



## St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

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

12/19/21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

IV Domingo de Adviento

**Pastor: Rev. Paul Asoh, MSP** (Ext 102)

**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Matthew Newsome  
Rev. Mr. John Szarek  
Rev. Mr. Daniel Pyles

**Administrative Assistant to the Pastor / DRC:**

Luci Castillo (Ext 101/103)

**Receptionist / Office Assistant:** Sarah Brown (Ext 100)

**Liturgical Music:** Brad Martin / Joe Conway (Ext 104)

**Bookkeeper:** Ellen Miller

**St. Mary's Book Rack:** Mary Ann Kuehl

**Receptionist:** Beth Fields

The office will be closed December 23,24,25,30,31

Open Dec. 27 from 10am to 12pm

### 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 -9:00 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: [smmgoffice@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:smmgoffice@stmarymotherofgod.com)**

## Calendar – December 19<sup>th</sup> to December 26<sup>th</sup>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Roger Grenier+
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Edward Brian Cerniglia+
	1:00 pm	Christmas Decorating Party	
	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<i>No Mass (at WCU)</i>	
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Deceased Mountaineer Priests
<b>Tuesday:</b>	6:00 pm	RCIA	Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Deceased Mountaineer Priests
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Deceased Mountaineer Priests
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Mass (English)</b>	Linda Tiller+
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Vigilia de Navidad (Español)</b>	Apolinaria Pacheco
	11:00 pm	Matins & Extended Vigils	
	<b>11:30 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Mass at Night</b>	Tom Guertin+
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Mass</b>	Delores Namatka+
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Misa de Vigilia:</b>	Martin Ezpinoza+
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Jeff Spillman+
	10:00 am	Donuts, Dogma & Scripture	
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Father John Murphy+

To request a Mass Intention:

Email to [massintentions@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:massintentions@stmarymotherofgod.com)

Use the envelopes near the women's bathroom

## Liturgical Minister Schedule – Next Week

Mass / Misa	Ushers / Hospitalidad	Readers / Lecturas	Servers / Monaguillos
Friday Dec 24 4:00pm		Lucanne Rinke	
Viernes Dec 24 7:00pm		Benita Salinas	
Friday Dec 24 11:30pm			
Saturday Dec 25 10:00am			
Sabado Dec 25 7:00pm	Familia Colex	Juan Carlos Villegas	
Sunday Dec 26 8:30am	Mike Ensley Don Pierce	Brian Raming	Todd Wenberg
Sunday Dec 26 11:30am	Robin Starrs Joe Cerniglia	Jonathan Fischer	Newsomes Gideon Freeman

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Divine Visitation

God cursed the serpent the devil and among other things He said the offspring of the woman would crush the head of the serpent. (Gen 3:15) This is the text that is traditionally referred to as the *protoevangelium*; that is, the first proclamation of the Good News of salvation. The Prophet Isaiah would later speak of the virgin being with child and would bear a son and his name would be called Immanuel which means "*God is with us*". (Isaiah 7:17). The Prophet Micah, would speak of a woman in travail, who would bring forth a child. (Micah 5:3) The Israelites knew that the offspring or son of the woman referred to in all these texts and more is the Messiah who would be their Savior and the Savior of the whole humankind.

Last week we celebrated "*Gaudete*" Sunday when the church encouraged us to rejoice because our Lord is near. On this fourth and last Sunday of Advent, our first reading and gospel have one thing in common. This is the fact that from the least of the lowly clan of Judah; and from Mary the lowly handmaid, God has prepared a body for Christ, the prince of Peace. Christ according to our second reading from Hebrew assures his father for our sake: "Here I am! I am coming to do your will!" He comes soon in order to fill our hearts with his spirit of peace and joy as he did to Elizabeth and the child in her womb.

As we gradually approach the fulfillment of God's promise to us, the gospel of this Sunday presents us with the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. In spite of her pregnancy, Mary still found time to visit her cousin in order to share her joy and to assist her. This is a proof of her spirit of hospitality, generosity, humility, love and her faith in God who chose her. This is why she is blessed. It was not only Mary that visited Elizabeth but also, the Divine Child and Prince of peace did. Hence, this visit was divine. As we prepare to begin the year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Charlotte, let us share that joy with others by prayer, adoration and actions.

This season brethren, what we are about to have is a divine visitation and encounter with the child Jesus. This encounter will fill us with the Holy Spirit who will empower us as he empowered Elizabeth. This divine encounter with Christ will bring us transformation and it will provoke peace and greater joy in our hearts as it did for Elizabeth and the child in her womb. Let us embrace the humility of Our Blessed Mother and her Divine Child who helps us crush the actions and temptations of the ancient serpent, in our lives.

Finally, soon and very soon, we shall hear a knock at our door, and hear the voice of Mary the new ark of the covenant bearing the divine child. They are close to us. So let us dot all our "Is", and cross all our "Ts" in order to receive them, so that our joy may be complete this season. If you are yet to go for the Sacrament of Penance, this is a good time to do so, my brothers and sisters. May our coming Christmas Season be joyful. As we wait for our divine visitation and encounter this season, let us implore the Lord: "*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*"

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

### Housekeeping:

1. The Parish will celebrate its patronal feast day on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. There will be one Mass at 10 am after which there will be a Parish launch/fiesta. Please sign up to bring a side!
2. We join the Diocese of Charlotte to begin the celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 12, with Holy Hour and Mass being celebrated in every Parish on that day at the same time. There are 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary prayer cards and 2022 calendars in the narthex, please feel free to take one.
3. The day after Christmas day and New Year's day is a Sunday and the regular Mass schedule for Sunday will be followed.
4. On Friday December 24<sup>th</sup> there will be no 9am mass, holy hour or confessions.
5. Please come and help to decorate the church after Sunday 11:30am mass, around 1pm



# Desde el Escritorio del Pastor

## Visitación Divina

Dios maldijo a la serpiente, el diablo y, entre otras cosas, dijo que la descendencia de la mujer aplastaría la cabeza de la serpiente. (Génesis 3:15) Este es el texto que tradicionalmente se conoce como el *protoevangelio*; es decir, el primer anuncio de la Buena Nueva de salvación. El profeta Isaías hablaría más tarde de que la virgen estaba embarazada y daría a luz un hijo y su nombre se llamaría Emmanuel, que significa "*Dios está con nosotros*". (Isaías 7:17). El profeta Miqueas hablaba de una mujer con dolores de parto, que daría a luz un hijo. (Miqueas 5: 3) Los israelitas sabían que la descendencia o el hijo de la mujer a la que se hace referencia en todos estos textos y más es el Mesías que sería su Salvador y el Salvador de toda la humanidad.

La semana pasada celebramos el domingo "*Gaudete*" cuando la iglesia nos animó a regocijarnos porque nuestro Señor está cerca. En este cuarto y último domingo de Adviento, nuestra primera lectura y el evangelio tienen algo en común. Este es el hecho de que del más pequeño del humilde clan de Judá; y de María, la humilde esclava, Dios ha preparado un cuerpo para Cristo, el Príncipe de la Paz. Cristo, según nuestra segunda lectura del hebreo, asegura a su padre por nuestro bien: "¡Aquí estoy! ¡Vengo a hacer tu voluntad!" Él viene pronto para llenar nuestros corazones con su espíritu de paz y gozo como lo hizo con Isabel y el niño en su vientre.

A medida que nos acercamos gradualmente al cumplimiento de la promesa que Dios nos hizo, el evangelio de este domingo nos presenta la visita de María a su prima Isabel. A pesar de su embarazo, María todavía encontró tiempo para visitar a su prima para compartir su alegría y ayudarla. Esta es una prueba de su espíritu de hospitalidad, generosidad, humildad, amor y su fe en Dios que la eligió. Por eso está bendecida. No fue sólo María la que visitó a Isabel, sino también el Divino Niño y Príncipe de la paz. Por tanto, esta visita fue divina. Mientras nos preparamos para comenzar la celebración de un año del 50 aniversario de la Diócesis de Charlotte, compartamos ese gozo con los demás mediante la oración, la adoración y las acciones.

Esta temporada, hermanos, lo que vamos a tener es una visitación divina y un encuentro con el niño Jesús. Este encuentro nos llenará del Espíritu Santo que nos empoderará como empoderó a Isabel. Este encuentro divino con Cristo nos transformará y provocará paz y mayor alegría en nuestros corazones como lo hizo con Isabel y el niño en su vientre. Abracemos la humildad de Nuestra Santísima Madre y su Divino Niño que nos ayuda a aplastar las acciones y tentaciones de la serpiente antigua, en nuestras vidas.

Finalmente, pronto y muy pronto, escucharemos un golpe a nuestra puerta, y escucharemos la voz de María, el arca nueva de la alianza que da a luz al niño divino. Están cerca de nosotros. Así que pongamos puntos en todos nuestros "Yoes", y crucemos todos nuestros "Yoes" para recibirlos, para que nuestra alegría sea completa en esta temporada. Si todavía tienen que ir por el Sacramento de la Penitencia, este es un buen momento para hacerlo, mis hermanos y hermanas. Que nuestra próxima temporada navideña sea alegre. Mientras esperamos nuestra visitación y encuentro divinos en esta temporada, imploramos al Señor: "*Dios de los ejércitos, haznos volver; haz que tu rostro brille sobre nosotros y seremos salvos.*"

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

## Noticias:

1. La Parroquia celebrará su fiesta patronal el 1 de enero, Solemnidad de María Madre de Dios. Habrá una misa a las 10 am, bilingüe después habrá un lanzamiento / fiesta parroquial. Porfavor apuntarse para que gusta traer!
2. Nos unimos a la Diócesis de Charlotte para comenzar la celebración del 50 aniversario el 12 de enero, con la Hora Santa y la Misa en todas las parroquias ese día a la misma hora. Hay tarjetas de oración del 50 aniversario y calendarios 2022 en el nártex, no dude en tomar una.
3. El día después de Navidad y el día de Año Nuevo es domingo y se seguirá el horario regular de misa para el domingo
4. El viernes 24 de diciembre no habrá misa de las 9 am, hora santa ni confesiones.
5. Venga y ayude a decorar la iglesia después de la misa del domingo a las 11:30 am, alrededor de la 1:00 pm



## Religious Education

***First Communion class will be Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm***

Faith Formation classes resume January 5, 2022  
with a Community meeting celebrating the Epiphany of Jesus at 6:30pm

---

***La clase de Primera Comuni3n ser3 el mi3rcoles 22 de diciembre a las 6:30 pm***

Las clases de formaci3n en la fe se reanudan el 5 de enero de 2022  
con una reuni3n comunitaria celebrando la Epifan3a de Jes3s a las 6:30 pm

### ***ANGEL TREE / 3RBOL DE 3NGEL***

Thank you for all angel tree gift donations! Gifts went to our parishioners, the Center for Domestic Peace, Skyland care center, and Sylva Community assistance.

Gracias por todas las donaciones de regalos de 3rboles de 3ngel.  
Los regalos fueron para nuestros feligreses, el Centro para la Paz Dom3stica,  
Skyland y la Asistencia de Sylva Community.

## Stewardship

Offertory last weekend: \$3,970 / Month to date: \$7,363

Christmas poinsettias: \$595 received / Goal: \$450

Second collection for Religious retirement: \$975

Any additional donations for DSA or Priest's Retirement will appear in the 2021 tax statements,  
but will count toward the 2022 assessments.

***2022 Offertory envelopes are available this weekend in the church entrance.***

If you do not see your name and would like envelopes, please contact Ellen at  
[bookkeeper@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:bookkeeper@stmarymotherofgod.com) or leave a message in the office.

---

Ofertorio 3ltimo fin de semana: \$3,393 / Mes hasta la fecha: \$7,363

Nochebuenas: \$595 recibidos / Meta: \$450

Segunda colecta por jubilaci3n religiosa: \$975

***Los sobres del ofertorio 2022 est3n disponibles este fin de semana en la entrada de la iglesia.***

Si no ve su nombre y desea sobres, comun3quese con Ellen en  
[bookkeeper@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:bookkeeper@stmarymotherofgod.com) o deje un mensaje en la oficina.

## WCU Campus Ministry News

Holiday Masses at WCU:

Sunday Dec 12 Final Mass of the semester (No Mass on campus until January)

Sunday Jan 9 First campus Mass in 2022

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

Alonso Family, Ángel Esteban Arrua, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Mary Ann Asbury, Justin Basenese, Jacki Bautista, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Michael Burke, Cáceres Family, Moon Chung, Verónica Natalia Chávez, Jim Clark, Sheila Coller, Will Crain, Martin Espinoza+, Diane Glover, Jim Glover, Rory Glover, Monica Glover, Marisa Graham, Miles Harris, Debbie Hentschel, Barbara Jakiela, Skip Karby+, Souhair Kwaham, Rita Lamanna, Daniella Machado, Tim Mann, Karen Matulis, Paula McCafferty & McCafferty Family, Peter Namotka, Georgia Newsom, William Newsom, Jr., William Newsom, Sr.+, Linwood Newsome, Tom Nicoletti & Nicoletti Family, William Owen, Carolina Silvia Brizuela Pérez, Cathleen Pilch, Stephen Pilch, Zig Pilch, Cynthia Pitts, Alicia Ramirez, Rios Family, Verónica Rodríguez, SantaCruz Family, Stuart and Janet Snyder, María Sol Montel, 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.*

## **Masses for the Immuno-Compromised**

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of the omicron variant, the protocols below are being adopted ***beginning Sunday, December 12***, to make our parish more welcoming to those with higher health risk or concerns.

Out of love and respect for our whole parish family,  
***please*** follow these guidelines.

### **SUNDAY – 8:30am Mass**

Mass will be live-streamed  
to the Fellowship Hall

The door to the shelter area  
will be unlocked for access

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED IN THE HALL**

Social distancing is required, and  
singing is not allowed in the Hall

A Eucharistic Minister (with mask)  
will bring communion

Special air filtration is in place

### **Wednesday – 5:30pm Mass**

The right transept is reserved  
for those with high risk

**MASKS ARE REQUIRED  
IN THE RIGHT TRANSEPT**

All are requested to wear masks

Celebrant will wear a mask  
when giving communion

Singing is not allowed  
Practice social distancing at communion

Special air filtration is in place

For the Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00pm the Sunday protocols will be used.

# 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: Bonny Dodge
  - 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](mailto:smmgoffice@stmarymotherofgod.com)

## **Website:**

[stmarymotherofgod.com](http://stmarymotherofgod.com)

## **Social Media:**

[facebook.com/stmarysylv](https://facebook.com/stmarysylv)

[instagram.com/stmarysylv](https://instagram.com/stmarysylv)

[youtube.com/c/StMaryMotherofGod](https://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.**

## DECEMBER MASS SCHEDULE

### Dec 24/25 Christmas

Dec 24 at 4:00 PM	Vigil Mass in English
Dec 24 at 7:00 PM	Vigil Mass in Spanish
Dec 24 at 11:00 PM	Matins (Office of Readings) with Extended Vigils
Dec 24 at 11:30 PM	Mass at Night in English
Dec 25 at 10:00 AM	Christmas Day Mass in English

### Dec 31/Jan 1 Mary Mother of God (Patronal Feast of our Parish)

Dec 31 at 6:30 PM	Vigil Mass in English Adoration from after the Vigil Mass until Midnight
Jan 1 at 10:00 AM	Bilingual Mass Parish lunch celebration after Mass

## ***THE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN***

**Food Pantry Hours:**                    **Saturdays after 7pm mass**  
    **Thursdays from 3:30-5:30pm**

If you want to donate to the food pantry, please drop off any non-perishable items in the parish hall.

