

Our Lady Star of the Sea

CATHOLIC CHURCH

106 EAST DILLINGHAM STREET
SAINT MARYS GEORGIA 31558



Saint

*Francis of Assisi
Catholic Mission*

700 KINGSLAND DRIVE
FOLKSTON, GEORGIA 31537

Fr. Mariusz Fuks, Pastor

"COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND
ARE BURDENED." —MT 11:28

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

Directory

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SFoA Parish Finance President

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Wednesdays 6:00 pm Daily Mass
Sundays 8:30 am Mass
Confessions 30 minutes before Mass or by Appointment



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Hailey Moody, Joseph and Deborah Mroz, Felicia Fink, Lee Blais, Ducky Marx, Janet Gusgeski, Carole 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, Fr. Eric Vogt, Carol Riley, Linda Jordan, Evelyn Meaux, Kieran Gaughan Jr., David Bliton, Annie Hyver, Elizabeth Newcity, Buck Johnson. Mary Fouraker, 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, Robert Morris, 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

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 find one in the narthex.

Take time to lift your gaze

Most of us have our hands full just taking care of what's right in front of us. I can't remember the last time I woke up in the morning, stretched and yawned and wondered what the day might bring. Possibly that day was in the summer between sixth and seventh grades, but even kids don't have the luxury of a blissfully empty day nowadays. Is it possible that, in the 21st century, there's no such thing as Saturday?

The modern gaze is trained on this day, this hour, this next task in a way that's certainly limiting to the human spirit. There's no vista; no opening onto possibility; no place for the unexpected and uncontrolled event. In short, there's no time for gift, because the schedule frankly doesn't allow for it. When our gaze is truncated, when the horizon is only a few feet from where we stand, we begin to feel the panic of the asthmatic. How do we get out of here? And where is there space to breathe and to simply be?

When I've been good and have accomplished a series of "have-to" items on my list of daily demands, I try to remember to throw in some time for choices that accomplish nothing measurable and further no known project. It could be taking time to sit on the porch and watch the weeds growing in my yard. It could be putting a few more pieces into a jigsaw puzzle or reading something for pleasure. Sometimes the best I can do is stand still in front of a window for five minutes and observe the progress of a mockingbird as it preens and scouts while perched on a nearby wall. What I do to break up the urgency of the "have-tos" is less important than the fact that I do something to lift my eyes from this moment to the eternal moment, from now-on-the-clock to the Holy Now of God's everlasting presence.

The prophetic look

The word often used for prophet in the Bible is *seer*. Prophets may do but are far more likely simply to see and then say. Vision was an indispensable part of their job description, and if they didn't hone their capacity to see farther and better than the rest of their generation, they really had nothing to offer. Thus Zechariah in the post-exilic generation lifted his gaze from the misery of the late sixth century B.C.E. to the grand vision of a just savior king.

Zechariah's Jerusalem was a piteous place: a remnant nation living on the rubble of a once-great city. From the exile of Babylon to Persia's vassalage was an improvement in terms of religious liberty. But economically the return home was an unmitigated disaster. There was nothing to eat, no roof over their heads, no Temple for worship, and only a Persian-appointed governor where the monarchy used to be. People had their hands full chasing after survival. It was asking a lot to invite them to look up.

Zechariah's vision is spacious and ambitious. A king is on the way, bringing peace not simply to Jerusalem but to all nations. His dominion will not be Zion and environs but will stretch from sea to sea. An overburdened people are invited to do nothing but rejoice in his approach. The king will come to them. They have only to welcome him upon his arrival.

It is no wonder that Christians have seen in this vision a foretelling of the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. We might also view it in terms of the divine Kingdom coming into our lives in every moment. We have only to greet its arrival with enthusiasm to share the joy. But if we don't look up, the king of glory may pass by without our even noticing.

Revealed to the little ones

I learn a lot about God's ways from Bible scholars and challenging homilies. But I admit that the word of God often breaks into my day most clearly in the insights and actions of children, the uneducated, and the disadvantaged—the "little ones" to whom Jesus acknowledges that much has been revealed.

For example, a man unemployed by the recent construction crash in our town struggles to feed his family by gathering recyclable bottles and cans from the trash. He's memorized the routes and days of the waste management service so he can work the streets ahead of the trucks. He gets up before dawn to do this. I find his tenacity and organization a marvel, but some neighbors don't like to encourage a stranger to pick through their garbage. So the man has recently got himself a uniform—probably from the trash!—that makes him look like an official person employed by city hall.

And so people are not anxious at the sight of him as he continues to work his way down the street, extracting the saleable from our barrels.

When I look out my kitchen window on Tuesday mornings and see this man plying his trade, I feel sure I am in the presence of the reign of God. He looks at what the rest of us call garbage and finds an opportunity: a way to put food on the table. His loving fidelity to his family is apparent as he ducks into each barrel. And I hear Jesus speak to him so gently in his patient labor: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Then it seems as if Jesus lifts his eyes to look at me when he continues: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart."

Salvation rides in on an ass

The movies have trained us to expect salvation to ride in with the cavalry. But prophecy tells us that the just savior moseys into town on a domestic animal of peacetime, not the horse-and-chariot of the warrior. If we're going to train our eyes to glimpse the Kingdom, we have to look away from what compels us and see what lies just beyond our normal purview. If we haven't seen the Kingdom lately, it's time to lift our gaze.

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Related scripture links

Prophet as seer: 1 Sam. 9:9, 11, 18, 19; 2 Sam. 24:11; Amos 7:12
Zechariah's vision: Matt. 21:5; Mark 11:1-7; Luke 19:30-38; John 12:15

Catechism links

Revelation and seeing: CCC 151-153; 240; 443; 473-474; 544; 1658; 2603; 2779- 2785
Zechariah's vision: CCC 559-560



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 or more) 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

07/08/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil

*For the repose of the soul of
Judith Garza Candelario & Consuelo
Guajardo and Roberto & Mercedes Garza*

07/09/23 - FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
8:30 AM - (St. Francis)

Birthday Blessings for Lynn Crews

11:00 AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)

Birthday Blessing for Stetson Shepard

07/10/23 - Monday: **NO MASS**

07/11/23 - Tuesday: 5:30 PM

ADORATION, ROSARY
& COMMUNION SERVICE

07/12/23 - NO MASS Wednesday: 8:00 AM

07/12/23 - NO MASS Wednesday in SFOA 6:00 PM

07/13/23 - NO MASS Thursday: 8:00 AM

07/14/23 - NO MASS Friday: 8:00 AM

07/15/23 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

For the repose of the soul of Robert Barry

07/16/23 - FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)

Birthday Blessings for Kathleen Rodgers

11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)

For the repose of the soul of Alvin Sunga Sr

**THERE WILL BE NO MASSES ON:
WEDNESDAY JULY 12,
THURSDAY JULY 13
AND FRIDAY JULY 14**

FIND OUT ABOUT THAT “CATHOLIC STUFF” AT RCIA

Are you married to a Catholic and wondering what all that “Catholic Stuff” is about? Have you ever wondered why your Catholic spouse “has” to attend Holy Mass on Sunday? Why does Saturday Mass “count” for Sunday worship? Why aren’t statues of Saints idols? Answers to these and many of your questions are in the RCIA class. Plan now to join us on Thursday, August 3rd at 6:30pm in the Social Hall.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is for everyone who: 1) Is not baptized, has no formal religion, and is interested in the Catholic faith. 2) Is baptized in another Christian faith and has questions about the Catholic Faith or is interested in becoming Catholic. 3) Adult baptized Catholics who have no religious education or Sacraments. 4) You, if you want to share your Catholic faith with others as a team.

WHEN IS RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the normal way to join the Catholic Church from other denominations. Classes begin on Thursday August 3rd at 6:30PM in the Social Hall. Tell your friends and join us in helping others understand the rich history and love in God’s church.

HOW IS RCIA ORGANIZED?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults process has four stages: Pre-catechumenate, Catechumenate, Purification & Enlightenment, and Mystagogia.

In the Pre-catechumenate or inquire period common questions are addressed, relationship develop and we begin to learn about one another. Inquirers are encouraged to bring their questions to the table for discussion. This period lasts as long as the inquirer needs.

The Catechumenate period (about 13 weeks) and focuses on the seven Sacraments. This period helps the inquirer understand the Catholic Faith and prepares them to live the Faith.

The Purification & Enlightenment period (about 6 weeks) takes place during Lent. It focuses on helping the inquirers, and the congregation, examine the effect of sin in their lives. Mostly it helps prepare them for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

The Mystagogia period is the last stage of the process (about 7 weeks) and focuses the Neophyte (newly initiated) on the EASTER JOY. This period has them reflect on the process and look to the future. It begs them to answer the question—How will I serve Christ’s mission in my new life? This period reminds the whole church that life in Christ constantly calls us to grow and look for new ways to live the life of grace, personally and together.

Call Ray Meaux at 912-552-4647 for mor information

To register for classes complete the RCIA Registration form on our website: weareolss.org under the Newcomers heading.

OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

JULY 2, 2023	JULY 3, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ 9,085.50	COLLECTION - \$ 9,321.05
MAINTENANCE - \$ 3,462.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 5,092.00

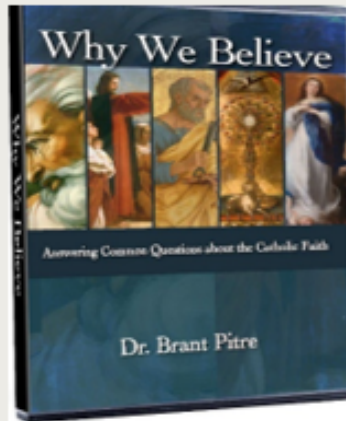
SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

JULY 2, 2023	JULY 3, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ 1,380.00	COLLECTION - \$ 2,765.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ 917.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 975.00

Why We Believe

Answering Common Questions About Our Catholic Faith

Join us



*Saint
Francis of Assisi
Catholic Mission
In Folkston*

Have you ever wondered about what we believe as Catholics and why? Here is a place to start. In this video series, Dr. Brant Pitre takes up the most commonly asked questions about the Catholic faith and provides clear and compelling biblical answers. He begins at the beginning—with the existence of God—and will walk us step-by-step through the foundations of the faith, followed by discussion. Along the way, Dr. Pitre explains:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Aug 2 | Does God Exist? How can we know it? |
| Aug 9 | Is Jesus God? Did Jesus claim to be God? And why should we believe him? |
| Aug 16 | Peter and the Papacy? Did Jesus establish the Catholic Church? What is the historical evidence? |
| Aug 23 | How Did We Get the Bible? From where did the Bible come? |
| Aug 30 | Is the Eucharist Jesus' Real Presence? |
| Sept 6 | What does the Bible teach about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist? |
| Sept 13 | Why Confess to a Priest? |
| Sept 20 | Do Catholics Worship Mary? What does the Bible teach about her? |
| Sept 27 | Where is Purgatory in the Bible? Why do Catholics pray for the dead? |

Dates/Times: Wednesdays: August 2 – September 20, 2023
6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All Are Welcome. Come for some, come for all!

Materials: Study Guide will be provided. Registration not necessary.

Fee: Free

Refreshments: A lite fare sharing table will be set-up.
Beverages will be provided.

THE SAN DAMIANO CROSS

The San Damiano Cross is an icon, telling the story of the Lord Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. The original was painted on linen, by an unknown Umbrian artisan, in Byzantine style during the 12th century. Each figure's importance is revealed by their size in the painting. The crucified Christ is the central, largest figure. This image portrays the "Triumphant Christ". The anonymity of the artist, a tiny figure by Christ's right leg, reminds us penitents that we, too, ought to go about unknown and unnoticed to the world. Others can see the fruit of our works and of our prayers which proclaim the goodness and glory of God.

The eyes of Christ gaze into the penitents soul, beckoning, "Come, follow Me." On this cross Christ is both crucified and glorified, showing a life of joyful, self-surrender for the sake of others is a humble self-emptying that leads to eternal glory.

A small figure of a rooster alongside Christ's lower leg recalls Peter's denial of Christ, as a reminder of our sinfulness. On the opposite side is a faint creature almost impossible to see is a fox or a cat, both symbols of secretive, sly acts of treachery and deceit. The Christ figure overshadows both public sin and private sins that lurk in the dens of our soul. We can be forgiven for both sin's if we gaze into the eyes of Christ and call out, "I believe. Forgive Me. I give myself to You." Behind Christ's outstretched arms is a black band that symbolizes the empty tomb. Above Him are the glories of heaven. The Father's hand at the top of the icon blesses us who venerate the image as well as the Ascended Christ who enters glory, surrounded by welcoming angels and saints. He carries a cross as his scepter. The breath of the Holy Spirit comes forth from heaven, surrounding all. These scroll shapes also bring to mind Christ's admonition that He is the vine and we are the branches.

Around the cross are holy followers. First Our Lady whose only response to God's will was always "yes". May we honor her daily as she intercedes for us.

Next to her is St. John the Evangelist, Christ's beloved apostle. The blood of Christ's pierced heart is spurting on John, who is representative of humanity. We are all bathed in the living, ever flowing sacrificial love of Christ, a love so profoundly intense that it led to His incarnation, life on earth, Passion, and death.

Listening intently to Mary Magdalene is Mary of Clopas, mother of James, another woman who came to the tomb with Mary Magdalene to anoint the dead body of the Lord. These two women typify the intense and courageous devotion which we ought to have for Christ.

Last in the line, is a figure who represents the red robed centurion. His gaze is on Christ. The wood in his hand could be symbolic of his role in erecting the cross. The centurion is holding 3 fingers which indicate the Trinity. These circumstances of conversion point out conversions time is always now.

Behind the centurion are the heads of many others that may be the multitudes who witnessed the crucifixion. The only face visible is frowning.

Two small Roman figures are on either side of the cross. One seems to signify the soldier who offered Jesus the taste of sour wine. The other could be the Centurion who asked Jesus to cure his friend. "I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, just say the word and my servant will be healed." Three angels at his hands wonder at the crucifixion.

At the base of the cross we see people believed to be benefactors and patron saints of Umbria.

The crucifix is bordered with golden scallop shells, ancient symbols of baptism. The primary colors of the crucifix are black, gold, and red. Black for sin and penance, red for sacrifice and love, and gold for glory. May we repent of our sins, be willing to sacrifice for and love others and the Lord, and be rewarded with eternal glory.

- This crucifix was produced by two local artists, parishioners, specifically for our church in Folkston Ga in 2012. The original is in San Giorgio's Chapel in the Basilica of St Clair of Assisi. In 1205, St. Francis looking up at this cross heard a gentle voice say, "My house is being destroyed ...rebuild it for me."

*Saint
Francis of Assisi
Catholic Mission
In Folkston*



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Wednesdays, Sundays,
and Holidays