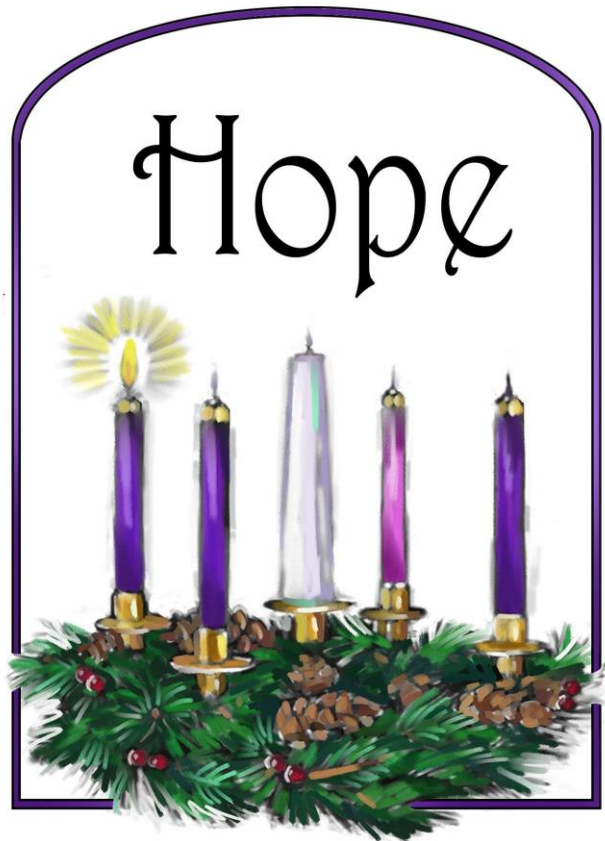


St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

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

12/3/23 First Sunday of Advent Primer 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: Flor Widmar (Ext. 101)

DRE: Luci Castillo (Ext. 103)

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul: (Ext. 104)

Liturgical Music: Jonathan Fischer

Bookkeeper: Carla Haire

St. Mary's Book Rack: Mary Ann Kuehl

Office Hours / Horas de Oficina

Monday, Friday & Saturday: 10 to 2; Wednesday 12 to 2

Lunes, Viernes y Sábado: 10 a 2; Miércoles 12 a 2

Appointments with the Pastor

Monday/Lunes: 10:30 to 12:30; Thursday/Jueves: 10 to 2

MASS TIMES at St. Mary Mother of God

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday at 8:30 am & 11:30 am

Daily Masses:

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9:00 am

Wednesday at 6:15 pm (Spanish)

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 sábado a las 9:00 am

Miércoles a las 6:15 pm (Español)

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 5:30 pm, Friday at 9:30 am

and Saturday at 5:00 pm

Or by appointment

Tiempos de Confesiones

Domingo 10:45 am, Miércoles 5:30 pm

Viernes 9:30 am, Sábado 5:00 pm

O con cita previa

Adoration and Benediction

1st Friday from 9:30am-8:00 pm

1st Saturday Holy Hour after Mass

4th Thursday Spanish Adoration 7:00-8:00 pm

Last Friday 7:00-8:00 pm

Adoración y Bendición

Primer viernes de 9:30 am a 8:00 pm

Primer sábado Hora Santa después de la Misa

Cuarto Jueves Adoración en español 7:00-8:00 pm

Último viernes 7:00-8:00 pm

Main Line/Reception: 828-586-9496

Sacrament Emergency: 828-631-0576

Email: smmgooffice@stmarymotherofgod.com

Calendar – December 3rd –December 10th

Sunday	8:30 am	Sunday Mass	Sigmund Pilch
	10:00 am	Donuts & Dogma	
	11:30 am	Sunday Mass	Pro Populo
	4:00 pm	WCU Mass	
Monday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	+ Kennedy & Marvo Family
	6:30 pm	English Class / Clase de Inglés	
Tuesday:	5:00 pm	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	
Wednesday:	6:15 pm	Misa en Espanol	Renee Pierce
Thursday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	+Bubb & Nigrini Family
	5:30 pm	WCU Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception	
Friday:	9:00 am	Mass for the Immaculate Conception	Michal Scanga
	6:30 pm	Bilingual Mass for the Immaculate Conception	Juan Carlos Villegas & Deci Revas Wedding Anniversary
Saturday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	
	7:00 pm	Misa en Espanol	Salomon Salinas & Benita Bueno 21 Wedding Anniversary
Sunday	8:30 am	Sunday Mass	Gloria Bielblucker
	10:00 am	Donuts & Dogma	
	11:30 am	Sunday Mass	Jary Jorden
	4:00Pm	WCU Mass	Pro Populo

To request a Mass Intention:

Email to massintentions@stmarymotherofgod.com

Or use the envelopes near the women's restroom

Liturgical Minister Schedule – Next Week

Mass/Misa	Extraordinary Ministers Ministros extraordinarios	Readers/Lecturas	Servers/Monaguillos
Friday, December 8 th 9:00 am	Debbie Keener (L), Patty Higgins (R)	Sue Szarek	
Viernes, Diciembre 8 th 6:30 pm	Martha, Flor, Javier	Juan Carlos Villegas	
Sábado, Diciembre 9 th 7:00pm	Jose & Azucena Garcia	Patricia Hernandez	
Sunday, December 10 th 8:30am	Debbie Keener (L), Kenneth Wingard (R) Kelly Wingard (Choir)	Caryn Raming	Brian Raming
Sunday, December 10 th 11:30am	Carla Haire (L) Sara Freeman (R)	Sue Cerniglia	Freemans & Newsomes

From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent season and a new liturgical year. We are, now, in Cycle B of the Church's three year cycle. Prior to Vatican II, the same selected texts were read every Sunday of the year and restarted the following year. There were no readings for daily Mass. The Sunday readings were read through the week. Following the reforms of Vatican II (1962 to 1965), the Catholic liturgical year and lectionary for Sundays and weekdays were divided into a three-year cycle (A, B, and C), in order to provide a comprehensive reading from almost all the books of the Bible over the course of a three-year period, to enable the people to read, hear, and know more about the word of God.



Advent season is observed as a time of special preparation to mark the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is a penitential, soul-searching, and spiritual reawakening journey to renew us to

welcome the "Word Made Flesh." The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means coming. Advent is a call to "Metanoia" (change of heart and renewal). To rededicate ourselves in preparation for coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many churches are decorated with Advent wreath from this first Sunday of Advent. It is important to note that wreaths were used by many ancient cultures but the use of Advent wreath in churches is said to have begun among the Lutherans in the 16th century, and from there spread to other churches. Advent wreath further explains the meaning of Advent season:

The green wreath in circle shape symbolizes God's eternity and everlasting life (Psalm 90:2). Candlelight symbolizes Jesus, the light of the world (John 8:12). The four candles symbolize the four weeks of Advent. The first purple candle is called Candle of Hope. "In his name, the nations will put their hope" (Matthew 12:21). The hope that does not disappoint (Romans 5:5). The second purple candle is called Candle of Peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). The third candle, pink in color, is called Candle of Joy. "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10). The third purple candle, which is the fourth candle, is called Candle of Love. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him may not perish, but have life eternal" (John 3:16).

The array of purple color of Advent season reminds us that the season is a penitential and a sobering journey. Also, Advent purple color foreshadows the sovereignty and the royalty of Christ. Purple was a kingly color.

Almost everybody, Christians, and non-Christians alike, in one way or another, prepare for Christmas celebration. The commercialization and socialization of Christmas are well known. However, for us Catholics, spiritual preparation is more important. When we expect a visitor, we get our house in order, we get food and drink ready, we clean up and dress well. If the house is in order, and food and drink well prepared, but the host appears shabby, the visitor will feel uncomfortable and may not stay for the meal. In the same manner, our spiritual preparation makes us ready for Jesus to be born anew in us this Christmas. A good spiritual preparation makes every Christmas become the first Christmas. Let us pay attention to the readings of the Advent season Masses, both on Sundays and during the week. They will help us in the spiritual preparation to celebrate the first coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and be ready when he comes again. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!

Housekeeping:

1. We will be losing our wonderful Administrative assistant Flor, who will be leaving us to care for her mum mid next month. The Parish is looking for a new bilingual administrative assistant to the Pastor who is able to work 20 hours a week on part time basis and able to start as soon as possible.
2. There will be Advent Confessions this December Thursday 14th from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We hope to have three or four Priests available to hear Confessions.
3. Our Advent book study this year is Bishop Barron "This Is My Body: A Call To Eucharistic Revival." It is a very good read and would deepen our understanding of and faith in the real presence of Eucharistic, as we prepare to celebrate the National Eucharistic Congress next year summer.
4. December 8 is the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation and there will be a Vigil Mass by 5:30 pm December 7 on Thursday, a 9:00 am Mass on Friday December 8 in English and a bilingual and youth Mass by 6:30 pm that evening. The celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe is on December 12, starting with a Rosary procession from El Patron by 6:00 pm, followed by dances and drama, then Mass in Spanish by 8:00 pm and fiesta after Mass.

From the Pastor's Desk

Este domingo marca el inicio del tiempo de Adviento y de un nuevo año litúrgico. Ahora estamos en el Ciclo B del ciclo de tres años de la Iglesia. Antes del Vaticano II, los mismos textos seleccionados se leían todos los domingos del año y se recomenzaban al año siguiente. No había lecturas para la Misa diaria. Las lecturas dominicales se leían durante la semana. Tras las reformas del Vaticano II (1962 a 1965), el año litúrgico católico y el leccionario de los domingos y días laborables se dividieron en un ciclo de tres años (A, B y C), con el fin de proporcionar una lectura integral de casi todos los libros de la Biblia en el transcurso de un período de tres años, para permitir que la gente leyera, escuchara y supiera más acerca de la palabra de Dios.



La temporada de Adviento se observa como un tiempo de preparación especial para marcar el nacimiento de Jesucristo. Es un viaje penitencial, de introspección y de despertar espiritual para renovarnos y acoger el "Verbo hecho carne". La palabra Adviento proviene del latín *adventus*, que significa venir. El Adviento es una llamada a la "Metanoia" (cambio de corazón y renovación). Rededicarnos en preparación para la venida del Señor Jesucristo.

Muchas iglesias están decoradas con coronas de Adviento desde este primer domingo de Adviento. Es importante tener en cuenta que muchas culturas antiguas usaban coronas de Adviento, pero se dice que el uso de la corona de Adviento en las iglesias comenzó entre los luteranos en el siglo XVI y desde allí se extendió a otras iglesias. La corona de Adviento explica con más detalle el significado de la temporada de Adviento:

La corona verde en forma de círculo simboliza la eternidad y la vida eterna de Dios (Salmo 90:2). La luz de las velas simboliza a Jesús, la luz del mundo (Juan 8:12). Las cuatro velas simbolizan las cuatro semanas de Adviento. La primera vela morada se llama Vela de la Esperanza. "En su nombre pondrán su esperanza las naciones" (Mateo 12:21). La esperanza que no defrauda (Romanos 5:5). La segunda vela morada se llama Vela de la Paz. Jesús es el Príncipe de Paz (Isaías 9:6). La tercera vela, de color rosa, se llama Vela de la Alegría. "No temáis, porque os traigo una buena noticia que causa gran alegría" (Lucas 2:10). La tercera vela morada, que es la cuarta vela, se llama Vela del Amor. "Porque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo aquel que en él cree no perezca, sino que tenga vida eterna" (Juan 3:16).

La variedad de color púrpura de la temporada de Adviento nos recuerda que la temporada es un viaje penitencial y aleccionador. Además, el color púrpura del Adviento presagia la soberanía y la realeza de Cristo. El morado era un color real.

Casi todo el mundo, tanto cristianos como no cristianos, de una forma u otra, se prepara para la celebración de la Navidad. Es bien conocida la comercialización y socialización de la Navidad. Sin embargo, para nosotros los católicos la preparación espiritual es más importante. Cuando esperamos una visita, ordenamos nuestra casa, preparamos la comida y la bebida, nos limpiamos y nos vestimos bien. Si la casa está en orden y la comida y la bebida están bien preparadas, pero el anfitrión parece desaliñado, el visitante se sentirá incómodo y es posible que no se quede a comer. De la misma manera, nuestra preparación espiritual nos prepara para que Jesús nazca de nuevo en nosotros esta Navidad. Una buena preparación espiritual hace que cada Navidad se convierta en la primera Navidad. Prestemos atención a las lecturas de las Misas del tiempo de Adviento, tanto los domingos como entre semana. Nos ayudarán en la preparación espiritual para celebrar la primera venida de nuestro Señor Jesucristo y estar listos cuando él venga nuevamente. ¡Maranata! ¡Ven Señor Jesús!

Limpieza interna:

1. Perderemos a nuestra maravillosa asistente administrativa Flor, quien nos dejará para cuidar a su mamá a mediados del próximo mes. La parroquia está buscando un nuevo asistente administrativo bilingüe para el párroco que pueda trabajar 20 horas a la semana a tiempo parcial y pueda comenzar lo antes posible.
2. Habrá Confesiones de Adviento este jueves 14 de diciembre de 6:00 pm a 8:00 pm. Esperamos tener tres o cuatro Sacerdotes disponibles para escuchar Confesiones.
3. Nuestro libro de estudio de Adviento de este año es Obispo Barron "Este es mi cuerpo: un llamado al avivamiento eucarístico". Es una muy buena lectura y profundizaría nuestra comprensión y fe en la presencia real de la Eucaristía, mientras nos preparamos para celebrar el Congreso Eucarístico Nacional el próximo verano.
4. El 8 de diciembre es la Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María. Es un Día Santo de Obligación y habrá una Misa de Vigilia el jueves 7 de diciembre a las 5:30 pm, una Misa a las 9:00 am el viernes 8 de diciembre en inglés y una Misa bilingüe y para jóvenes a las 6:30 pm esa tarde. La celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es el 12 de diciembre, comenzando con una procesión del Rosario desde El Patrón a las 6:00 p.m., seguida de bailes y teatro, luego Misa en español a las 8:00 p.m. y fiesta después de la Misa.

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 Henschel, Barbara Jakiela, Souhair Kwaham, Rita Lamanna, Daniella Machado, Tim Mann, Sam Matthews, Karen Matulis, Paula McCafferty & McCafferty Family, Peter Namotka, Georgia Newsome, William Newsome, Jr, 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, Teresa Starr, Jay Thorne, Allen Thurston, Joshua Turner, Lewis Turner, Joe Waters, Pauline Watson, Bonnie Welch, Elaine Wilkes, Emilee Ashe Painschab and Caitlyn Basenese, Art Keener, Nell Keener, Johana Zarate, Johannes Widmar, Carmen Trevizo, Adela Treviso, Brian Siewert, Diane Dodge, Woolbright Family

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.*

ST. MARY'S YOUTH EVENTS



On **Friday, 8 December at 6:30 p.m.** there will be a bilingual **youth/children's Mass** in celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Paul has asked that a youth choir be stood up for this glorious occasion. Any youth who are interested in helping with **youth choir, presentation of gifts, collection, etc.**, please contact youth Mass coordinator, Rayanne Herrera, at 910-354-5131.



Let's Keep the momentum going! **Thank you** to all of the youth and teens who participated in Youth Group on Friday, 1 December for a reflective evening on Jesus's transformative ability in our lives. It's great to see our Catholic youth community growing together in and through Christ! **Next Youth Group:** Youth Group members are asked to participate in **Mass collection, presentation of gifts** and/or **youth choir** in the upcoming bilingual **youth Mass on Friday 8, December at 6:30 p.m.** to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. POC for St. Mary's Youth Group, 6th-12th grade, is Rayanne Herrera, 910-354-5131.



Reminder Youth Choir and Actors: The **next rehearsal** for St. Mary's Bilingual **Christmas Pageant "The Stations of the Nativity,"** is on **Tuesday, December 5th from 5-7 p.m.** at St. Mary's Parish. **Thank you** to all the families and youth who continue to work hard to make this Pageant memorable! **Last Call:** Anyone who is still interested in participating in **Youth Choir** please contact the Pageant Coordinator, Rayanne Herrera, at 910-354-5131. Thank you!

ST. MARY'S IS HIRING – IMMEDIATE NEED

If you would like to give back and serve St. Mary Mother of God Church and use your gifts, there is an Opportunity to do so!

The Parish is looking for a bilingual administrative assistant to the Pastor who is able to work 20 hours a week on part time basis and able to start as soon as possible or by November 27th

Be a part of the team at St. Mary Mother of God.

If interested call the Office 828-586-9496 Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday 10-2pm or email Flor Widmar

Administrative Assistant to the Pastor
executiveassistant@stmarymotherofgod.com



ST. MARY'S BOOKRACK

Christmas and Advent items are available at the bookrack!

New guides for Liturgy of the Hours and Christian Prayer also available.

Stop by after Mass and check it out!

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Give to St. Vincent de Paul anytime by dropping cash or check into the box in the narthex, right before the confessional. Please make checks payable to Society of St. Vincent de Paul (*not St. Mary Mother of God*). We rely on your donations to help those who come to us for assistance. God Bless!

We also have need of the following:

We currently have a family searching for a refrigerator. *Do you have a used one you can donate?*

A disabled veteran is looking for housing for under \$700/mo. *Do you know of an apartment or room available to rent?*

We also have a carpenter who is looking for work. *Do you need any work done on your home?*

We currently have more requests for assistance than our members can handle. *Are you interested in joining SVDP?*

Email stvincentdepaul@stmarymotherofgod.com if you can help with any of these needs!

Stewardship

Offertory last weekend: \$3,018 / Budget: \$3,923

November month to date: \$14,249 / Budget: \$15,692

Year to Date: \$85,293 Actual; Budget \$83,692

DSA: \$17,656 Actual + \$2,264 Pledged = \$19,920 (101.51%)

Ofertorio último fin de semana: \$3,018/ Presupuesto: \$3,923

Mes de Noviembre a la fecha: \$14,249 / Presupuesto: \$15,692

Año hasta la fecha: \$85,293 reales; Presupuesto de \$83,692

DSA: \$17,656 Real + Prometido: \$2,264 = \$19,920 (101.51%)

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: Sara Freeman

DRE: Luci Castillo

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

Liturgy Commission

Chair: Jonathan Fischer

- Altar Guild: Sue Szarek

Hispanic Community Commission

Chair: Juan Carlos y Deisi Villegas

Parish Life Commission

Chair: Lucinda Rose & Victor O'Brien

- 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

Website: stmarymotherofgod.com

Social Media:

facebook.com/stmarysylva

instagram.com/stmarysylva

youtube.com/c/StMaryMotherofGod

Main Line/Reception: 828-586-9496

Sacramental Emergency: 828-631-0576

To contact any Commission with ideas or to volunteer, contact Brian Raming at pcchair@stmarymotherofgod.com

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.



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Red Cross**

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Means Something®
GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive
St Mary's Catholic Church
Sylva

Fellowship Hall
22 Bartlett Street
Sylva, NC 28779

Saturday, December 9, 2023

10:00am - 2:30pm

Please donate blood. Log on to RedCrossBlood.org keyword St. Mary to schedule your appointment today.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass #

**Our gift to you: Come give Dec. 1 to 17 for a \$10
Amazon.com Gift Card by email. rcblood.org/Amazon**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

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