



Rev. Fr. Mariusz Fuks—Pastor

**Our Lady
Star of the Sea**
CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAINT MARYS, GA



*Saint
Francis of Assisi
Catholic Mission*

FOLKSTON, GA

12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Do not be afraid; you are worth more
than many sparrows." - Mt 10:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC. ELPI

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

DIRECTORY

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OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Mondays:	NO DAILY MASS
Tuesdays:	5:00pm Rosary & Adoration; 5:30pm Daily Mass
Wednesdays:	7:30am Rosary; 8:00am Daily Mass
Thursdays:	7:30am Rosary; 8:00am Daily Mass
Fridays:	7:30am Rosary; 8:00am Daily Mass
Saturdays:	4:30pm Rosary; 5:00pm Mass (except on Holy Saturday)
Sundays:	10:30am Rosary; 11:00am Mass
Confessions:	
Saturday:	3:30pm to 4:30pm or by appointment
1st Fridays:	8:00pm Mass @ Historic Chapel 9:00am—9:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
1st Saturdays:	10:00a, Adoration, Rosary, Mass

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesdays:	6:00pm Daily Mass
Sundays:	8:30am Mass
Confessions:	<u>30 minutes before Mass or by appointment</u>



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Cheryl Burke, Ducky Marx, Janet Gusgeski, Carol Linker, Peggy Schwarting, Michelle Ng, Braeden Hormann, Donald Koski, Cathy Mulcahy, Christopher Clay Field, Lana Miltenberg, Logan Hackney, Kathy Mulcahy, Ann Chartrand, Marguerite Paddock, Jenna Pethtel, Jennifer Moran, Marie Stoner, Mac and Peggy Maurin, Michael Manfredi, Sherri Lynn Jokic, Robert Allatin, Rhonda Avides, Ivy Luna, Ron Petry, Linda Perry, Matthew Rowan, Denis McShane, Carol Riley, Linda Jordan, Evelyn Meaux, Kieran Gaughan Jr., Bruce Giegerich, David Bliton, Annie Hyver, Elizabeth Newcity, Buck Johnson, Mary Fouraker, "Skipper" Boone, Lithornia Simmons, Leo Provanzano, Greg Williamson, Tom Meyer, Peggy Hurley, Steve Puckett, Samantha Evans, Ferdinand Von Behren, Lauren Sullivan, Jim Kline, Gale Herring, James Ventella, Jarrod Conley, Leny Logan, Anna Rotondi, Bob & Marie Devine, Agnes Rodman, Mike Blackerby, Ianthe Brathwaite, Michelle Logan, Jim Kane, Everett Harvell, Tommy Evans, Emily Edmonds, Mary Panfil, Emma Maniscalco, Mita Byers, Mely Andino, Benjamin Solamon, Anna DeMartino, Fr. Leahy, Marie & Tony Franzese, Katy Sherrill, Nathaniel Evans, Xavier Van Moer, Jim Walsh, Tim Roberson, Judy Bailey, Enzo and Maria Lopez, Joyce Rinck, Kitty Rodriguez, David Cocomazzi, Carol Campbell, Thurston Armstrong, Frank & Ruth McNeil, Dr. Patrick Moreo, William David (Dub) Shepard, Lenda Morris, Rhonda Peterson, Daniel Brausch, Gael Aodue, Emma Sizemore, Tom O'Shaughnessy, Claire Walsh

To add a name to the prayer list please email office@weareolss.org

“Do not be afraid.” How good it is for someone who is worried to hear those words from Jesus. In the Bible the words “do not be afraid” are used 365 times. Jesus knew we needed to hear those words. “Do not be afraid.” Jesus, who was human as well as divine, knew that some of us need to be reminded again and again not to worry. So many times, in the Gospels we hear Jesus asking us not to worry. Three times in today’s Gospel we hear Jesus saying, “Do not be afraid.” The reason why Jesus tells us these words is that the Heavenly Father has great concern for us all. He knows us well, our person, our wellbeing, our needs. Hence the central theme of today’s reading is that we should expel all fear and anxiety from our minds by cherishing an unshakable confidence in the never-failing providence of God.

Today’s First Reading from the Book of Jeremiah recalls an event that took place when the Lord God called the great prophet Jeremiah as His spokesman to warn the people of the coming judgment that awaited Israel because of their sins. He never wanted to be a prophet since he knew the conflicts and the evil behavior of the people. His fidelity to his mission brought him nothing but heartbreak. The unbelievers laughed at Jeremiah. They plotted against him so that they could silence him. He was denounced for speaking on behalf of God and was put in prison. His former friends sided with his enemies, and he knew the whispers of many. They had made several attempts on his life. They were watching to see when he would fail so that they could take revenge.

Today’s Second Reading, the Letter of Paul to the Romans, reminds us that by the grace of God the Father, we received a free gift through Jesus Christ. Paul tells us clearly that we are dealing with a God of infinite mercy and infinite love. He created man and gave him gifts which raised him above all other earthly creatures. Through these gifts man was able to recognize that he is a mere creature and must respect and respond faithfully to his creator. Through the sin of disobedience of one man, Adam, all his descendants were called to suffer eternal damnation. Because of the solidarity of the human race, by Adam’s sin all human beings were alienated from God. But, thanks to the righteous act of one Man, Jesus Christ, all human beings have become right with God.

The reading from the Gospel of Matthew advises us not to be afraid of human persons. Jesus repeatedly asks the twelve disciples not to be afraid. As disciples we stand with Jesus entrusting ourselves to him. Jesus reassures us of our value in God’s eyes and promises us that he will protect us as he does with the birds of the air and entire creation. Jesus asks his followers to preach boldly, fearing no shame from their peers in this world. The flat housetops provided easier places of preaching than the streets themselves. He tells them that they should be “shouting from the housetops” that underlines the boldness with which disciples must make God’s message known. Ultimately, they must fear God alone because God is judge in the end; we should not fear even persecutors who threaten death. Mortals can destroy only our body, while God can resurrect the body at any time.

Jesus plants into the hearts of his disciples the great power and might of God who is their caretaker. He assures them that they can trust God’s sovereignty as their protection in the face of any disaster or death. He gives the example of the sparrows sold in the market and a buyer certainly could have a good bargain while purchasing them. Sparrows thus were the cheapest commodity sold in the markets; an assarion was a small coin, one-sixteenth of a denarius, thus equivalent to less than an hour’s wage. Yet as worthless as sparrows were to people, and having such a meager monetary value, even then God watched over them. Jewish teachers agreed that God was sovereign over each bird’s fate. We may therefore be strongly assured that nothing happens to us when God is “not looking”.

Jesus delicately tells his disciples not to be worried of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. The history of the church is filled with examples where people have stood for Jesus and sacrificed their lives. A prominent example was when Archbishop Oscar Romero was gunned down in the middle of celebrating Mass by the military rulers of El Salvador, to be followed some years later by the brutal and sadistic murder of six Jesuit priests dragged from their beds in the middle of the night. All that these men did was to draw attention to the many injustices being perpetrated against the poor and powerless in their society. There are many others who have died silently and are known to Jesus alone.

Though He may permit us to suffer for our faith, our Father will never forget or abandon us. As Jesus assures us today, everything unfolds in His providence, under His watchful gaze—even the falling of the tiniest

sparrow to the ground. Each one of us is precious to Him. Steadfast in this faith, we must resist the tactics of Satan. He is the enemy who seeks the ruin of our soul in Gehenna, or hell.

Not all Christians have equal opportunities of being spokespersons for God. Bishops and priests have the official duty of encouraging and teaching the faithful. Their difficult but worthwhile task is to faithfully hand on Christ's teaching, and correct errors that threaten the integrity of the traditional Christian doctrine or ethical standards. Like Jeremiah and other Old Testament prophets, they remind their people of God's revealed will and of the high moral standards God asks of us. And, like the prophets, priests can often expect criticism and opposition, just for doing their job.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

Our commitment to Christ will be put to the test. We will hear whispered warnings and denunciations, as Jeremiah does in today's First Reading. Even so-called friends will try to trap and trip us up. For His sake we will bear insults and be made outcasts—even in our own homes, we hear in today's Psalm. As Jeremiah tells us, we must expect that God will challenge our faith in Him, and probe our minds and hearts, to test the depths of our love. "Do not be afraid," Jesus assures us three times in today's Gospel.

The **VIRTUS** Protecting God's Children training is required for all volunteers and employees in the Diocese of Savannah.

The following session has been added to the schedule

August 8, 2023 – St. John the Evangelist CHURCH 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Seating is limited and pre-registration is required online.

A LAPTOP or DESKTOP is recommended for registration. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to be present. Child care is not provided

MASS INTENTIONS

Offering Mass for a special Intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. It is usually considered that special graces are obtained for whom the Mass is said. Masses are offered for many reasons: for the souls in purgatory, in remembrance for someone who is deceased, or in honor of a birthday or anniversary. If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, go to the Parish Office to get on the schedule. Cards are then given to you so that you can mail them to whomever you choose to so they may also participate in the Mass. The stipend or offering given, (\$10) signifies the sacrificial nature of giving of something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

6/24/23—Saturday Vigil: **5:00PM**
For the repose of the soul of Judith Lynn Miller

6/25/23—**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
St. Francis of Assisi Mission: **8:30AM**
Birthday blessings for Erik Roberts
Our Lady Star of the Sea: **11:00AM**
Birthday blessings for Earl Bautista

6/26/23—Monday: **NO MASS**

6/27/23—Tuesday: **5:30 PM**
For the repose of the soul of John Rego

6/28/23—Wednesday: **8:00AM**
For the repose of the soul of Eugene Silva

6/28/23—Wednesday in SFOA at **6:00PM**

6/29/23—Thursday: **8:00AM**
For the repose of the soul of Carlos and Francisca Feijo

6/30/23—Friday: **8:00AM**
For the repose of the soul of William Rose

7/1/23—Saturday Vigil: **5:00PM**
Birthday blessings for Nicki Rahn

7/2/23—**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:30 AM (St. Francis Mission)
11:00AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
For the repose of the soul of Josephine Russo

WELCOME VISITORS! We extend a warm welcome to the individuals and families who are celebrating with us today. We invite you to register with our Parish Family. You can fill out a registration form online or ask an usher for one, and return it to the church office.

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISH SERVICES

Good Samaritan Food Pantry: Our Lady Star of the Sea parish with the wonderful support of the parishioners provide food for families and individuals in need in our community. We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9AM—12PM.

Altar Servers: Always looking for new altar servers and experienced altar servers. For more information contact the church office at 912-882-4718.

Catholic Youth Ministry: For more information email Kristie and Bryant Shepard at religioused@weareolss.org.

RCIA: Adults interested in learning about the Catholic Church call Parish Office 912-882-4718.

Bereavement Ministry: A group of volunteers who deliver food to grieving families at the time of their loss and/or assist the church in providing hospitality after a funeral service. Contact person is Victoria Brooks 912-322-6857.

Shut-ins & Hospitalized Family Members: When you or your loved one is getting ready for a planned surgery or procedure or things unplanned happens and you end up in the hospital. Please notify Parish Office at 912-882-4718.

Religious Education: Sundays during the school year September 11, 2022 through May 14, 2023, 9:15AM-10:30AM in the Religious Education building. Email Bryant and Kristie Shepard at religioused@weareolss.org.

Ladies Auxiliary: The ladies of our parish use their skills and talents in a wide variety of roles. Contact Sally Caez at caez@tds.net. Anyone who is ill or in the hospital, if they would like a prayer blanket, please contact Sally at 912-552-1155.

Knights of Columbus (K of C): This is a global Catholic fraternal service order founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney on March 29, 1882. It has grown to support refugee relief, Catholic education, local parishes and diocese, and global Catholic social and political causes. Membership is limited to practicing Catholic men. For more information contact Tom Jenkins or Norberto Caez at KofC@weareolss.org.

Ushers: Our ushers provide a welcoming presence to parishioners and visitors as they enter the church. If interested in becoming an usher, please contact parish office at 912-882-4718.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20,22/Heb 4:12/ Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab,5/Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2 ,3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2Tim 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 8:1-4

Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Luke 1:46-47, 48-49, 50, 53, 54-55/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42

Women's Bible Study

Starting July 15th, we will begin a bible study for women ages 17 and older. It will be held in the Social Hall on Saturday's starting at 2:30PM. For additional information please contact Serenity Salser at serenity.grace0609@gmail.com or 912-227-9985.

Homily Continues: Adult Bible Study

The Tuesday night bible study will be paused during the month of July. It will resume on Tuesday August 1.



OLSS COMPARISONS FROM LAST YEAR		SFoA COMPARISONS FROM LAST YEAR	
JUNE 18, 2023	JUNE 19, 2022	JUNE 18, 2023	JUNE 19, 2022
Collection ↓ \$ 5,971.50	Collection \$ 8,773.50	Collection ↓ \$ 595.00	Collection \$ 705.00
Maintenance ↓ \$ 303.00	Mortgage \$ 335.00	Maintenance ↑ \$ 570.00	Mortgage \$ 315.00

An active parishioner is a person who participates in the life of the Church. This means to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and share in Christ's role as priest, prophet and King. We are called to lead others to faith by our good example, through loving service to others, and offering our prayers, works and activities to God.

- **An active parishioner** is a person who has received or is preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- **An active parishioner** is a person who attends Mass regularly and actively supports the sacramental programs for Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Parents who want a Catholic Faith Formation & Education for their children will see to it that their family attends Mass faithfully EVERY Sunday.
- **An active parishioner** gives of themselves by donating *TIME, TALENT and TREASURE* to the ministries of the parish and or to the volunteer organizations that support the parish. We are to share in the responsibilities that keep our Parish alive in a vibrant way. *And lastly,*
- **An active parishioner** is a good financial steward of the church. As a parishioner, it is important to understand that giving financially to support the parish is a vital and key component to active parishioner status.

WHY YOU NEED TO BE AN ACTIVE PARISHIONER

Parishioners desiring to rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Francis of Assisi Mission, seeking to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, or those wishing to be joined in Holy Matrimony must first be verified as "active members" of the parish. Please do not think, "Well, Father sees me and knows who I am," because the verification is not based on memory but what is in the database.

An Active Member:

- (1) Is properly registered on the parish rolls, with all contact information kept current.
- (2) Faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- (3) Participates in parish activities/ministries whenever possible; and
- (4) Consistently uses the parish envelope system for donations to support the parish ministries and other social and ministerial services. The envelope system tracks both Mass attendance and giving. **If you give online, please turn in your envelope at Mass and check "I've given electronically".**

An extended time with no activity will place a family on inactive status. This is important so that the Diocese does not assess OLSS & SFoA for Inactive parishioners.

If not yet registered, please complete our registration form on our website at [weareolss.org/Newcomers/Parish Registration](http://weareolss.org/Newcomers/Parish-Registration) or pickup a form from the ushers or in the parish office.

Thank you.

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KATHY LEVY - PARISHIONER

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