Newsome

This article has been edited for the bulletin. See the full article in the Catholic NewsHerald for September 10.

With COVID-19 cases spiking due to the Delta variant, vaccine mandates are becoming common, leading to debate over the ethics of such mandates and whether Catholics should be afforded a religious exemption. Confusion has also arisen due to conflicting messages from different U.S. bishops. Why the mixed message? I believe it stems from a failure to distinguish between religious exemption and conscientious objection. The difference is between saying, “I cannot do this because I am Catholic” and “I cannot do this because it violates my conscience.”

To qualify for a religious exemption, an act would need to be against the teaching of one’s faith. While one could say, “I cannot receive this vaccine because I am a Christian Scientist,” one would not be justified in saying, “I cannot receive this vaccine because I am a Catholic,” especially given the fact that Pope Francis himself has been vaccinated. He even called receiving the vaccine “an act of love” that protects one’s own health and the health of other vulnerable members of society!

However individual Catholics may claim an exemption based on conscience, meaning one judges reception of the vaccine to be immoral. Whether that judgment is right or wrong, the Church teaches that no one should be forced to act against one’s conscience. The moral objection being raised to the COVID-19 vaccines stems from their connection with the sin of abortion. All of the COVID-19 vaccines currently available have at some point in their testing or production utilized human cell lines originating from fetal tissue obtained from abortions that took place in the early 1970s.

The Catholic Church clearly teaches that abortion is a grave moral evil. The question of conscience is whether receiving these vaccines constitutes cooperation with the sin of abortion to a degree that would be sinful. We lack the space to go into details, but the judgment of the Church’s authorities is that the connection with abortion is sufficiently remote that reception of the COVID-19 vaccines is morally acceptable. This judgment has been articulated by the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and our own Bishop Peter Jugis. Further, this judgment is consistent with the Church’s teaching regarding other vaccines developed from these cell lines, including vaccines against measles, chickenpox, Hepatitis A, polio and rabies.

While these judgments of the Church’s competent authorities are not infallible, and Catholics in good faith may disagree, we nevertheless have an obligation to give them due consideration when forming our own conscience on this matter. At the end of the day, if the judgment of your conscience is that it would be a sin for you to receive the vaccine, even though the connection with abortion is material and remote, the teaching of the Church is that you should not be forced to violate your conscience. This would constitute a conscientious objection to the vaccine, and not a religious exemption, because there is not a specifically Catholic reason that would preclude a person from being vaccinated.