

**“THE KINGDOM
OF GOD IS AT
HAND.
REPENT AND
BELIEVE IN
THE GOSPEL.”**

Mark 1:15

St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church

22 Bartlett Street, Sylva NC, 28779

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

**2/18/24 First Sunday in Lent
Primero Domingo del Cuaresma**

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

Deacons: Rev. Mr. Matthew Newsome
Rev. Mr. John Szarek (retired)
Rev. Mr. Daniel Pyles

Administrative Assistant: Salomon Salinas (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, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9 am – 2 pm

Lunes, Miércoles, Jueves y Viernes: 9 am – 2 pm

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 – February 18th – February 25th

Sunday	8:30 am	Sunday Mass	+Roger Grenier & +Carole Lemay
	10:00 am	Donuts & Dogma	
	11:30 am	Sunday Mass	Pro Populo
	4:00 pm	WCU Mass	
Monday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	Josephine Asoh, Agnes, Vincent & Chibuike Asoh
	11:00 am	Funeral Mass for Raul Guerrero Becerra	
	6:30 pm	English Class / Clase de Inglés	
Tuesday:			
Wednesday:	6:30 pm	Misa en Español	
Thursday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	Mincio Family
Friday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	+Irene & Samuel Asoh, Tessy Kalu
	6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross (bilingual)	
Saturday:	9:00 am	Daily Mass	Fr. Jim Cahill
	7:00 pm	Misa en Español	Pro Populo
Sunday	8:30 am	Sunday Mass	+Linda Tiller
	10:00 am	Donuts & Dogma	
	11:30 am	Sunday Mass	
	4:00 pm	WCU Mass	

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
Sábado, febrero 24 7:00pm	Eleazar Flores	Juan Carlos Villegas	
Sunday, February 25 th 8:30am	Kenneth Wingard (choir)	Sue Szarek	
Sunday, February 25 th 11:30am		Jonathan Fischer	

From the Pastor's Desk

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) In Pew Appeal

We are all called to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both here in our parish and in the diocese. Yet most of us are not able to drop everything and work for the Church. Most of us are not qualified to provide such services as counseling, refugee resettlement, adoption, natural family planning, prison ministry, sacramental preparation, and many more. But we can, through financial contributions which support the work of the Church in areas such as these.

Our parish serves as our gathering point where we are helped to practice and strengthen our faith. It is at the parish level where we reach out in love and mercy to our fellow parishioners so that they feel God's love and hear His word. There are diocesan ministries that have a direct impact on us here at St. Mary Mother of God, Sylva, like some of these ministries such as faith formation, youth ministry, lay ministry training, marriage preparation, elder ministry, Campus ministry and Catholic Charities to mention a few.

Yet this must not stop at the boundaries of our parish. While we are part of a parish, we are also part of our diocesan Church and the Universal Church. It is at the diocesan level where we can reach out to share the gifts we have been given with thousands whom we could never reach in our parish alone such as seminarian education, permanent diaconate, housing ministry, counseling, adoption, Catholic Charities etc.).

God is waiting patiently for each of us to do more this Lent. Jesus warns us in today's gospel, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Let us not harden our hearts as Noah's people did. We are invited every Lenten Season to pray, fast and give alms. The DSA is one of the ways we involve ourselves in giving alms to many we don't even know. The Lenten Season is one of the special times God invites us to come back to the source of our salvation. It is a season of repentance, a season of grace and a season of charity.

We read from Prophet Joel on Ash Wednesday, "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God (Joel 2:12-13). God declares, "For I find no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies ... Turn back and live!" (Ezekiel 18:32). It is a soul-searching journey. We are invited to turn away from sins and disengage from anything that can bring destruction to life, faith, career, business, finance, family, vocation, position, job, marriage, future, and so on. Temptations will always follow us throughout our lives, but following Jesus's words and actions in dealing with temptations, we will be victorious with His Grace.

Housekeeping:

1. We are all invited to generously participate in the Diocesan Support Appeal, as we look at our lives and the many ways God has blessed us, let us give back a proportionate gift to the Diocesan Support Appeal as a way of saying thank you to the Lord. God will never be outdone in generosity. If you did not turn in your completed pledge envelope during today's Mass, you may complete a pledge envelope and return it to the Parish Office or go to charlottediocese.org/dsa to make a gift online. Please write the Parish identification number #88 on your pledge or envelope. Our Goal for the DSA is \$20,240.
2. There is bilingual Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent by 6:30 pm. Please let us participate faithfully in this spiritual devotion as we accompany Jesus on the way to the Cross.
3. Please pick up your Offertory packets and a copy of the Word Among Us for the Season of Lent in the Narthex.
4. To strengthen our prayer lives this Lent, our parish has been given access to Hallow, the Catholic prayer app. Go to www.hallow.com/holyday and type in St. Mary Mother of God. Select our parish to download the app for \$1 throughout the Lenten & Easter seasons.



Desde Escritorio del Pastor

Apelación de apoyo diocesano (DSA) en la apelación de los bancos

Todos estamos llamados a responder a las necesidades de nuestros hermanos y hermanas tanto aquí en nuestra parroquia como en la diócesis. Sin embargo, la mayoría de nosotros no somos capaces de dejarlo todo y trabajar para la Iglesia. La mayoría de nosotros no estamos calificados para brindar servicios tales como asesoramiento, asistencia a refugiados reasentamiento, adopción, planificación familiar natural, ministerio penitenciario, preparación sacramental y muchos más. Pero podemos hacerlo, a través de contribuciones financieras que apoyen el trabajo de la Iglesia en áreas como éstas.



Nuestra parroquia sirve como nuestro punto de reunión donde nos ayudan a practicar y fortalecer nuestra fe. Es a nivel parroquial donde extendemos la mano con amor y misericordia a nuestros compañeros feligreses para que sientan el amor de Dios y escuchen Su palabra. Hay ministerios diocesanos que tienen un impacto directo en nosotros aquí en Santa María Madre de Dios, Sylva, como algunos de estos ministerios, como formación en la fe, ministerio juvenil, capacitación ministerial laica, preparación matrimonial, ministerio de ancianos, ministerio universitario y Caridades Católicas. por mencionar algunos.

Sin embargo, esto no debe detenerse en los límites de nuestra parroquia. Si bien somos parte de una parroquia, también somos parte de nuestra Iglesia diocesana y de la Iglesia Universal. Es a nivel diocesano donde podemos llegar a compartir los dones que hemos recibido con miles de personas a quienes nunca podríamos alcanzar solo en nuestra parroquia, como educación seminarista, diaconado permanente, ministerio de vivienda, consejería, adopción, Caridades Católicas, etc.) .

Dios está esperando pacientemente que cada uno de nosotros hagamos más en esta Cuaresma. Jesús nos advierte en el evangelio de hoy: “Este es el tiempo del cumplimiento. El reino de Dios está cerca. Arrepíentete y cree en el evangelio” (Marcos 1:15). No endurezcamos nuestro corazón como lo hizo el pueblo de Noé. Estamos invitados cada temporada de Cuaresma a orar, ayunar y dar limosna. La DSA es una de las formas en que nos involucramos en dar limosna a muchas personas que ni siquiera conocemos. La Cuaresma es uno de los momentos especiales en los que Dios nos invita a regresar a la fuente de nuestra salvación. Es un tiempo de arrepentimiento, un tiempo de gracia y un tiempo de caridad.

Leemos del profeta Joel el Miércoles de Ceniza: “Aun ahora, dice el Señor, volved a mí con todo vuestro corazón, con ayuno, llanto y lamento. Rasgan vuestros corazones, no vuestras vestiduras, y volved al Señor, vuestro Dios (Joel 2:12-13). Dios declara: “Porque no me complazco en la muerte del que muere... ¡Vuélvete y vive!” (Ezequiel 18:32). Es un viaje de introspección. Estamos invitados a alejarnos de los pecados y a desvincularnos de cualquier cosa que pueda traer destrucción a la vida, la fe, la carrera, los negocios, las finanzas, la familia, la vocación, la posición, el trabajo, el matrimonio, el futuro, etc. Las tentaciones siempre nos seguirán a lo largo de nuestras vidas, pero siguiendo las palabras y acciones de Jesús al enfrentar las tentaciones, saldremos victoriosos con Su Gracia.

Limpieza interna:

1. Estamos todos invitados a participar generosamente en la Campaña de Apoyo Diocesano, mientras miramos nuestras vidas y las muchas maneras en que Dios nos ha bendecido, devolvamos una donación proporcional a la Campaña de Apoyo Diocesano como una forma de agradecer a El Señor. Dios nunca será superado en generosidad. Si no entregó su sobre de promesa completo durante la Misa de hoy, puede completar un sobre de promesa y devolverlo a la Oficina Parroquial o visitar charlottediocese.org/dsa para hacer una donación en línea. Por favor escriba el número de identificación parroquial #88 en el sobre de su promesa o cheque. Nuestra meta para el DSA es \$20,240.
2. Hay Estaciones de la Cruz bilingües todos los viernes durante la Cuaresma a las 6:30 pm. Por favor participemos fielmente en esta devoción espiritual mientras acompañamos a Jesús en el camino a la Cruz.
3. Por favor recoja sus paquetes de Ofertorio y una copia de La Palabra entre nosotros para el Tiempo de Cuaresma en el Nártex.
4. Para fortalecer nuestra vida de oración en esta Cuaresma, nuestra parroquia ha tenido acceso a Hallow, la aplicación de oración católica. Vaya a www.hallow.com/holyday y escriba Santa María, Madre de Dios. Seleccione nuestra parroquia para descargar la aplicación por \$1 durante las temporadas de Cuaresma y Pascua.

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 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. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you to all who participated in our Super Bowl Squares fundraiser!

Congratulations to our winners:

1st quarter: Louie Sipler

2nd quarter: Sue Szarek

3rd quarter: Sue Szarek

4th quarter: Sue Szarek

Total score: Denise Waltz



Together we raised \$500 for our friends in need. Thank you!! We look forward to next year.

Please consider St. Vincent de Paul during your Lenten almsgiving.

Cash or checks made out to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul can be placed in the poor box in the narthex.

ST. MARY'S BOOKRACK

Stop by the St Mary's Bookrack for Lenten resources.

Books, devotionals, and family activity items are some of the things available.

Stewardship

Offertory last weekend: \$2,788 / Budget: \$3,923
February month to date: \$7,465 / Budget: \$7,846
Fiscal Year to Date: \$127,567 Actual; Budget \$126,845
DSA: \$

Ofertorio último fin de semana: \$2,788 / Presupuesto: \$3,923
Mes de enero a la fecha: \$7,465 / Presupuesto: \$7,846
Año hasta la fecha: \$127,567 reales; Presupuesto de \$126,845
DSA: \$

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.

Retreat into the Passion of Jesus

One night, March 22-23, 2024

Just in time to fully make the most of the Palm Sunday reading of the Passion!

Each year, the Palm Sunday and Good Friday liturgies feature a reading of the Passion of Jesus Christ. It's a powerful and richly textured telling of the final hours of Jesus. It is also the core of the Gospel message and the foundation of the Christian faith.

This retreat is for those who want to make the most of these sacred liturgies in both understanding the historical context and reflecting upon the application to their own life. There will be a balanced blend of scriptural background, topics for reflection, and prayer.

There may be no better way to prepare to enter the holiest week of the year than to spend a day away learning about the final hours of the life of Jesus – what they meant then, and what they mean in your own life today.

This retreat will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, NC. It will be led by Deacon Scott. D. Gilfillan. Registration for the retreat includes one night, all retreat fees, and full-course meals from dinner Friday through Saturday lunch. The retreat price is as follows:

- Shared room (two persons per room): \$155 per person
- Single, one person per room: \$195.
- Commuter (1 person, no lodging): \$85

For more information and to register:

<https://catholicconference.org/passion/>

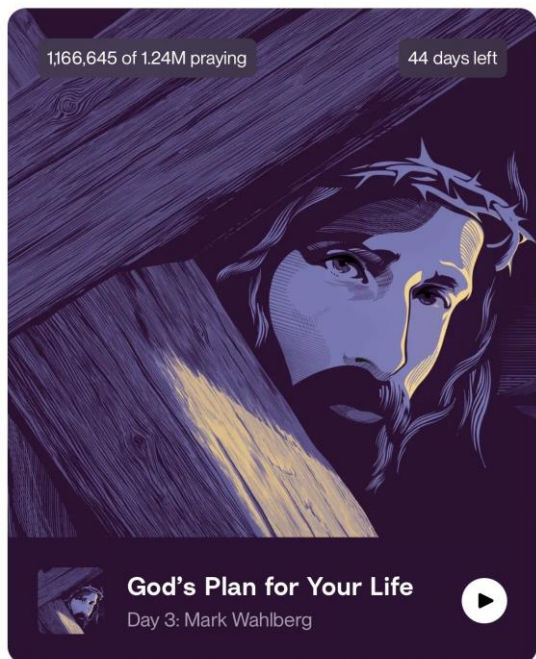
PARISH PRAYER INITIATIVE

St. Mary Mother of God has partnered with Hallow this Season to provide every parishioner access to all of Hallow's prayer content – including the Lent #Pray40 Challenge – for \$1 from now through Pentecost Sunday.

Hallow is the #1 Catholic app worldwide and includes over 5,000 audio-guided sessions designed to help you grow closer to God and develop a daily habit of prayer. Hallow includes prayers for kids and families, resources for mental health, meditations for sleep, seasonal music, multiple languages (including Spanish, Portuguese, and Polish!) daily trivia, podcast-style courses to learn more about faith, and more!

Register today by selecting our parish here: Hallow.com/holyday

Join the Challenge

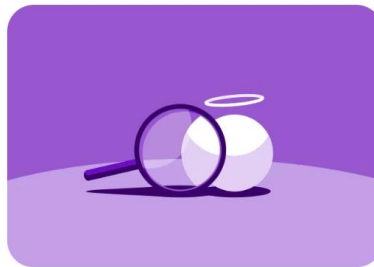


1,166,645 of 1.24M praying 44 days left

God's Plan for Your Life
Day 3: Mark Wahlberg

This banner features a close-up illustration of Jesus Christ's face, wearing a crown of thorns, looking upwards. The background is dark with some light rays. At the top left, it says '1,166,645 of 1.24M praying' and at the top right '44 days left'. At the bottom left, there is a small icon of a person and the text 'God's Plan for Your Life' and 'Day 3: Mark Wahlberg'. At the bottom right is a play button icon.

Lent Prayers



Examinations

Prepare for Confession

5 sessions



Divine Mercy

Jonathan Roumie

11 min

Lent Music



Traditional Chant

St. Michael's Abbey

27 sessions



Lent Chant Night P...

Source and Summit

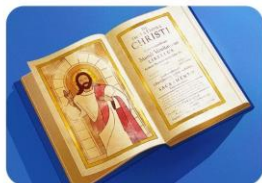
7 sessions

Featured



Morning Psalms

Bishop Barron



Daily Imitation

Jim Caviezel