



*“Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.”*

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

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

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

12/11/22 – 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 (retired)  
Rev. Mr. Daniel Pyles

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

Luci Castillo (Ext 101/103)

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

**Liturgical Music:** Trinity Leger / Joe Conway (Ext 104)

**Bookkeeper:** Carla Haire

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

**Office Hours / Horas de Oficina**

Monday & Thursday: 10 to 2; Friday: 9 to 2; Saturday: 10 to 1  
Lunes y Jueves: 10 to 2; Viernes: 9 to 2 Sabado: 10 to 1

### MASS TIMES at St. Mary Mother of God

**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

Sunday: 10:45 until 11:15 am  
Wednesdays at 5:00 pm, Friday at 9:30 am  
and Saturday at 5:00 pm  
Or by appointment

**Tiempos de Confesiones**

Domingo 10:45 am, Miércoles 5:00 pm  
Viernes 9:30 am, Sabado 5:00 pm  
O con cita previa

**Adoration and Benediction**

Every Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm  
1st Friday from 9:30 am -8:00 pm  
1st Saturday Holy Hour after Mass

**Adoración y Bendición**

Todos los viernes de 6:00 a 8:00 pm  
Primer viernes de 9:30 am a 8:00 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 - December 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Newsom Family
	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Edward Brian Cerniglia+
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Kathy Starr
	6:30 pm	Liturgy Commission Meeting	
<b>Tuesday:</b>	6:00 pm	English Class / Clase de Inglés	
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Collins & Ascoli Families
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	Dan & Hannah Purvis
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Daily Mass</b>	
	7:00 pm	Emmaus Adoration (until 8:00 pm)	
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Mass (English)</b>	Linda Tiller+
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Misa de Navidad</b>	Familia Castillo
	11:00 pm	Office of Readings	
	<b>11:30 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Mass (English)</b>	Kathy Starr
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Mass (English)</b>	Dolores Namotka+ Pro Populo

To request a Mass Intention:

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

Or use the envelopes near the women's bathroom

## Liturgical Minister Schedule - Next Week

Mass / Misa	Ushers / Hospitalidad	Readers / Lecturas	Servers / Monaguillos
Saturday Dec 24 4:00 pm		Caryn Raming	Brian Raming Todd Wenberg
Sabado 24 Dic 7:00 pm	Familia Perez	Benita Bueno	
Saturday Dec 24 11:30am		Sara Freeman	Alister, Gideon, Maddie
Sunday Dec 25 10:00am		Lucanne Rinke	

## From the Pastor's Desk

### Trust God and Wait for Him

Today, we light the third purple candle which is called the candle of love. The circle is complete. St. Paul assures us that Hope does not disappoint (Romans 5:5). Hope brings us Peace. Peace brings us Joy. Joy brings us Love. "God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him" (1 John 4:16). To live in God is to live in Jesus Christ who is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). May the Advent journey and Christmas celebration enable us to live in Christ and become channels of God's love.

Mary said yes to the angel Gabriel to become the channel through which Jesus came into the world. In the same way, God has been inviting us throughout the Advent journey to become channels of God's love in our world. This is what St. Paul means in the second reading where he says, "We have received the grace of apostleship" (Romans 1:5). We are, therefore, apostles and messengers of God's love. An apostle or a messenger listens to the voice of his master or her mistress and does the will of his master or her mistress, not his or her own will. If we have really been following the readings and other texts of the liturgy during the first weeks of Advent, we see that the Church has been inviting us to focus our attention on that day when, in the fullness of time, Christ will return in glory. In the final days of Advent, however, the focus shifts and we recall those prophecies, people, and events that preceded the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem more than two millennia ago.

In the first reading, Ahaz, the king of Judah, refused to trust God and do what God commanded him to do. At that time, Ahaz was surrounded by his enemies, the king of Damascus and the king of Samaria. Ahaz was frightened. God sent Isaiah to him to encourage him not to panic, and not to seek support from pagan nations. God gave him a sign that the "Virgin is with child"; Emmanuel, meaning God is with us. Ahaz still refused and aligned himself with the king of Assyria, built pagan altars and led the people astray. This would have devastating consequences for Israel and later on for Judah. Joseph, unlike Ahaz, will follow the message of God brought by the Angel in his dream. The greatness of Joseph lay in the role that God assigned to him and he played it perfectly. God chose him because he was a man of honor even in difficult circumstances. He was the perfect gentleman. During difficult times, let us not panic or seek solution through wrongful means like Ahaz. God does not approve solutions through wrongful means. Any apparent solution through wrongful means is bound to fail or will sooner or later result in disaster. Therefore, let us, always, trust God and wait for him to act (Psalm 37). He loves us and would never leave us hanging.

The above are stories that we know well. Some of us learned the story of the Jesus' birth through Christmas pageants or holiday TV specials. For others, it was Bible stories, attending church services at Christmas, and in classic carols and hymns. In a sense, the Christmas story has become part of our spiritual DNA, and because of that, there is the risk that we lose sight of how shocking these events really were to those who were living them, and we miss what they reveal about the mercy and love of God. In an Advent reflection, spiritual writer Loretta Ross-Gotta remarked: Jesus observed, "Without me you can do nothing." (John 15:5). Yet we act, for the most part, as though without us God can do nothing. We think we have to make Christmas come, which is to say we think we have to bring about the redemption of the universe on our own... "Oh, but nothing will get done," you say. "If I don't do it, Christmas won't happen." And we crowd out Christ with our fretful fears. (Found in Watch for the Light: Reflections for Advent and Christmas)

Always, in one way or another, God sends us messages in the midst of our difficulties, anxieties or fears. Do we listen to him? Indeed, we have a lot to learn from Joseph's response to the news of Mary's pregnancy and his acts of compassion and not seeking envious payback.

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

### Housekeeping:

1. The office will be closed on December 22, 23, 26 & 30, and January 2. The office will re-open on January 5.
2. We are appealing for donations to buy poinsettias to decorate the altar and other parts of the Church. You can still make donations by check, online or cash, indicating for poinsettias in the envelope in the offertory or at the Parish office. We hope to raise \$500 as budget for the poinsettias. We are appealing for volunteers to help decorate the Church after the 11:30 am Mass this Sunday, December 18.
3. We are having a second collection this weekend to reach the goals of our DSA and Priests Retirement and next Sunday to meet our December Budget expenditure shortfalls. We continue to appeal and appreciate your generosity. Thank you!



# Desde el Escritorio del Pastor

## Confía en Dios y Espera en Él

Hoy encendemos la tercera vela morada que se llama la vela del amor. El círculo está completo. San Pablo nos asegura que la esperanza no defrauda (Romanos 5:5). La esperanza nos trae la Paz. La paz nos trae alegría. La alegría nos trae el Amor. "Dios es amor. El que vive en el amor vive en Dios, y Dios en él" (1 Juan 4:16). Vivir en Dios es vivir en Jesucristo quien es la imagen del Dios invisible (Colosenses 1:15). Que el camino de Adviento y la celebración de la Navidad nos permitan vivir en Cristo y convertirnos en canales del amor de Dios.

María le dijo sí al ángel Gabriel para que se convirtiera en el canal por el cual Jesús vino al mundo. De la misma manera, Dios nos ha estado invitando a lo largo de la jornada de Adviento a convertirnos en canales del amor de Dios en nuestro mundo. Esto es lo que San Pablo quiere decir en la segunda lectura donde dice: "Hemos recibido la gracia del apostolado" (Romanos 1:5). Somos, por tanto, apóstoles y mensajeros del amor de Dios. Un apóstol o mensajero escucha la voz de su amo o de su ama y hace la voluntad de su amo o de su ama, no la suya propia. Si realmente hemos estado siguiendo las lecturas y otros textos de la liturgia durante las primeras semanas de Adviento, vemos que la Iglesia nos ha estado invitando a centrar nuestra atención en ese día en que, en la plenitud de los tiempos, Cristo regresará en gloria. Sin embargo, en los últimos días de Adviento, el enfoque cambia y recordamos aquellas profecías, personas y eventos que precedieron al nacimiento de Jesús en Belén hace más de dos milenios.

En la primera lectura, Acáz, el rey de Judá, rehusó confiar en Dios y hacer lo que Dios le ordenó que hiciera. En ese momento, Acáz estaba rodeado por sus enemigos, el rey de Damasco y el rey de Samaria. Acáz estaba asustado. Dios le envió a Isaías para animarlo a no entrar en pánico y no buscar el apoyo de las naciones paganas. Dios le dio una señal de que la "Virgen está embarazada"; Emmanuel, es decir, Dios está con nosotros. Acáz todavía se negó y se alineó con el rey de Asiria, construyó altares paganos y desvió al pueblo. Esto tendría consecuencias devastadoras para Israel y más tarde para Judá. José, a diferencia de Acáz, seguirá el mensaje de Dios traído por el Ángel en su sueño. La grandeza de José estuvo en el papel que Dios le asignó y lo desempeñó a la perfección. Dios lo escogió porque era un hombre de honor aun en circunstancias difíciles. Era el perfecto caballero. Durante tiempos difíciles, no nos asustemos ni busquemos una solución a través de medios injustos como Acáz. Dios no aprueba las soluciones por medios injustos. Cualquier solución aparente a través de medios ilícitos está destinada al fracaso o, tarde o temprano, resultará en un desastre. Por tanto, confiemos siempre en Dios y esperemos que él actúe (Salmo 37). Él nos ama y nunca nos dejaría colgados.

Las anteriores son historias que conocemos bien. Algunos de nosotros aprendimos la historia del nacimiento de Jesús a través de concursos de Navidad o especiales de televisión de vacaciones. Para otros, fueron historias bíblicas, asistir a los servicios religiosos en Navidad y villancicos e himnos clásicos. En cierto sentido, la historia de la Navidad se ha convertido en parte de nuestro ADN espiritual, y por eso, existe el riesgo de que perdamos de vista lo impactantes que realmente fueron estos eventos para quienes los vivieron, y nos perdamos lo que revelan sobre el misericordia y amor de Dios. En una reflexión de Adviento, la escritora espiritual Loretta Ross-Gotta comentó: Jesús observó: "Separados de mí nada podéis hacer" (Juan 15:5). Sin embargo, actuamos, en su mayor parte, como si sin nosotros Dios no pudiera hacer nada. Creemos que tenemos que hacer que llegue la Navidad, es decir, que tenemos que lograr la redención del universo por nuestra cuenta... "Oh, pero no se hará nada", dices. "Si no lo hago, la Navidad no llegará". Y desplazamos a Cristo con nuestros temores inquietos. (Encontrado en Watch for the Light: Reflections for Advent and Christmas)

Siempre, de una forma u otra, Dios nos envía mensajes en medio de nuestras dificultades, angustias o temores. ¿Lo escuchamos? De hecho, tenemos mucho que aprender de la respuesta de José a la noticia del embarazo de María y sus actos de compasión y de no buscar venganza envidiosa.

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

## Noticias:

1. La oficina estará cerrada los días 22, 23, 26 y 30 de diciembre y el 2 de enero. La oficina volverá a abrir el 5 de enero.
2. Estamos solicitando donaciones para comprar flores de Pascua para decorar el altar y otras partes de la Iglesia. Todavía puede hacer donaciones con cheque, en línea o en efectivo, indicando para flores de nochebuena en el sobre en el ofertorio o en la oficina parroquial. Esperamos recaudar \$500 como presupuesto para las flores de Pascua. Estamos solicitando voluntarios para ayudar a decorar la Iglesia después de la Misa de las 11:30 am este domingo 18 de diciembre.
3. Tendremos una segunda colecta este fin de semana para alcanzar las metas de nuestra DSA y Retiro de Sacerdotes y el próximo domingo para cubrir nuestro déficit de gastos del presupuesto de diciembre. Continuamos apelando y apreciando su generosidad. ¡Gracias!.



## Religious Education

*The next Faith Formation Class Day is January 11, 2023*

(no classes on December 21, 28 or January 4).



FAITH  
FORMATION

*El próximo día de clase de formación de fe es el 11 de enero de 2023*

(no hay clases el 21, 28 de diciembre ni el 4 de enero).

### *Bookrack / Estante de Libros*

St Mary's Bookrack has the 2023 Christian prayer and Liturgy of the Hours guides. We also have the new Sunday missals. *Advent and Christmas items are also now available.*

St Mary's Bookrack tiene las guías de oración cristiana y liturgia de las horas de 2023. También tenemos los nuevos misales dominicales. *Los artículos de Adviento y Navidad también están disponibles ahora.*

## WCU Campus Ministry

A new semester of campus ministry begins with our *first Sunday Mass* of the Spring semester on *January 15*.

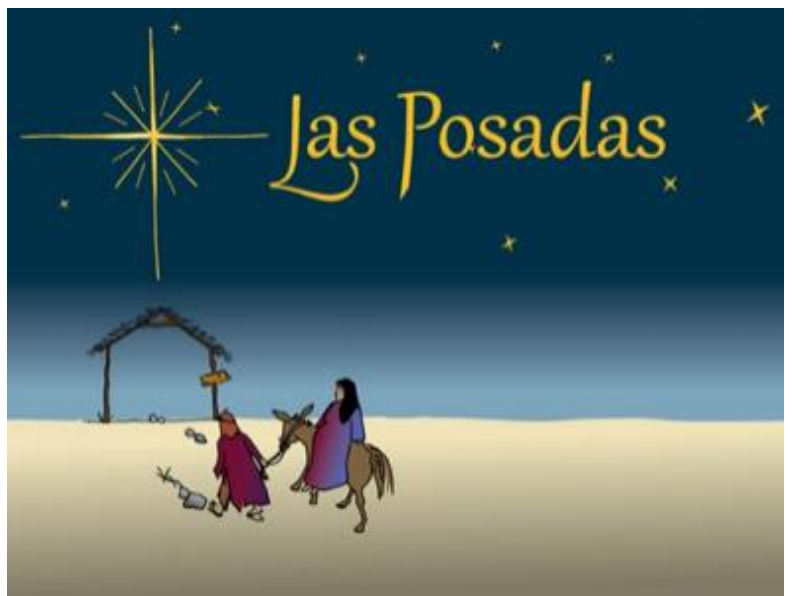
We are once more appealing for *volunteers to provide dinner for our Wednesday night fellowship meals*. Last semester we averaged about 25 students each week and we expect those good numbers to continue. If you'd like to contribute one or more meals, or make a monetary donation to our ministry, please contact Deacon Matt at [ccm@wcucatholic.org](mailto:ccm@wcucatholic.org). Thank you so much for your support!



## Las Posadas / Christmas Novena

The word posada means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish. In this tradition, the Bible story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay is re-enacted. These community celebrations (in Spanish) will take place on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas, from December 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Come to one or all to experience this Mexican tradition.

Friday	December 16	8:00 pm
Saturday	December 17	6:00 pm
Sunday	December 18	7:00 pm
Monday	December 19	7:00 pm
Tuesday	December 20	7:00 pm
Wednesday	December 21	7:00 pm
Thursday	December 22	7:00 pm
Friday	December 23	8:00 pm



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

Charlotte Alexander, Alonso Family, Ángel Esteban Arrua, Rodolfo Martin Arruabarrena, Mary Ann Asbury, Justin Basenese, Jacki Bautista, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Fran Berry, Luz Alejandra Bringas, Michael Burke, Cáceres Family, Moon Chung, Verónica Natalia Chávez, Jim Clark, Will Crain, Rebecca & Russell Ensley, Diane Glover, Jim Glover, Rory Glover, Monica Glover, Rita Goffinet, Marisa Graham, Miles Harris, Debbie Hentschel, Barbara Jakiela, Souhair Kwaham, Rita Lamanna, Daniella Machado, Tim Mann, Sam Matthews, Karen Matulis, Paula McCafferty & McCafferty Family, Peter Namotka, Georgia Newsom, William Newsom, Jr., 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, Kathy Starr, Teresa Starrs, 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.*

### **Restored – Donuts & Dogma**

Restored: Stories of Encounter is a six-part documentary series on **individuals who had radical encounters with Christ and went on to make a real difference in the world.** This series provides vivid and deeply human role models for all who desire life in Christ.

Every subject of this series is a moving example of Christ's perfect love for the poor, the lost, and the weak. They can inspire anyone who wants to do something good to take the leap. All our subjects did was **let their great love move them to action.**

#### **Donuts & Dogma**

Begins

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

in the Fellowship Hall



### **Protecting God's Children**

#### ***Help protect all of God's children***

Everyone has a role to play in protecting children. North Carolina law requires all adults to immediately report suspected child abuse by anyone to law enforcement.

To report, please call 9-1-1 or contact local law enforcement.

Also, if you have information about possible sexual abuse or misconduct by any clergy, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Charlotte, report concerns securely and anonymously over the phone or online: 1-888-630-5929 or [www.RedFlagReporting.com/RCDOC](http://www.RedFlagReporting.com/RCDOC).



#### ***Ayuda a proteger a todos los niños de Dios***

Todo el mundo tiene un papel que desempeñar en la protección de los niños. La ley de Carolina del Norte requiere que todos los adultos informen inmediatamente a las autoridades si sospechan abuso infantil por parte de cualquier persona.

Para reportar, por favor llama a 9-1-1 o con la policía local.

Además, si tiene información sobre un posible abuso sexual o mala conducta por parte de cualquier miembro del clero, empleado o voluntario de la Diócesis de Charlotte, por favor reportar sus inquietudes de forma segura y anónima las por teléfono o en línea: 1-888-630-5929 o [www.RedFlagReporting.com/RCDOC](http://www.RedFlagReporting.com/RCDOC).

# Blood Drive / Donación de Sangre

**Thank you for your donations!!!**

**At our blood drive on December 10 we donated 21 units of blood!**

Thank you to all who donated or tried to donate!

Your donation **helped up to 63 people** be with their families this Christmas!

Thank you for supporting St Mary Mother of God 50 Acts of Charity!



**¡¡¡Gracias por tus donaciones!!!**

**¡En nuestra campaña de donación de sangre donamos 21 unidades de sangre!**

¡Gracias a todos los que donaron o intentaron donar!

¡Tu donación **ayudó a que hasta 63 personas** estuvieran con sus familias esta Navidad!

¡Gracias por apoyar a Santa María Madre de Dios 50 Actos de Caridad!

## 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: Linda Gray*

- Online & Social Media Resources:  
Deacon Matt and Linda Gray

### Community Outreach Commission

*Chair: Elaina Quijada*

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

### Faith Education & Formation Commission

*Chair: Bonnie Dodge*

*DRE: Luci Castillo*

- OCIA Coordinator: Mike Ensley
- Contact Luci for sacramental needs

### Liturgical Commission

*Chair: Joe Conway*

- Altar Guild: Sue Szarek

### Hispanic Community Commission

*Chair: Juan Carlos y Deisi Villegas*

### Parish Life Commission

*Chair: Javier & Analise Comacho*

- Knights of Columbus: Joe Cerniglia
- 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.

Want to volunteer? 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.

¿Quieres ser voluntario? Llame a la oficina y lo ayudaremos a compartir su tiempo y talentos dentro de la parroquia.



DIOCESE of  
CHARLOTTE

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