



St. Charles Borromeo Church

Celebrating 175 Years as the Catholic Community in the Heart of Pikesville

Mission Statement

Saint Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church is a Christian Community bonded by faith and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action through prayer, education, evangelization, and service.

DECEMBER 17TH 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete Sunday



101 Church Lane • Pikesville, MD 21208 • 410-486-5400 • Fax: 410-486-5421 • www.ourstcharles.org
Facebook.com/SCBPikesville • Office Hours: 9:00am – 3:00pm • Email: parish@ourstcharles.org

STAFF CONTACTS

Rev. Canisius T. Tah, *Pastor*
frcanisius@ourstcharles.org

Rev. Rodney Eugene, *Associate Pastor*
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Tim Fish, *Parish Pastoral Council Chair*
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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00PM (Traditional Choir)

Sunday: 8:30AM, 11:00AM (Contemporary Choir)

Monday-Friday: 7:30AM

Wednesday (*en español*): 7:00PM (@ St. Gabriel, Woodlawn)

Holy Day: 7:30AM, 12:10PM, 7:30PM

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays, 8:00AM-9:00AM

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:15PM-3:45PM; Wednesday 6:00PM-6:55PM @ St. Gabriel, Woodlawn; or by appointment

Infant Baptism

Congratulations to all parents and parents to be. Baptism Preparation sessions for parents and new godparents are led by Deacon Steve Roscher. Contact Deacon Steve at sroscher@ourstcharles.org to register for a session and to arrange for the celebration of your child's baptism.

Faith Formation

Religious Education classes for children (K-8th Grade) take place on Sunday mornings at St. Gabriel in Woodlawn (September-May). For more information, contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org.

Sacramental Preparation

Families wishing to prepare their children for Reconciliation or First Holy Communion, please contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org. High School youth interested in Confirmation, contact Dan Bremehr at djbreme@hotmail.com.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

RCIA is for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ as they journey toward full initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation) into the life of the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon Steve Roscher.

Care for the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office when a parishioner is homebound, in the hospital, or in a healthcare facility and wishes to receive a visit or any of the Sacraments. Whenever possible, please make arrangements for Anointing of the Sick before surgery or hospital admission.

Marriage

We rejoice with engaged couples and ask them to contact Deacon Steve Roscher at least 6 months prior to the date of the marriage to schedule an appointment for marriage preparation.

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN: TUESDAY AT NOON

Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP . . .

✠ A REFLECTION FROM FR. CANISIUS ✠

Dear Parishioners,

Today we light the pink candle of joy for **Gaudete Sunday**, the Sunday of rejoicing. *Rejoice* always, Paul teaches in the second reading. *Always*, he says. Now today we may do so because Christmas is almost here, but rejoice *always*? Is this even possible? It is!

Isaiah is overjoyed because the Spirit of the Lord is upon him and sends him to do good works such as healing, proclaiming liberty, and bringing the news of God's vindication to his people. Isaiah knows the Lord is with him and gives him great work to do.

In the responsorial psalm today, where the verses are actually from the Gospel of Luke, not the psalms themselves, Mary is full of joy because the Lord has looked upon her lowliness and done great things for her. She will be the mother of Christ and all generations will call her blessed. Like Isaiah, Mary knows the Lord is with her and gives her great meaning and purpose.

John seems to delight in his mission and purpose as he cries out *Make straight the way of the Lord*, in dark days for his people, John testifies to Christ, the light, so that others may have hope and believe through him. Again, John lives out the purpose given to him and knows the Lord is at hand.

Isaiah, Mary, John, and Paul rejoice because they know the Lord is with them and working through them. They have Good News and they glory in sharing it. What is our good news to share? Perhaps like Isaiah we have good news about meaningful work or service we have been called to. Perhaps like Mary we have good news about the family or friends we have been blessed with. Or perhaps times are currently dark, but like John we have good news about a future filled with hope in Christ.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in all circumstances give thanks, Paul teaches. We do not do so because our unceasing prayers are always answered, or because we are thankful for circumstances that are always answered, or because we are thankful for circumstances that are always in our favor. We do so because in Christ we always have Good News to share. It may not be dramatic as the news we heard in today's readings, but it is personal and meaningful for us, because we know how the Lord has blessed us and given our lives meaning and purpose. And we give thanks, as

we do now in the Eucharist, for all God's gifts, especially the gift of his Son.

Have a blessed week leading up to Christmas. Invite someone to our community at Christmas.

Fr. Canisius

DAILY MASS INTENTION/PRESIDER

| Date | Time | Presider | Mass Intention |
|---------------|---------|---|--|
| Mon Dec 18 | 7:30am | Fr. Canisius | Ezinne Bessie Chiege Iwuji Okeke & Pa John Oguguo Okeke |
| Tue Dec 19 | 7:30am | Fr. Canisius/ Sem Bienvenu | Clarence Blackden |
| Wed Dec 20 | 7:30am | Fr. Canisius | Sharon & Nestor Ortiz |
| Thu Dec 21 | 7:30am | Fr. Canisius | Michael Morfaw Intention (L) |
| Fri Dec 22 | 7:30am | Fr. Canisius | Fr. Canisius Tah Birthday Int. (L) |
| Sat Dec 23 | 4:00pm | Fr. Rodney | Nicolas & Rina Villa (L) In Thanksgiving |
| Sun Dec 24 | 8:30am | Fr. Tom | People of the Parish |
| Sun Dec 24 | 11:00am | Fr. Tom/ Deacon Steve | Deacon Carl Anderson |
| Sun Dec 24 | 4:00pm | Fr. Canisius/ Deacon Steve Sem Bienvenu | People of the Parish |
| Sun Dec 24 | 8:00pm | Fr. Canisius/ Sem Bienvenu | Jean & Jim McKim |
| Mon Dec 25 | 8:30am | Fr. Rodney/ Fr. Canisius | Iraita Family Intention (L) |



If you are looking for a more immediate date for a Mass intention when the schedule is filled at St. Charles, Masses are available at St. Gabriel on almost any weekday and most weekends. To have a Mass offered for your chosen intention on an upcoming date at St. Gabriel, please contact Alondra at 410-944-2106.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thes 5:16-24 / Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday, December 18th

Jer 23:5-8 / Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19th

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a / Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20th

Is 7:10-14 / Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21st

St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a / Lk 1:39-45

Friday, December 22nd

1 Sm 1:24-28 / Lk 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23rd

St. John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 / Lk 1:57-66

Sunday, December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Rom 16:25-27 / Lk 1:26-38

The full text of Daily Mass readings can be found at

www.bible.usccb.org or on MyParish app.



SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTION

Our sanctuary lamp is lit this week:

*For all pregnant women
and their unborn babies*



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

Christmas flower memorial envelopes are included in the December offering envelope packet and can also be found in the church vestibule. Please return yours to the parish office by this **Monday, 12/18**. You may also make a memorial donation via online giving—just select fund “Christmas Flowers” on the giving form at:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stc101164>

SIMPLIFIED SUNDAY READINGS AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Weekly videos are posted on our Facebook page proclaiming the Sunday readings from a simplified lectionary translation created for children. These videos also contain “closed captions,” so they are wonderful for those who suffer from hearing loss or are deaf. They are about 9-10 minutes long. Check it out this weekend!

https://www.facebook.com/pg/SCBPikesville/videos/?ref=page_internal

LET US PRAY WITH OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

*“There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens.”*

- Ecclesiastes 3:1

...a time to heal

Joann Franklin; Shannon Renner; Emmanuel Okereke; Deborah Burns; Shirley Wilcher; Ryan Hankins; Lincoln Gee; Nora Din; Richard Abbotts; David Bickel; Messiah Santos Robert Rose; Mary Charlotte Koerner; Janet Winters; Carol Jordan; Norberta Winborne; Leonard Robert; Sandy; Francie & Mike Gill; Rod Brittingham; Jimmy Williams; Charles Schweiger, Jr.; Rafael Martinez; James Mayfield; Dianne Wemmer; Patricia “Rusty” Lands; Robin Buttles; Lindsey Waters; Patricia James; Reggie Diggs; Johnnie Fogg; Xavier E. Gordon; Katherine Ann Kings; Kaitlyn Hitt; Felix Buchanan, Sr.; Wendy Simpkins; Sierra Thomas; Bert Wallace; Les Gilmor; Polly Boiser; Rowena Mejia; Charles Williams; Joshua Sanchez; Diana Hicks; Kenny Bena; Sandra Brooks; Catherine Pottillo; Rodney Barrett; Paul McKeown; Susan Bateman; Deacon Vito Piazza; Catherine Shipley; Paul Gambrill; Andrew, Bob & Peggy Moan; Ernest Hunter; Christine Isaac; Chinyere Chikeka; Gary Frank; Robert & Mary Anthony; Jeff Lohinski; Charlotte Hurley; Terry Neuman; Dennis Bowersox; Jeanette Cherigos; Helen Arena; Ann Marie Goddard; Kathy Justice

*May our Lord and Redeemer give health to their
bodies and holiness to their souls.*

...and a time to die

Msgr. William Collins

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord

ST. CHARLES CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

December 23/24

4th Sunday of Advent

Normal weekend Mass schedule

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Masses at

4:00 PM and 8:00 PM

St. Gabriel: 6:00 PM

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Mass at 8:30 AM

St. Gabriel: 10:30 AM and 12:30 PM misa en español



Liturgical Schedule

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH**
Saturday/Sunday, December 30th/31st
4:00pm ♦ 8:30am ♦ 11:00am

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**
Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord
Sunday, December 31st @ 6:00pm
Monday, January 1st @ 8:30am

MESSAGE #29 FROM DEACON STEVE FOR THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



Going back to my Latin class days
In high school I often break down
English words into their Latin roots.
The word “to” in English is “ad” in
Latin. The word “come” in English is
“vent” in Latin. So, we can take the
word “Advent” and describe it as meaning “to come.”
Naturally, as I noted in my message last week, the holy
season of Advent has us looking forward to the
celebration of Christmas on December 25. It also
brings us to the realization that Jesus is present to us
right now in the Word, in our gathering of believers,
and in the Holy Eucharist. But Advent should also have
us anticipating the end of time, the final Judgment,
when all who ever lived will stand before Jesus to have
our lives revealed. What will our judgment look like?
Our sins will be made public, as will the blessings we
bestowed on our world by the way believed and lived.
How will our record reflect on how we addressed the
temptations of the seven deadly sins: pride, greed,
lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth? What will our
record be in regards to the cardinal virtues: humility,
charity, chastity, gratitude, temperance, patience and
diligence? Note that the each virtue can help us
overcome one each of the sins! Jesus’ presence to us
when we receive the Holy Eucharist can energize us
to imitate him in countering the temptations of sin with
the virtues available to us through God’s loving grace.
Pope Leo XIII reminded us, ***“In this most admirable
Sacrament, which is the chief means by which (we)
are engrafted on the divine nature, (we) also find
the most efficacious help towards progress in
every kind of virtue.”***

See: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org>

Fr. Ray’s Prayer-Poem for 12/17/23

Part I...in the words of the Prophet Isaiah 61:10

“...my being exults in my God...!”

Part II...in another’s words, a prayer-poem –

not just joy
but exultation

not heart joy
but being joy

all other joys
only made more joyous

in the very moment
I allow such exultation

which should be
every moment

for joy-source God
resides in each-all moments

[my happy “amen!”]

– fr. Ray

175th ANNIVERSARY . . .



175 YEARS
**ST. CHARLES
BORROMEO**
PIKESVILLE, MD

***IT’S TIME TO CELEBRATE
OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY!!***



***St. Charles Church
History Presentation***

**Monday, January 15, 2024 ✕ 1:00pm-2:00pm
OR**

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 ✕ 7:00pm-8:00pm

Come find out more about the rich heritage of
our faith community here in the heart of
Pikesville. All are welcome. Invite a friend or
neighbor to join you!

OUR "SPIRIT WEAR" STORE HAS REOPENED!



Order your anniversary gear today!

Celebrate our 175th Anniversary in style! Get your official "Spirit Wear" at our online store:

<https://stcharleschurch.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Orders will be available for pickup at the church/rectory in mid-February.

Can't order online? Contact the parish office to place your order with cash/check.



The store is open NOW!
Order your "Spirit Wear" today!
Last Chance ~ Store closes 1/15/24

Order online at our website or visit:

<https://stcharleschurch.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

FAITH FORMATION . . .



BAPTISM PREPARATION

Parents wishing to schedule a baptism for their child(ren) should email Deacon Steve Roscher at sroscher@ourstcharles.org to learn more about the preparation process.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION: GRADES PREK-8

Weekly classes for our Children's Religious Education program take place in the *Watershed School* building on the campus of St. Gabriel (6950 Dogwood Rd., Windsor Mill, 21244). Classes in **English** begin at **9:10am** and classes in **Spanish** begin at **11:15am**. Register your child(ren) at:

<https://ourstcharles.org/faithformation>

Contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org or 410-486-5400, ext. 209 with any questions.



ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

The *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults* (formerly the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process by which candidates proceed through an intellectual, personal, and spiritual journey concluding with their formal acceptance into the Catholic Church. Interested? Contact Deacon Steve Roscher at sroscher@ourstcharles.org for more details. December sessions: 12/17 at 9:40am; and 12/23 at 3pm (pre-reading is required).

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preparation sessions for the sacraments of **Reconciliation** and **First Holy Communion** are tentatively scheduled for **Saturday mornings**. Contact Allison Mooney at reled@ourstcharles.org or 410-486-5400, ext. 209 for information.

Confirmation preparation for youth in grades 9 and above takes place on **Sunday mornings** at **9:10am** (English) and **11:15am** (Spanish). Questions should be directed to Dan Bremehr: confirmation@stgabrielch.org

All sessions take place on the campus of St. Gabriel (6950 Dogwood Rd., Windsor Mill, 21244). Families can register their children for these programs by completing the Religious Education registration form at: <https://ourstcharles.org/faithformation>

STEWARDSHIP . . .

**- What I Do With What I Have Been
Given When I Believe in God -**

| DEC. 4 TO DEC. 10, 2023 | IN-PEW | ONLINE |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Offertory – Envelopes | \$3435 | \$1465 |
| Offertory – Loose | \$486 | \$0 |
| Maintenance / Utilities | \$35 | \$225 |
| Christmas Offering | \$70 | \$50 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$348 | \$335 |
| Solemnity of Mary | \$20 | \$10 |
| TOTAL PARISH OFFERTORY | \$4394 | \$2085 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$230 | \$0 |
| Retired Religious | \$698 | \$100 |
| Catholic School Support | \$10 | \$0 |
| Poor Box—Food Pantry | \$59 | \$30 |
| ATTENDANCE: IMMACULATE CONCEP. | | |
| ATTENDANCE: 12/9-12/10 | | 255 |

SECOND COLLECTIONS

We have the following special collections upcoming:

December 17 Catholic School Support

December 25 Christmas Offering

January 1 Solemnity of Mary

Thank you for your generosity!

You may also give online at www.ourstcharles.org by selecting the fund name listed above on the giving page.



GIANT Gift Cards: \$100 ♦ \$50 ♦ \$25

Use them for your regular shopping; or to buy your prescriptions; or give them as gifts. St. Charles makes 5% on every card sold! Purchase your cards with cash or check in the parish office, 9am–3pm, Monday-Friday.

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO ONLINE GIVING

- No need to write checks or remember envelopes
- Contributions can be scheduled regularly--or give on an a la carte basis, giving when you choose
- Choose which Special Collections to support
- Contribute to the Poor Box
- No missed contributions to make up
- Use a credit card, debit card, or bank account

For more information contact the parish office or go to www.ourstcharles.org/give

SECOND COLLECTION – THANK YOU

Our women and men religious offer gratitude. A sister shares, “I thank the Lord for all who give. I don’t think we would make it without them.” Thank you for giving to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** last weekend (12/9-12/10). Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit www.retiredreligious.org.

OUTREACH & MINISTRIES . . .



This week our pantry is in need of: **Canned Chicken; Vienna Sausage; Pancake Mix & Syrup; Canned Milk; Canned Pasta; Baked Beans; Chili; Tomato Soup; Creamy Soups; Peanut Butter; Beef Stew; Crackers (regular & low-sodium); and Canned Fruit.**

While we appreciate all donations for the food pantry, **we are unable to accept perishable items**, and all donations must be unopened and in date. Items may be dropped off at the parish office (M-F, 9am-3pm) or placed in the shopping baskets in the church vestibule.

If you have any questions about our pantry, or would like to volunteer, please contact Lori Mooney at lorimooney@verizon.net or 410-241-6441.



St. Charles Parish Giving Tree

Thank you for your support of our annual **Giving Tree** Christmas Outreach Program. Once again, we are astounded by the tremendous generosity of the members of our small faith community. Gifts were delivered last week, bringing joy and the blessings of Christmas to hundreds of people in the community who otherwise would be forgotten. Thank you for bearing the light of Christ to them and to our world! A full report of all donations will be in the bulletin in January.

FOOD FOR LIFE: CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Thanks for your help in making this annual parish work of mercy a success! Because of your generosity, we were able to distribute Christmas Food Boxes and Giant Gift Cards to **75** of our neighbors in need this Christmas. We are grateful for everyone’s participation!

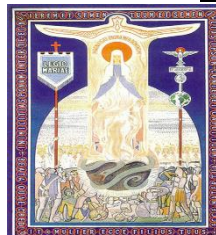
JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS INVITES YOU...

The St. Charles Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA) is a small group of girls who meet on the third Friday of the month from 6pm-8pm. We want to invite all young ladies between the ages of 8 and 18 to join us! Our group focuses on leadership roles to serve others



and growing in our faith together. The girls lead our games, ice breakers, crafts, snacks, and plan ways to help fund raise for needy groups. If you are interested, please call Julianne DeMarco at (410) 653-0832 OR (203) 943-9621. We look forward to seeing you on 1/19!

LEGION OF MARY NEWS



The Legion of Mary will discontinue their 8:30am-10:00am Saturday morning meetings during the month of December ONLY. They will meet instead on Thursday evenings from 6:00pm-7:30pm via Zoom or conference during that time. Contact Cecelia for details at 410-458-9899.



God's Love
Charismatic Prayer Group
 invites you . . .
All Are Welcome!

Wednesday evenings 6:30pm-8:30pm

Bring your Bible and join us!

(in the Rectory Basement – rear entrance)

Contact Elizabeth Vincent at 443-622-4723 or
beach5party@yahoo.com

Believe in the Power of Prayer!

OUR
 DAILY
 BREAD

Serving Meals. Nourishing Opportunity.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES IN ACTION

Thank you to all those who participate in our outreach to the guests at **Our Daily Bread**.

NEXT DELIVERY DATE:

Wednesday, January 17th

Frozen casseroles can be dropped off at the parish office Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm. Pans w/ recipe are available at the parish office or in the church vestibule. Store-bought party-sized Lasagna and Mac & Cheese casseroles are also gratefully accepted.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS . . .

| DATE | TIME | PLACE | EVENT |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Sun Dec 17 | 9:10a (Eng) & 11:15am (Espanol) | St. Gabriel | Childrens' Religious Ed. & Confirmation Prep |
| Tue Dec 19 | 8:00am- 9:00am | Church | Eucharistic Adoration |
| Wed Dec 20 | 6:30pm- 8:30pm | Rectory Basement | Charismatic Prayer Group |
| Thu Dec 21 | 6:00pm- 7:30pm | Zoom or Conference | Legion of Mary |
| Thu Dec 21 | 7:30pm | Church | Contemporary Choir Practice |
| Fri Dec 22 | All Day | Parish Office | CLOSED |
| Sat Dec 23 | 3:00pm | Church | Traditional Choir Practice |
| Sat Dec 23 | 3:15pm- 3:45pm | Church | Confessions |



The Parish Office will be closed on **Friday, December 22nd** and **Monday, December 25th** in observance of the Christmas holiday. It will reopen on Tuesday, December 26th at 9:00am.

Getting Involved and Volunteering



The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. Charles Borromeo Parish are committed to maintaining the trust of the faithful by providing our children and youth with safe environments

characterized by healthy relationships. With our longstanding commitment in mind, **all volunteers, employees, and clergy must register as a volunteer in VIRTUS**, our compliance management system, which allows us to facilitate compliance with archdiocesan child protection requirements. To register as a volunteer, or for more information, visit www.ourstcharles.org/virtus.

EMAIL SCAM WARNING

The scammers are at it again! We have been made aware that people are receiving emails, claiming to be from Fr. Canisius, asking for help purchasing gift cards for the needy/holiday/staff. Father will NEVER ask you to purchase gift cards for him or for the parish. The ONLY valid email addresses for Fr. Canisius are canisius.tah@archbalt.org and frcanisius@ourstcharles.org. Please check the email address on any email received before responding. If you receive ANY message that is out-of-the-ordinary, please verify its authenticity by calling the parish office. Be Safe!

IN THE COMMUNITY . . .

EVENING PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIVES LOST TO HOMICIDE

A coalition of public, private and faith-based partners will hold a one-hour evening prayer vigil on **Wednesday, Dec. 27th** to remember the lives lost to homicide this year and plead for an end to violence. Meet at **5:30pm** at St. Joseph's Monastery Parish in Irvington (3801 Old Frederick Rd., 21229) and walk in prayer by candlelight to My Brother's Keeper, less than half a mile away. The names of the 2023 homicide victims will be read along the walk and hot chocolate and fellowship will be offered afterward at the Catholic Charities resource center. A minibus from Mount St. Joseph High School will offer rides back to the Monastery after the walk. Event takes place rain or shine.

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