



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

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

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

### 1/9/22 – Baptism of the Lord El Bautismo del Señor

**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 am & 11:30 am

##### Misas diarias:

Lunes, jueves, viernes y sábados a las 9:00 am  
Miércoles a las 5:30 pm

**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 Misa hasta las 10:30 am  
Primer viernes de 9:30 am a 10:00 pm  
Primer 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 – January 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Linda Tiller
	10:00 am	Donuts, Dogma & Scripture	Hymns of St. Ephraim (Deacon Matt)
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Pro Populo
	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday Mass (at WCU)</b>	
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday:</b>	6:00 pm	RCIA	Parish Hall
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	Adoration	<u>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event</u>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass</b>	Dennis Perlakowski
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Todd Wendberg+
	11:30 am	Staff Meeting	
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	
	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Daily Mass (at WCU)</b>	
	6:00 pm	Adoration (until 8:00 pm)	<u>50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event</u>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	
	10:00 am	Lay Carmelite Community Meeting	
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Misa de Vigilia</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Jim Alexander+
	10:00 am	Donuts, Dogma & Scripture	Respect Life (Sue Szarek)
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Pro Populo
	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday Mass (at WCU)</b>	

*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
Sabado Jan 15 7:00pm	Familia Yanez	Patricia Hernandez	
Sunday Jan 16 8:30am	Mike Ensley Don Pierce	Caryn Raming	Todd Wenberg
Sunday Jan 16 11:30am	Robin Starrs Joe Cerniglia	Bella Core Opal Core	Newsomes Gideon Freeman

## From the Pastor's Desk

### *Celebrating My Baptism-Day*

Last Sunday was the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. Epiphany means the revelation of Jesus to the world, as represented through the Magi who followed the Star from the East through Jerusalem to Bethlehem proclaiming the birth of the Savior. The revelation continues today with the Baptism of Jesus.

Catholic catechism teaches that Baptism is a Sacrament through which we are cleansed from original sin. Through Baptism, we become followers of Christ, children of God, and members of the Church. Some people ask, "If Baptism cleanses us from original sin, why, then, was it necessary that Jesus was baptized although he was sinless?" Maximus of Turin explains, "Christ is baptized, not that he may be sanctified in the waters, but that he himself may sanctify the waters... For when the Savior is washed, then already for our Baptism all water is cleansed and the fount purified... Christ therefore takes the lead in Baptism, so that Christian people may follow after him with confidence."

By his Baptism, Jesus incarnates himself into humanity. He fulfils all requirements of identifying with sinners. According to St. Athanasius, "He became what we are, so that he might make us what he is." We, therefore, become recipients of his incarnation by our own Baptism. Hence, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 1272) teaches, "Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation. Given once for all, Baptism cannot be repeated."

Today's celebration reminds us of the importance of our own Baptism and baptismal promises. The baptismal promises are to reject Satan, and all his works, and all his empty promises, and to believe in God, in Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, and in the Church. Today, we are invited to remember the great day we were initiated into the membership of the Church and christened as followers of Christ. We are invited to rediscover the importance of our Baptism to our journey of faith; and as we begin the new year, renew our baptismal promises, and make effort in keeping them. By this, we become God's beloved children and pleasing to him.

Today, too, we call to mind and pray for the church or parish where we were baptized, the Priest or Deacon who baptized us, our godparents, and all those who assisted in our Baptism. They all played indispensable roles at the beginning of our journey of faith. Since we do not have the tradition of celebrating Baptism-day, as we celebrate birthdays, today is a good day to celebrate our Baptism-day. And to pray for our Diocese of Charlotte as we all begin its 50th anniversary with Holy Hour and Mass this Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, by 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm respectively. May God renew the Baptismal grace in each of us. Amen!.

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

### *Housekeeping:*

1. *Faith more precious than gold.* This is the theme as we join the Diocese of Charlotte to begin the celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 12 (the day the first Bishop was installed in 1972) with **Holy Hour by 5:30 pm** and **Mass by 7:00 pm** 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. The anniversary celebration is a yearlong event with different activities until January 12, 2023.
2. The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord brings to an end the Christmas season. We are inviting parishioners after the 11:30 am Mass to help in **taking down the Christmas decorations** and cleaning the Church. Thanks to everyone for all your help and commitment.



# Desde el Escritorio del Pastor

## Celebrando el Día de Mi Bautismo

El pasado domingo fue la Fiesta de la Epifanía del Señor. Epifanía significa la revelación de Jesús al mundo, representada a través de los Reyes Magos que siguieron la Estrella desde Oriente a través de Jerusalén hasta Belén anunciando el nacimiento del Salvador. La revelación continúa hoy con el Bautismo de Jesús.

El catecismo católico enseña que el Bautismo es un Sacramento por el cual somos limpiados del pecado original. Por el bautismo, nos convertimos en seguidores de Cristo, hijos de Dios y miembros de la Iglesia. Algunas personas preguntan: “Si el bautismo nos limpia del pecado original, ¿por qué, entonces, era necesario que Jesús fuera bautizado a pesar de que no tenía pecado?” Máximo de Turín explica: “Cristo es bautizado, no para ser santificado en las aguas, sino para que él mismo pueda santificar las aguas... Porque cuando el Salvador es lavado, ya por nuestro Bautismo toda el agua es limpiada y la fuente purificada... Por tanto, Cristo toma la delantera en el bautismo, para que el pueblo cristiano pueda seguirlo con confianza”.



Por su Bautismo, Jesús se encarna en la humanidad. Él cumple con todos los requisitos de identificación con los pecadores. Según San Atanasio, “Él se hizo lo que nosotros somos, para poder hacernos lo que él es”. Nosotros, por lo tanto, nos convertimos en destinatarios de su encarnación por nuestro propio Bautismo. Por eso, el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica (párrafo 1272) enseña: “Incorporado a Cristo por el bautismo, el bautizado se configura con Cristo. El bautismo sella al cristiano con la marca espiritual indeleble (carácter) de su pertenencia a Cristo. Ningún pecado puede borrar esta marca, incluso si el pecado impide que el Bautismo dé frutos de salvación. Dado de una vez por todas, el bautismo no se puede repetir”.

La celebración de hoy nos recuerda la importancia de nuestro propio Bautismo y las promesas bautismales. Las promesas bautismales son rechazar a Satanás, y todas sus obras, y todas sus promesas vacías, y creer en Dios, en Jesucristo, en el Espíritu Santo y en la Iglesia. Hoy, estamos invitados a recordar el gran día en que fuimos iniciados como miembros de la Iglesia y bautizados como seguidores de Cristo. Estamos invitados a redescubrir la importancia de nuestro Bautismo en nuestro camino de fe; y al comenzar el nuevo año, renovar nuestras promesas bautismales y esforzarnos por cumplirlas. Por esto, nos convertimos en hijos amados de Dios y agradables a él.

Hoy también recordamos y oramos por la iglesia o parroquia donde fuimos bautizados, el Sacerdote o Diácono que nos bautizó, nuestros padrinos y todos los que asistieron en nuestro Bautismo. Todos ellos jugaron papeles indispensables al comienzo de nuestro camino de fe. Como no tenemos la tradición de celebrar el día del Bautismo, como celebramos los cumpleaños, hoy es un buen día para celebrar nuestro día del Bautismo. Y orar por nuestra Diócesis de Charlotte mientras todos comenzamos su 50 aniversario con la Hora Santa y la Misa este miércoles 12 de enero a las 5:30 p. m. y 7:00 p. m. respectivamente. Que Dios renueve la gracia bautismal en cada uno de nosotros. ¡Amén!.

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

## Noticias:

1. Fe más preciosa que el oro. Este es el tema al unirmos a la Diócesis de Charlotte para comenzar la celebración del 50 aniversario el 12 de enero (el día en que se instaló el primer obispo en 1972) con la ***Hora Santa a las 5:30 pm*** y la ***Misa a las 7:00 pm*** celebradas en cada Parroquia ese día a la misma hora. Hay tarjetas de oración del 50 aniversario y calendarios 2022 en el nártex, no dude en tomar uno. La celebración del aniversario es un evento de un año con diferentes actividades hasta el 12 de enero de 2023.
2. La celebración del Bautismo del Señor pone fin al tiempo de Navidad. Estamos invitando a los feligreses después de la Misa de las 11:30 am para que ayuden a ***quitar las decoraciones navideñas*** y limpiar la Iglesia. Gracias a todos por toda su ayuda y compromiso.

## Religious Education

***Faith Formation Classes are Wednesday, January 19, at 6:30pm***

Remember you will get screened at the entrance.

If you are interested in volunteering please talk to Luci. We appreciate your help!

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***Las clases de formación de fe son el miércoles 19 de enero a las 6:30 pm***

Recuerde que le checaran la temperatura en la entrada.

Si está interesado en ser voluntario, hable con Luci. ¡Apreciamos su ayuda!

## MASSES for the Immuno-Compromised

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of the omicron variant, to make our parish more welcoming to those with higher health risk or concerns, protocols for ***masks, social distancing and no singing*** have been adopted at Masses on:

***8:30am on Sunday (in the Hall) / 5:30pm on Wednesday (in the right transept)***

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

## Stewardship

Offertory last weekend: \$4,305 / Month to date: \$4,305

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God: \$228

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

Please contact Ellen if you do not see your name and would like a box.

***Annual gift statements will be available at the church entrance by the end of January.***

If you would prefer to receive yours via email, please contact Ellen.

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Ofertorio último fin de semana: \$4,305 / Mes hasta la fecha: \$4,305

Solemnidad de María Madre de Dios: \$228

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

Comuníquese con Ellen si no ve su nombre y desea una caja.

***Las declaraciones anuales de donaciones estarán disponibles en la entrada a fines de enero.***

Si prefiere recibir el suyo por correo electrónico, comuníquese con Ellen.

## WCU Campus Ministry News

***Masses on campus resume this Sunday, Jan 9, at 4:00 PM.***

Mass is celebrated at the Catholic Campus Ministry Student Center during the academic semester every ***Sunday at 4:00 PM*** and ***Friday at 12:15 PM***

***Our first Wednesday Night fellowship dinner will be Jan. 19 at 6:00 PM*** so that students may participate in the 50th Anniversary Mass on Wednesday, Jan. 12.

View our full schedule and find more information about our campus ministry at  
***www.WCUCatholic.org***

**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.*

**50th Anniversary ↔ 50 Acts of Charity**

As we begin our yearlong celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese of Charlotte we are also celebrating **50 Acts of Charity** starting with our own **Food Pantry**.

**FOOD INSECURITY** is defined as: The state of being without reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food. More than 800 million people around the world live every day with hunger or food insecurity as their constant companion. Right **here in Jackson County** “food insecurity” impacts **16% of the overall population** (6,180 individuals). **26% of children** live in food insecure homes, and many seniors are also impacted.

**YOU CAN HELP**

Our own St Mary Mother of God **Food Pantry** is open, and in need of stocking!

Please bring **non-perishable food items** such as:

*Peanut Butter Jelly Oatmeal Rice Beans Macaroni & Cheese Soup Cereal*

Just a couple items a week will help those become Food SECURE.

Also needed are **hygiene products** including:

*Soap Shampoo Deodorant Feminine Hygiene*

Please **place all items in the Fellowship Hall** in the area designated.

Our process will be reported to the Diocese. Watch our **Charity Thermometer** grow!

The theme of our 50th Anniversary celebration is “*Faith more precious than gold*”.

Let’s put our faith into ACTION – and start by stocking our food pantry!

# 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/stmarysylva](https://facebook.com/stmarysylva)

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

[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.



DIOCESE of  
CHARLOTTE

50<sup>th</sup>  
1972 • ANNIVERSARY • 2022

## FAITH MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD

To kick off our yearlong celebration of the Diocese of Charlotte Anniversary please join us for ***Adoration and a Special Mass*** on ***Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>***

***Holy Adoration from 5:30 to 6:30 pm / Mass at 7:00 pm***

All parishes in our diocese will be celebrating Adoration & Mass at this same time. Come step into the river with all our fellow Diocese members and let's celebrate together.

What better way to kick off our Anniversary!

There will be ***Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*** every week beginning ***Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm*** and continuing every Friday until January 6, 2023.

The first hour will be silent reflection, and the second hour will include special prayers for our diocese.

What better way to continue the celebration than spending time with Our Lord!

Please remember to take a ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prayer Card*** and pray it daily for the Diocese of Charlotte.

There will be several ***other events*** planned throughout the year.

Watch the bulletin, and website for further details.

## FAITH MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD