

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

2429 Augusta Road (Hwy 421) – P.O. Box 419
Gloverville, South Carolina 29828

Rev. Fr. Arokia Raj Mahimai Doss, MSSCC, Administrator
Rev. Fr. Emeka Emmanuel Ekwelum, MSSCC, Parochial Vicar
Barbara Thouin, Administrative Assistant
Office Hours - 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Linda Walker, Director of Religious Education
Coordinators for Safe Environment
Barbara Thouin
Michele Conner
Diocesan Office of Child Protection Services
Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister

803-593-2241
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Bthouin@charlestdioecese.org
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843-853-2130 ext. 209
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SCHEDULE

MASS:

Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning	11:00 a.m.
Weekday Masses	
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.	
Friday 9:00 a.m.	
Holy Days	6:00 p.m.
Reconciliation: Saturday	3:30 p.m. <i>(and by appointment)</i>

BAPTISMS:

Prior to the baptism of infants, parents are to receive instructions on the meaning and obligations of baptism. Please contact the parish office to arrange this.

MARRIAGE:

To make arrangements, please contact the parish office six months prior to the anticipated wedding days, as required by the diocese. This time is needed for adequate preparations for Marriage.

VISITATION TO THE SICK AND DISABLED:

Please contact the parish office to let us know of those who may be seriously ill or disabled in our parish so that we may visit, pray with and bring Holy Communion to them if desired.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:

For the Sacrament of Anointment of the Sick please call the parish office.

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www.ourladyofthevalleyparish.org



WELCOME

We welcome all visitors and family members who are worshipping with us today at Our Lady of the Valley Church. We are really glad you are here. After Sunday morning Mass, a period of fellowship with light refreshments is held in the Center. ALL are invited and encouraged to attend. We also hope you enjoyed your time with us and will return again soon! Do take a moment to sign our Guest Book.

REGISTRATION

If you attend Our Lady of the Valley regularly but are not yet registered, please ask our ushers for a registration form, or stop by the Parish office. We also ask all members to use their offering envelopes and practice good stewardship of the many gifts God has given to each of us.

Seeking the Heart of God — In the Heart of the Valley

**25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
SCHEDULE OF MINISTRIES**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020

(L) Michele Conner
(U) Tom Kilm
(AS) Paul Sauerborn

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020

(L) Gloria O'Shaughnessy
(U) Jim Goodell and Tom Kilm
(AS) Paul Sauerborn

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

(L) David Keel
(U) Shot Widener and David Keel
(AS) Jake Walker

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

(L) Melody Sheets
(U) Shot Widener, David Keel and Bob Anzoni
(AS) Jake Walker

PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Universal Prayer Intention – Respect for the Planet's Resources

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

STEWARDSHIP

September 13, 2020	
Envelopes	\$ 1,790.00
Loose	\$ 0.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,790.00
Year to Date OFFERING	\$ 24,404.01
Catholic University	\$ 61.00
OLV Yearly Budget 7/1/20-6/30/21	\$144,760.00
Needed weekly to meet budget	\$ 2,783.85

Thank you to each parishioner for your continued support of Our Lady of the Valley Parish.

PRAYER DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary, we, your children of every nation, turn to you in this pandemic. Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great. Grant that we might deposit them at your feet, take refuge in your Immaculate Heart, and obtain peace, healing, rescue, and timely help in all our needs. You are our Mother. Pray for us to your Son. Amen

STATE OF GRACE BY Sister Pamela Smith, SSCM

Sister Pam, the Diocesan Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, has written a book detailing the long presence of Catholicism in South Carolina & the 200 year history of the Diocese of Charleston. Softcover, 224 pages; 32-page full-color insert: \$26.99 plus S&H.

This book is available at www.charlestondiocese.org/bicentennial or by Email celebration@charlestondiocese.org.

Please remember to TURN OFF your cell phones, hand held games and electronic devices during mass. Thank you.



CHOIR PRACTICE

There will be no choir practice until further notice.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Religious education will begin for our students on January 10, 2021. Our students have begun the 2020-2021 school year either physically or virtually and their safety must be kept in mind. Our facility – the church office- is too small to accommodate our students safely during this time of the Coronavirus. Linda Walker, our Religious Education director will be in touch with each family with children. If you do not hear from her in the next two weeks, please email her at Lwalker@charlestondiocese.org or call the church office 803-593-2241.

If you or someone you know want to become a Catholic, please notify Barbara in the church office 803-591-2241. Arrangements can be made to provide instruction in Catholicism taught by a trained parishioner. This is called the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA).

WEEKDAY MASSES

Weekday masses on Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. have resumed.

Our Lady of the Valley Parish wants to keep our children safe. Children 12 years or younger **MUST** be accompanied by an adult when going to the restroom.

NO EXCEPTIONS!!

OLV BULLETIN DEADLINE IS TUESDAY MORNING BY 9 A.M. Please send announcements or information to: mconner@charlestondiocese.org, call the church office at 803-593-2241, or submit a written announcement to the church office.



Please Pray For

John Farmer, John Bergstrom, Steve Hamerick, Kay Livingston, Ricky Franklin, Mary Franklin, Austin Reeves, Shelley Lindell, Laura Sheets, Deborah Rutland, Linda and Rick Endler, Doris Roberts, Cindy Barton, and Deborah Opalewski

NOTE: Call Barbara if names need to be added to this list or if names can be taken off.



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

**Sept. 20, 2020 – Barbara Ostrowski, 11:00 am
Sept. 26, 2020 – Bert Baker, 4:00 pm**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

If you want a Mass said for a particular person or intention, please call the office to schedule the Mass. Masses can be requested for particular dates and times.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 –
Bicentennial Campaign**

(Checks should be made payable to the Catholic Community Foundation of South Carolina)

September 20, 2020 - Bishops' Emergency Disaster Fund – To assist those affected by Hurricane Laura and the wildfires in California. Make checks payable to Diocese of Charleston and indicate in the memo line "Disasters."

PARISH EXTENDS SYMPATHY

Our Lady of the Valley parish family extends sympathy and prayers to the family of Jessica Baker whose funeral mass was on September 11, 2020. Jessica was the daughter of Monica Cordero and the sister of Brenda Sleasman.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

INFORMATIVE WEBSITES

Since we are no longer subscribers of FORMED, you may find the following websites informative on catholic news and happenings world-wide. Some offer daily updates, mass, the rosary and others include the Bible.

<http://www.charlestondiocese.org>

www.ourladyofthevalleyparish.org

<https://zenit.org> – A news website

www.ewtn.org – Eternal Word Television Network, Mass, programs, prayers – everything Catholic

www.usccb.org – The United States Catholic Bishops' website

FORGIVENESS

Last week's readings are an exhortation on forgiveness. The easiest way to gain access to God's mercy is by being merciful ourselves and if we truly desire forgiveness, we must forgive in season and out of season. That's why in the first reading and the gospel, we see the emphasis on forgiveness; **FORGIVE NOT JUST SEVEN TIMES BUT SEVENTY-SEVEN TIMES.** Of all Christian acts, forgiveness appears to be the most difficult. When we are wronged, we feel broken, hurt, and angry and there is this upsurge of vengeance that flows through our veins. We should know that these feelings are normal for us as humans, but how we respond to these feelings is what gives credence to our love of God and neighbour. When we forgive, we make God the Victor and ourselves the trophy-carriers; but when we respond to our impulses and revenge or bear grudges, we give the Devil the upper-hand and make ourselves prisoners of our grudges. To forgive is to let go and set ourselves free. Permit me to share this story with you:

Sometime ago, during my inter-novitate encounter experience; while discussing the virtues, our lecturer (name withheld) asked us a question on forgiveness; "If for instance, you come back home and see that someone stabbed your beloved father and you know the person that stabbed him, what will you be your first line of action: save your dad or go after that person that stabbed him? This question raised a lot of dust and immediately answers started flowing in. Some said that they will kill the person first and then take their dad to the hospital, while others said that they will save their father first. He waited for us all to answer and then asked again: "If eventually your dad dies and then you eventually see the person that killed your dad, what will you do? That very day, I remembered the bitterness with which a lot of us answered the question. The truth is that many of us replied that we will surely revenge on that person. As we were giving the answers, we noticed something strange; our beloved lecturer was shedding tears. We all stopped, puzzled and wanting to know the reason behind his tears. A moment of silence passed and he then gathered himself and spoke up.

He started: "You see, I asked this question because today is the 15th anniversary of my parent's death. I really wanted my beloved parents to witness my ordination, but I buried them just two months into my priestly ordination. I didn't understand why they had to die just two months to the greatest event of my life and I asked God a lot of questions. They slept and didn't wake up. But just last year, I got a serious shock; the greatest shock of my life. Someone came to me in the confessional and confessed that he killed them through food poisoning because he really never wanted anything good to come out of my family. He said that he thought that by killing them, he will discourage me and distract me from being a priest because I love them so much, but I still became a priest. He asked for my forgiveness. It was very difficult for me to absolve him from his sins but I still did. I know the person in question but I didn't press charges. I forgave him but it was too difficult for me, knowing that the person responsible was very close to my family, in fact, an extended member of my family. But I forgave him still and after few months, he died. I still went for his burial and celebrated his burial mass for him. Today, I am free from him, free from the burden that I carried within me because I chose to forgive him."

All of us in that class felt goose-pimples all over our body. Is this possible we asked? But then, it was not just a story, but a testimony from the victim and the victor himself. He then asked us to forgive no matter what. According to him, not forgiving the man will bring him to the same level as the murderer. He forgave in order to set himself free.

Revenge is easy and soothing to the body, but forgiveness is difficult and soothing to the soul. When we forgive, we rise above our natural instinct and reach out to the supernatural drawing upon ourselves the blessings of mercy and peace. When we are confronted with situations that make us angry and desire to retaliate, let us ask ourselves: what would Jesus do in this situation? We all know the answer to that question. Before his death, he forgave his murderers and showed them that He is above them. He left us an example that we should follow. Whoever it is that has wronged you and no matter whatever it is the person has done, God wants us to forgive. If you can't forgive, how can you say the "Our Father"? As we forgive, may God forgive us and heal the world of this pandemic. Amen.

God bless you.

Father Emmanuel, Homily – September 13, 2020