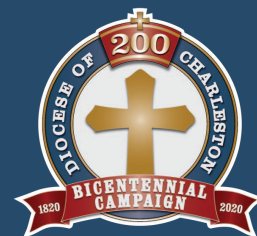


# St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church

Aiken, South Carolina



## OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1853, the parish of St. Mary Help of Christians has served diligently to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ for nearly 170 years to the people of Aiken.

Our beautiful and historic Old Saint Mary's was dedicated in 1905, and quickly became a landmark in the city of Aiken. We were blessed to have this church serve the needs of our parish community for over a century.

Eventually, we outgrew our parish church, and our new church was dedicated in February 2015. This beautiful, larger church meets both our present and future needs. It is solely through the generosity of our parishioners and other donors that this incredible place of worship has become a reality.

We have been blessed to serve the Aiken community through both proclaiming the faith and educating our young people for over a century and a half, and have grown to a parish of over 1,800 families.

## OUR VISION

Our mission at St. Mary's is to proclaim the Paschal Mystery - the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ - as the Catholic Church has for over 2,000 years.

While the heart of a parish is the Most Holy Eucharist, the parish family is the visible body that makes it a unique and vibrant community. Our parishioners fulfill our Catholic mission through their participation and devotion to serving both our parish and the greater community.

We have several plans to improve our parish and school and the environment they provide to our families. The Diocesan *Bicentennial Campaign* is a tremendous opportunity for our parish to come together as a family and address several of these needs.





## OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Both St. Mary's and the Diocese of Charleston recognize the importance of carrying out our common mission to proclaim the Gospel in today's world. As the Diocese celebrates 200 years of prosperity in 2020, it is embarking on an unprecedented, comprehensive campaign -the *Bicentennial Campaign* - to fulfill its mission in the communities it serves.

The *Bicentennial Campaign* is an extraordinary effort designed to strengthen our existing Diocesan programs, Parishes, and Missions, while taking strides toward sustaining our Diocese into the next century. Bishop Guglielmone is dedicated to strengthening parish communities and ensuring the continued formation of our Catholic family and ministry to all South Carolinians.

St. Mary's target is \$1,720,000 to raise in partnership with our Diocese of Charleston. This target, payable over 5 years, will be split 50% to the Diocese and 50% to our parish, providing \$860,000 to support St. Mary's vision.

## OUR NEED

Our vision includes our past, present, and future.

**Past - Restorative work on our historic church:** Approximately \$425,000 in funds will be allocated to replace the now-ancient roof of Old St. Mary's and restore (or replace) the organ. Since Old St. Mary's is used every day for various liturgies such as daily and school Masses, weddings, funerals, and more, these improvements will help keep our heritage in top condition.

**Present - Pay off remainder of loan:** We recognize our obligation to all who value the integrity of our financial stewardship. Currently the debt on the new church is approximately \$260,000.

**Future - Improvements to technology and security at school:** Saint Mary's parish has educated children for over a century. Of course, we must keep up with advances in technology as well as providing a secure and modern environment for our children. \$175,000 of funds will be allocated to make improvements in these critical areas at our school. Investment in our children and their pursuit of Catholic education will formulate our future faith leaders.



"This is eternal life, that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3