



# ST. MARY MOTHER OF GOD ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



**stmarymotherofgod.com**

22 Bartlett St, Sylva NC 28779

Main Line: 828-586-9496 | Sacramental Emergency Line: 828-631-0576

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Asoh, MSP (x. 102)

**Deacons:**

Rev. Mr. Matthew Newsome  
Rev. Mr. William Shaw  
Rev. Mr. John Szarek (retired)

**Office Administrator** (x. 101)  
Stephanie Faulkner

**Director of Religious Education** (x. 103)  
Rayanne Herrera

**St. Vincent de Paul Society** (x. 104)  
Taylor Hughes

**WCU Campus Minister** 828-293-9374  
Dcn. Matthew Newsome

**Director of Music:** Jonathan Fischer

**OCIA Coordinator (English):** Mike Ensley  
**RICA Coordinator (Spanish):** Javier Martinez

**Knights of Columbus:** Joe Cerniglia

**Lay Carmelites:** Jean Burton

**Bookkeeper:** Sara Freeman

**St. Mary's Book Rack:** Louise Beal

**Food Pantry Coordinator:** Kevin Fields

**Parish Council Chair:** Victor O'Brien  
**Parish Council Secretary:** Sara Riopell  
**Finance Council Chair:** Robin Starrs

**COMMISSION CHAIRS**

**Stewardship:** Joe Cerniglia  
**Building & Grounds:** Diego Acosta  
**Communication & Evangelization:** vacant  
**Community Outreach:** vacant  
**Education:** Sara Freeman  
**Liturgy:** Jonathan Fischer  
**Parish Life:** Sara Riopell & Bonny Dodge  
**Hispanic Ministry:**  
Jose Luis Perez y Patricia Hernandez

**Stay Informed!**

Join our Flocknote list by texting  
**STMARYSYLVA to 84576** or going  
to **StMarySylva.flocknote.com**

## This Week's Schedule

5/17/26

<u>May 17: SUNDAY</u>		<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>
8:30 AM	Mass	<i>Newsom family</i>
10:00 AM	Donuts & Dogma	
10:45 AM	Confession	
11:30 AM	Mass	<i>Jeremy J. Smith</i>
<u>May 18: MONDAY</u>		
9:00 AM	Mass	
<u>May 19: TUESDAY</u>		
6:00 PM	OCIA	
<u>May 20: WEDNESDAY</u>		<i>St. Bernadine of Siena</i>
5:30 PM	Confessions	
6:15 PM	Misa	
<u>May 21: THURSDAY</u>		<i>St. Christopher Magallanes</i>
9:00 AM	Mass	
<u>May 22: FRIDAY</u>		<i>St. Rita of Cascia</i>
9:00 AM	Mass	<i>Tiller family</i>
<u>May 23: SATURDAY</u>		
9:00 AM	Mass	
5:00 PM	Confessions	
5-7:00 PM	Food Pantry Distribution	
7:00 PM	Misa de vigilia	<i>pro populo</i>
<u>May 24: SUNDAY</u>		<i>Pentecost</i>
8:30 AM	Mass	<i>+Gary Calabrese</i>
10:00 AM	Donuts & Dogma	
10:45 AM	Confession	
11:30 AM	Mass	



**Give online**  
*It's easy!*

Last week's offertory: \$3495  
DSA: not reported at time of printing

*Thank you!*

**EMAIL US**

Main Office: [smmgoffice@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:smmgoffice@stmarymotherofgod.com)  
Parish Council: [pcchair@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:pcchair@stmarymotherofgod.com)  
Mass Intentions: [massintentions@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:massintentions@stmarymotherofgod.com)  
Faith Formation: [dre@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:dre@stmarymotherofgod.com)  
Campus Ministry: [ccm@wcucatholic.org](mailto:ccm@wcucatholic.org)

*If you need immediate financial assistance please call 828-586-9496 x. 104*

# From the Pastor's Desk



The idea that Jesus was a political messiah never left Jesus' disciples even when Jesus was about to ascend into heaven. Jesus' disciples gave him a heroic welcome into Jerusalem, believing that he had come to overthrow the Romans. Then, that hope was shattered when he was arrested, crucified, and buried. When Jesus rose and reappeared, the disciples' conviction of his political messiahship now became stronger.

In the first reading, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?" I imagine that Jesus' answer was confusing to them. Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:6-7). The disciples might have wondered the link between restoring the kingdom of Israel and what Jesus said about the Father and the Holy Spirit. They were still focused on political power and Jesus helped turn their attention back to the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then, they returned to Jerusalem and remained together and gave themselves to constant prayer until they received the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised them (Acts 1:12-14).

What does the Ascension of the Lord mean to us? First, we pray for people who are transfixed in confusion and people who are transfixed in all kinds of overwhelming situations, that they may experience the ministrations of God's angels to guide and lead them.

Second, Jesus ascended into heaven and is at the right hand of God interceding for us. St. Paul confirms this, "Christ who died, and ... rose and is seated at the right hand of God, interceding for us." Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). The Book of Hebrews writes, "Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Also, 1 John 2:1 says, "We have an intercessor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Just One." This is the reason all our prayers are to God, in the Holy Spirit, and through Jesus Christ.

Third, Jesus says, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may be where I am" (John 14:3). The Preface 1 of today's Eucharistic celebration says, "Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before." We are, therefore, to be ready for his return and go with him. Jesus speaks of his coming in Matthew 24:36, "But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."

Fourth, Jesus is no longer physically in the world. As his followers, we are to continue his good deeds by witnessing him to the world. He says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ... and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Jesus remains in the world through us, who are his disciples, ambassadors, and witnesses. We are his mouth, his hands, his feet, and his heart.

Fifth, as we celebrate Jesus' Ascension, we pray and look forward to the fulfillment of Jesus' promises. He says, "But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). Jesus also says, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name; he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you" (John 14:26). We pray that we may open our hearts to the teaching and reminding of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to participate in the Novena to the Holy Spirit.

## Housekeeping:

- There will be a Second Collection this weekend May 16/17h for the International/National Combined Collection. The Combined Collection includes Catholic Relief Services, Collection for the Holy Land, Collections for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence), Catholic University of America, and Catholic Communications Campaign.
- Congratulations to our 14 children who made their First Holy Communion this Saturday. May God continue to deepen their love Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We thank their Catechists and Parents for helping to prepare them for the reception of the Holy Eucharist.
- On behalf of the Parish, Clergy and Staff, we want to thank all those who helped in the planning, execution, and fundraising during the Cinco de Mayo celebration at Bridge Park, may God bless you all and all our other Parish volunteers.

Email Fr. Paul at [pastor@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:pastor@stmarymotherofgod.com)

*Father Paul*

# Desde el escritorio del Párroco



La idea de que Jesús era un mesías político nunca se apartó de la mente de sus discípulos, aun cuando Jesús estaba por subir al cielo. Sus discípulos le dieron una bienvenida triunfal en Jerusalén, convencidos de que había venido a derrocar a los romanos. Pero esa esperanza se hizo pedazos cuando fue arrestado, crucificado y sepultado. Cuando Jesús resucitó y se les apareció de nuevo, la convicción de los discípulos sobre su mesianismo político se fortaleció aún más.

En la primera lectura le preguntan: “Señor, ¿es ahora cuando vas a restaurar el reino de Israel?”. Imagino que la respuesta de Jesús los dejó desconcertados. Jesús les contestó: “No les corresponde a ustedes conocer los tiempos y las fechas que el Padre ha fijado con su propia autoridad. Pero recibirán fuerza cuando el Espíritu Santo venga sobre ustedes, y serán mis testigos en Jerusalén, en toda Judea y Samaria, y hasta los confines de la tierra” (Hechos 1:6-7). Tal vez se preguntaban qué relación tenía restaurar el reino de Israel con lo que Jesús decía del Padre y del Espíritu Santo. Todavía estaban centrados en el poder político, y Jesús los ayudó a volver la mirada a la venida del Espíritu Santo. Después regresaron a Jerusalén, permanecieron unidos y se dedicaron a la oración constante, hasta que recibieron el Espíritu Santo que Jesús les había prometido (Hechos 1:12-14).

¿Qué significa para nosotros la Ascensión del Señor? Primero, oramos por quienes quedan paralizados por la confusión y por quienes atraviesan situaciones abrumadoras, para que experimenten el auxilio de los ángeles de Dios que los orienten y los conduzcan.

Segundo, Jesús ascendió al cielo y está a la derecha de Dios intercediendo por nosotros. San Pablo lo confirma: “Cristo, que murió y... resucitó y está sentado a la derecha de Dios, intercede por nosotros”. Jesús dice: “Yo soy el camino, la verdad y la vida. Nadie va al Padre si no es por mí” (Juan 14:6). La Carta a los Hebreos afirma: “Por eso puede salvar para siempre a los que se acercan a Dios por medio de él, ya que vive eternamente para interceder por ellos” (Hebreos 7:25). Además, 1 Juan 2:1 dice: “Tenemos un intercesor ante el Padre: Jesucristo, el Justo”. Por eso todas nuestras oraciones son a Dios, en el Espíritu Santo y por medio de Jesucristo.

Tercero, Jesús dice: “Y cuando me vaya y les prepare un lugar, volveré y los llevaré conmigo, para que donde yo esté, estén también ustedes” (Juan 14:3). El Prefacio I de la celebración eucarística de hoy dice: “Mediador entre Dios y los hombres, juez del mundo y Señor de los ejércitos, ascendió, no para alejarse de nuestra humilde condición, sino para que nosotros, sus miembros, tengamos la certeza de seguirlo a donde él, nuestra Cabeza y Fundador, se nos ha adelantado”. Por eso debemos estar listos para su regreso e ir con él. Jesús habla de su venida en Mateo 24:36: “En cuanto al día y la hora, nadie lo sabe: ni los ángeles del cielo, ni el Hijo, sino sólo el Padre”.

Cuarto, Jesús ya no está físicamente en el mundo. Como sus seguidores, nos toca continuar sus buenas obras dando testimonio de él ante el mundo. Dice: “Pero recibirán fuerza cuando el Espíritu Santo venga sobre ustedes, y serán mis testigos en Jerusalén... y hasta los confines de la tierra” (Hechos 1:8). Jesús permanece en el mundo a través de nosotros, que somos sus discípulos, sus enviados y sus testigos. Somos su voz, sus manos, sus pies y su corazón.

Quinto, al celebrar la Ascensión de Jesús, oramos y esperamos el cumplimiento de sus promesas. Él dice: “Les digo la verdad: les conviene que yo me vaya. Porque si no me voy, el Defensor no vendrá a ustedes; pero si me voy, se los enviaré” (Juan 16:7). Jesús también dice: “El Defensor, el Espíritu Santo, que el Padre enviará en mi nombre, les enseñará todo y les recordará todo lo que yo les he dicho” (Juan 14:26). Pedimos poder abrir el corazón a la enseñanza y a los recordatorios del Espíritu Santo. Se nos anima a participar en la Novena al Espíritu Santo.

Avisos:

- Este fin de semana, 16/17 de mayo, habrá una Segunda Colecta para la Colecta Combinada Internacional/Nacional. La Colecta Combinada incluye Catholic Relief Services, la Colecta para Tierra Santa, las colectas para las Obras del Santo Padre (Óbolo de San Pedro), la Catholic University of America y la Catholic Communications Campaign.
- Felicidades a nuestros 14 niños que este sábado hicieron su Primera Comunión. Que Dios siga profundizando su amor por Jesucristo en la Sagrada Eucaristía. Agradecemos a sus catequistas y a sus papás por ayudarlos a prepararse para recibir la Sagrada Eucaristía.
- En nombre de la Parroquia, el Clero y el Personal, queremos agradecer a todos los que apoyaron en la planeación, la realización y la recaudación de fondos durante la celebración del Cinco de Mayo en Bridge Park. Que Dios los bendiga a todos ustedes y a los demás voluntarios de nuestra parroquia.

Escríbele al P. Paul a [pastor@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:pastor@stmarymotherofgod.com)

*Padre Paul*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submit announcements by Thursday each week [executiveassistant@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:executiveassistant@stmarymotherofgod.com)

- **Second Collection:** There will be a second collection during Masses this weekend. Funds will go toward International Collections.
- **St. Vincent de Paul Society** will take up a second collection May 30-31. Funds will go toward helping our Friends in Need.
- On behalf of St Mary's, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with sales, donations, and enjoying the food at our **kermés celebration on May 5<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks to all of you, we raised a total of \$11,553.00, which will be used for our events throughout the year and the needs of the church. May God bless you for your generosity.
- **Graduation Mass** will be Sunday, May 31 during the 11:30 am Mass. Reception to follow. Please let us know if you have a son or daughter graduating from high school this year. We would love to recognize and bless them and your family for this monumental achievement! email Rayanne: [dre@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:dre@stmarymotherofgod.com)
- **The Knights of Columbus Council from Waynesville, NC** invites all parishioners and community members to attend the Silver Rose Prayer Service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and praying for the sanctity of human life. The service will be held at St. John the Evangelist on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. Please join us in prayer for a culture of life and the protection of all human dignity.
- The Diocese of Charlotte is partnering with the **Newman Connection–Faith Forward program** to provide continued support for youth in the transition after high school. Scan the QR code below for help connecting to with a group during this important stage of life.
- Please note the **church office** will be closed May 18–25. If you have any administrative needs during this time, please email or call the church office and leave a detailed message. We will address all requests when the office reopens on Wednesday, May 27.

- **Segunda colecta:** Este fin de semana habrá una segunda colecta durante las Misas. Los fondos se destinarán a las Colectas Internacionales.
- **Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl** realizará una segunda colecta el 30 y 31 de mayo. Los fondos se destinarán a apoyar a nuestros Amigos en Necesidad.
- En nombre de St. Mary's, expresamos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a todas las personas que apoyaron con ventas, donaciones y disfrutando la comida en nuestra **celebración de kermés el 5 de mayo**. Gracias a ustedes, recaudamos un total de \$11,553.00, que se utilizará para nuestros eventos a lo largo del año y para las necesidades de la iglesia. Que Dios les bendiga por su generosidad.
- **Misa de Graduación** será el domingo 31 de mayo durante la Misa de las 11:30 am. Al terminar, habrá recepción. Por favor avísenos si tiene un hijo o una hija que se gradúe de preparatoria este año. ¡Nos encantaría reconocerles y darles una bendición a ellos y a su familia por este gran logro! Correo para Rayanne: [dre@stmarymotherofgod.com](mailto:dre@stmarymotherofgod.com)
- **El Consejo de los Caballeros de Colón de Waynesville, NC** invita a todos los feligreses y miembros de la comunidad a asistir al Servicio de Oración de la Rosa de Plata, en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y para orar por la santidad de la vida humana. El servicio se llevará a cabo en St. John the Evangelist el jueves 4<sup>th</sup> de junio a las 6:00 PM. Acompañenos en oración por una cultura de vida y por la protección de la dignidad de toda persona.
- La Diócesis de Charlotte se está asociando con el **programa Newman Connection–Faith Forward** para brindar apoyo continuo a los jóvenes en la transición después de la preparatoria. Escanee el código QR de abajo para recibir ayuda y conectarse con un grupo durante esta etapa tan importante.
- Favor de tomar en cuenta que la **oficina parroquial** permanecerá cerrada del 18 al 25 de mayo. Si tiene alguna necesidad administrativa durante ese tiempo, envíe un correo electrónico o llame a la oficina y deje un mensaje detallado. Atenderemos todas las solicitudes cuando la oficina reabra el miércoles 27 de mayo.



New to the parish?  
Scan this QR code to register online or pick up a paper form from the Welcome Desk in the Narthex.



Newman Connection

# Happy Birthday to Fr. Paul

We were honored to celebrate Fr. Paul on Monday evening for his birthday with a delicious cake provided by the Hispanic Commission. Thank you!



# Feliz cumpleaños al Padre Paul

Fue un honor celebrar al P. Paul el lunes por la noche por su cumpleaños, con un delicioso pastel cortesía de la Comisión Hispana. ¡Gracias!

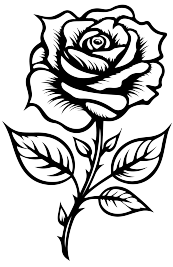


# Mother's Day

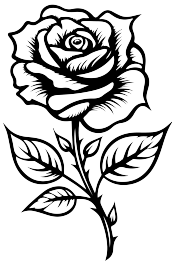
Last Saturday, May 9, the Hispanic Ministry celebrated Mother's Day to all the mothers of the St. Mary's community; with a dinner, cake and gifts.... It was a night of great joy and fellowship!



El pasado sábado 9 de mayo, el Ministerio hispano celebró el día de las madres a todas las mamás de la comunidad de Santa María; con una cena, pastel y regalos.... Fue una noche de mucha alegría y fraternidad!



# Silver Rose



## News Release

Local Knights of Columbus Sponsors  
Silver Rose in Honor of Life and Our Lady of Guadalupe

Contact: GK Mark DeMarco – 828-777-9181 – Fr. Bernard McDevitt Council 15085

A silver rose on a nine-month pilgrimage will be the centerpiece of a special prayer service at St. John the Evangelist in Waynesville on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 6pm. The Program is sponsored by the Knight of Columbus Fr. Bernard McDevitt council 15085 to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and express both international unity and dedication to the sanctity of human life.

The journey of the silver rose begins each year in March and ends on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. During that time, Silver Roses travel from town to town along eight routes throughout North America. Several of these routes begin in Canada and end in Mexico.

The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when the first rose – a real, live one – was blessed by a bishop in Ontario. The rose then traveled to New York and then to Texas where it was taken across the border into Mexico.

The rose ended its pilgrimage at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Monterrey on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. To better ensure future annual trips, a silver rose was ultimately made. Today, due to the popularity of the program throughout the North American continent, eight silver roses travel unique routes.

In 2001, when Carl Anderson, Past Supreme Knight of the Knight of Columbus, expanded the Silver Rose Program, he commented: "Through (the Silver Rose Program) we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express unity of the (Knights of Columbus), but we also reaffirm the Order's dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother that we turn in prayer as we work to end the Culture of Death that grips our society. As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses."

All members of the community are encouraged to join Knights of Columbus Fr. Bernard McDevitt council 15085 at St. John the Evangelist in Waynesville on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 6pm, pray for a civilization of love and culture of life in our own country and throughout the world.

### **Please Spread the Word!**

Council 15085 in Waynesville is one of the 17,000 Knights of Columbus councils that make up the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately two million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally through financial contributions and hands-on service.

