



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

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

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

### 12/26/21 – Christmas / Holy Family Navidad / La Sagrada Familia

**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 / DRE:**

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 26<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Jeff Spillman+
	10:00 am	Donuts, Dogma & Scripture	On the Family (Deacon Dan)
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Father John Murphy+
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	
	6:30 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting	
<b>Tuesday:</b>	6:00 pm	RCIA	Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<i>No Mass</i>	
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Misa en Español</b>	
	7:00 pm	Holy Hour	
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Emilie Wolarik+
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Mary Mother of God Vigil</b>	
	7:30 pm	Adoration (until midnight)	
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Mary Mother of God</b>	
	12:00 pm	Parish Celebration	
	6:00 pm	Epiphany Blessing of Holy Water, Salt and Chalk	
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Misa de Vigilia</b>	Epifania
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Epiphany
	10:00 am	Donuts, Dogma & Scripture	Father Paul
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Epiphany

*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 31 6:30pm			
Saturday Jan 1 10:00am		Benita Bueno Opal Core	
Sabado Jan 1 7:00pm	Familia Perez	Benita Bueno	
Sunday Jan 2 8:30am	Mike Ensley Don Pierce	Lucanne Rinke	Todd Wenberg
Sunday Jan 2 11:30am	Robin Starrs Joe Cerniglia	Sue Cerniglia	Newsomes Gideon Freeman

# From the Pastor's Desk

## A Model Family

I want to begin by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year in advance. I thank God for the opportunity to celebrate the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses with you. In his 2021 Christmas message, Pope Francis says, "What is Christmas? Is it a tree? A statue of a baby with a woman and a man nearby? Yes, it is Jesus, the birth of Jesus. Stop for a bit and think of Christmas as a message, a message of peace." This message and its light comes to a world darkened by sin, divisions and strife to transform it and our lives.

Christmas brings great beauty. Homes, churches, shops, offices, and streets are beautifully decorated with Christmas trees, wreaths, flowers and lights. Christmas has a greater spiritual meaning if our life is inwardly decorated with the hope, peace, joy, and love we celebrated during the four Sundays of Advent. May this year's Christmas celebration bring us all these things and more.

The celebration of the feast of the Holy Family is of utmost importance to all of us because we all belong to families; and the family is the first and the greatest institution God created. It comes in a unique year when we celebrate Christmas the day before Holy family. Unfortunately, we are passing through a difficult time whereby many families are fractured and hurting in one way or another. There is fear or cases of the Covid/Omicron variant. Our difficult situation is compounded by an increase in instability in families caused by changing family values, and social, political, and economic reasons. Since families are the foundations and the constituents of societies, more fractured, hurting, and unstable families mean more fractured, hurting, and unstable societies.



Just because the family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was a holy family does not mean that everything was well and smooth for them. It was a lowly family with many ups and downs; but they held together in all their ups and downs. Therefore, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is a model for all families. Mary gave birth to Jesus in very difficult circumstances. After a long journey on foot from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, a distance of about 100 miles (161 kilometers), there was no inn to lodge in. They went to a shed on a farm where Mary gave birth to Jesus. It was not recorded that any nurse or midwife was available to help. We can only imagine how tough it was for the two of them all alone when Jesus was born. Pope Paul VI describes the Holy Family as a school of Nazareth where we learn the true science of life and the higher wisdom of divine truth. The Holy Family teaches us faith in God and obedience to him. The family teaches us selflessness, sacrifice, forbearance, understanding, harmony, and love.

The first reading for Holy Family reminds us that, "God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority over her [children]." Unfortunately, many parents have handed over this God-given authority to their children. Thus the reverse has become the case: Many children have authority over their parents, and are able to control and manipulate their parents as they wish. There is no perfect family. Turning on one another and violence to one another only make matters worse. St. Paul encourages us in the second reading of Sunday about how to cope with family imperfections in order to avoid disorderliness, instability, breakdowns, and disintegrations: "Put on ... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. ... And over all these put on love .... And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, ... And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus..." (Colossians 3:12-17). We can see here that St. Paul encourages families to pray together. "A family that prays together stays together."

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

## Housekeeping:

1. There will not be any Mass and confessions this Wednesday evening, but there will be Mass on Thursday by 9 am and Mass in Spanish by 6:30 pm followed Holy Hour for the last Thursday of the month.
2. There will be the Epiphany blessing of holy water and salt, and chalk for New Year's house blessing on Saturday January 1st by 6 pm. Please bring your empty containers to be filled with the newly blessed holy water. Sachets of blessed salt, chalk and the prayer pamphlet for the blessing of the house can be collected after the celebration of the Mass of the Epiphany of Lord.



# Desde el Escritorio del Pastor

## Una Familia Modelo

Quiero comenzar deseándoles a todos una Feliz Navidad y un maravilloso Año Nuevo de antemano. Doy gracias a Dios por la oportunidad de celebrar las misas de Nochebuena y Navidad con ustedes. En su mensaje de Navidad de 2021, el Papa Francisco dice: "¿Qué es la Navidad? Es un árbol ¿Una estatua de un bebé con una mujer y un hombre cerca? Sí, es Jesús, el nacimiento de Jesús. Deténgase un momento y piense en la Navidad como un mensaje, un mensaje de paz ". Este mensaje y su luz llega a un mundo oscurecido por el pecado, las divisiones y las luchas para transformarlo y nuestras vidas.

La Navidad trae una gran belleza. Las casas, iglesias, tiendas, oficinas y calles están bellamente decoradas con árboles de Navidad, coronas, flores y luces. La Navidad tiene un mayor significado espiritual si nuestra vida está decorada interiormente con la esperanza, la paz, la alegría y el amor que celebramos durante los cuatro domingos de Adviento. Que la celebración navideña de este año nos traiga todas estas cosas y más.

La celebración de la fiesta de la Sagrada Familia es de suma importancia para todos nosotros porque todos pertenecemos a familias; y la familia es la primera y más grande institución que Dios creó. Llega en un año único cuando celebramos la Navidad el día antes de la Sagrada Familia. Desafortunadamente, estamos atravesando un momento difícil en el que muchas familias están fracturadas y sufriendo de una forma u otra. Hay miedo o casos de la variante Covid / Omicron. Nuestra difícil situación se ve agravada por un aumento de la inestabilidad en las familias causada por los cambios en los valores familiares y por razones sociales, políticas y económicas. Dado que las familias son los cimientos y los componentes de las sociedades, familias más fracturadas, heridas e inestables significan sociedades más fracturadas, heridas e inestables.

El hecho de que la familia de Jesús, María y José fuera una familia sagrada no significa que todo estuvo bien para ellos. Era una familia humilde con muchos altibajos; pero se mantuvieron unidos en todos sus altibajos. Por tanto, la Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José es un modelo para todas las familias. María dio a luz a Jesús en circunstancias muy difíciles. Después de un largo viaje a pie desde Nazaret a Belén para el censo, una distancia de aproximadamente 161 kilómetros, no había posada donde alojarse. Fueron a un cobertizo en una granja donde María dio a luz a Jesús. No se registró que ninguna enfermera o partera estuviera disponible para ayudar. Solo podemos imaginar lo difícil que fue para los dos solos cuando nació Jesús. El Papa Pablo VI describe la Sagrada Familia como una escuela de Nazaret donde aprendemos la verdadera ciencia de la vida y la sabiduría superior de la verdad divina. La Sagrada Familia nos enseña la fe en Dios y la obediencia a él. La familia nos enseña altruismo, sacrificio, tolerancia, comprensión, armonía y amor.

La primera lectura de la Sagrada Familia nos recuerda que, "Dios pone a un padre en honor sobre sus hijos; la autoridad de una madre sobre sus [hijos] ". Desafortunadamente, muchos padres han entregado esta autoridad dada por Dios a sus hijos. Por lo tanto, ha sucedido lo contrario: muchos niños tienen autoridad sobre sus padres y pueden controlar y manipular a sus padres como lo deseen. No existe una familia perfecta. El enfrentarse unos a otros y la violencia entre ellos solo empeoran las cosas. San Pablo nos anima en la segunda lectura del domingo sobre cómo hacer frente a las imperfecciones familiares para evitar el desorden, la inestabilidad, las rupturas y las desintegraciones: "Pónganse ... compasión, bondad, humildad, mansedumbre y paciencia de todo corazón, soportando uno a otro y perdonándose unos a otros. ... Y sobre todo esto ponte amor.... Y dejad que la paz de Cristo controle vuestros corazones... Y sed agradecidos. Dejemos que la palabra de Cristo more en abundancia en ustedes, como con toda sabiduría se enseñan y se exhortan unos a otros, cantando salmos, himnos y cánticos espirituales con gratitud en su corazón a Dios. Y todo lo que hagáis, de palabra o de hecho, hazlo todo en el nombre del Señor Jesús..."(Colosenses 3: 12-17). Podemos ver aquí que San Pablo anima a las familias a orar juntas. "Una familia que reza junta, se queda junta."

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

## Noticias:

1. No habrá Misa ni confesiones este miércoles por la noche, pero habrá Misa el jueves a las 9 am y Misa en español a las 6:30 pm seguido de la Hora Santa el último jueves del mes.
2. Habrá la bendición de Epifanía de agua bendita y sal, y tiza para la bendición de la casa de Año Nuevo el sábado 1 de enero a las 6 pm. Por favor traiga sus recipientes vacíos para llenarlos con el agua bendita recién bendecida. Las bolsitas de sal bendita, tiza y el panfleto de oración por la bendición de la casa se pueden recoger después de la celebración de la Misa de la Epifanía del Señor.



## Religious Education

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

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***Las clases de formación en la fe se reanudan el 5 de enero de 2022***  
con una reunión comunitaria celebrando la Epifanía de Jesús a las 6:30 pm

## Stewardship

Offertory last weekend: \$2,400 / Month to date: \$9,797  
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.

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Ofertorio último fin de semana: \$2,400 / Mes hasta la fecha: \$9,797

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

Si no ve su nombre y desea sobres, comuníquese 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.

