

Our Lady Star of the Sea

CATHOLIC CHURCH

106 EAST DILLINGHAM STREET
SAINT MARYS GEORGIA 31558

FR. MARIUSZ FUKS, PASTOR



Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Mission

700 KINGSLAND DRIVE
FOLKSTON,
GEORGIA 31537

"THE SEED SOWN ON RICH SOIL IS THE ONE WHO
HEARS THE WORD AND UNDERSTANDS IT." —MT 13:23

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

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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.

God's persistent word

Good parents are, by nature or necessity, persistent people. They call and call us to the dinner table until we straggle in. They nag us about our homework until the last worksheet is covered with the appropriate words and numbers. They ask the same question until they get the desired response: Did you clean your room? Will you change that shirt and comb your hair before we go to Grandma's? Successful parents get the job done by staying on message for about 20 years per child. It's an incredibly repetitious position that requires a high tolerance for boring yourself and your kids silly.

Does God get bored, we might wonder? God's been on message now for as long as there have been human beings to receive it. Love, justice, peace, mercy, hope, salvation: Does God get tired of having to repeat the same themes over and over in every new generation? Maybe not. Maybe a low threshold for sameness is a condition that only affects mortals. Recently I heard *Dakota and Cloister Walk* author Kathleen Norris give a talk on "Life as Liturgy (Laundry Included)." She suggested that God must have a relentless zeal for repetition. Every day the sun comes up and goes down, and every day God says: Do it again! Every daisy is the same as if God has never tired of making daisies and actually delights in each one.

Perhaps this celestial joy in repetition prompts religious folks to liturgy. We do the same things over and over and call it worship, because God does the same things over and over and calls it "good."

That careless sower

The parable of the sower and the seed begs the question: Why does this fellow waste so much seed? Anyone who's ever tried to plant a garden knows that some parts of the yard are just no good for growing things. Too much clay there, too many rocks here. Not enough sun or enough to fry an egg—along with your petunias. And don't put your prize blossoms where the bunnies will munch each bloom away before you get to enjoy them. When it comes planting time, a prudent gardener knows the soil and judiciously uses the seed.

But not this guy in the parable! No, he throws seed by handfuls on the path, among rocks and thorns, as well as on decent, viable dirt. If you saw this guy at work you'd think he must own a seed company, the way he wastes the stuff. And in fact, he does. He's obviously not judging the quality of the soil the way you or I would before he goes to work. He's got boundless hope and optimism despite all evidence to the contrary. And sooner or later, he will get his harvest of thirty- or sixty- or a hundredfold.

Lately I've thought of this uneven planting field as the life of the average believer. We've all got hearts that are not uniformly receptive to the great work of the Kingdom being sown in us. God, who never tires of the task at hand, keeps on cheerfully offering us opportunities for love, justice, peace, mercy, salvation. This joyous seed is scattered liberally through our days as we duck, shirk, refuse, and deny. Right now we may be too depressed for the good news of the Kingdom—or too busy, too scared, too needy, too tired, too sick, too outraged, too old, or too young. We may have as many excuses as there are seeds. Meanwhile the seeds rain down on all sides of us, right across our path as we try to make our way, a sleet of seeds behind us, and crunching under our feet with every step we take. And still we refuse this joyous new life, saying: "Not now. Conditions are simply not favorable."

This word is never void

Through Isaiah we learn that God does not take no for an answer when it comes to the everlasting Yes of the divine will. God's word becomes world, becomes saving story, and becomes Christ incarnate with perfect and persistent utterance. God's eternal Yes continues to be spoken into human history until we return the favor—with a bit more exasperation than Mary did, often enough—and say: Alright already! Let it be done to me. God's Yes seeks a portal, a vessel, a bit of dirt in which to take root and be manifested.

This word is so vital, is vitality itself, that it cannot be discouraged, suppressed, or even slowed. Its delivery is constant, universal, and wasteful—if that's what you want to call unending love.

And even while we're talking about it, another handful of this seed is scattered over our assembly and upon our own heads. How long will we persist in holding out against its life-giving possibilities?

The psalmist is happy to concur with the prophet. Words of abundance are used to describe God's harvest: filling, drenching, blessing, overflowing, clothing, garmenting, blanketing. When God does a thing, it's pretty good and done! So it's no wonder that the parable of the sower shows us a fellow who's awfully generous with the seed. *Stingy* is not a word in God's vocabulary. Nor is *cautious*, *sensible*, or *enough*.

Glorious freedom

We can all come up with a bunch of reasons why we resist the generous seed being sown in our lives—most of them pretty pitiful, when you take them out and examine them. But imagine what happens when we stop resisting and allow the seed to produce its fruit. All of creation rejoices because the labor pains have stopped and another free child of God is born! Our slavery to corruption is the product of a choice. A share in the first fruits of the Spirit is the product of a different choice. Every moment contains another smattering of seed from a lavish, trusting, optimistic sower. What will you do with it? What will you allow it to do with you?

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Related Scripture links

Divine repetition: *Psalms 19:3*
Mary's answer: *Luke 1:38*

Catechism links

The sower and the seed: CCC 29; 546; 1724
Creation and its problem: CCC 280; 400; 1739-1742; 2630
Yet God remains on message: CCC 1720-1724; 1042-1050

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

07/15/23 - 5:00 pm **Saturday Vigil**
For the repose of the soul of Robert Barry
07/16/23 - **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:30 AM - (St. Francis)
Birthday blessing for Kathleen Rodgers
11:00 AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
For the repose of soul of Alvin Sunga Sr.
07/17/23 - **Monday: NO MASS**
07/18/23 - **Tuesday: 5:30 PM**
God's Blessings for Jenny Ford
07/19/23 - **Wednesday: 8:00 AM**
For the Souls in Purgatory
07/19/23 - **Wednesday in SFOA 6:00 PM**
07/20/23 - **Thursday: 8:00 AM**
Special Intentions
07/21/23 - **Friday: 8:00 AM**
For the repose of the soul of Matthew Ford
07/22/23 - **Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM**
For the repose of the soul of Louis Guisto
07/23/23 - **SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**
8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)
11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
For the repose of the soul of Lou Lambremont

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 9, 2023	JULY 10, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ 8,685.50	COLLECTION - \$ 7,470.63
MAINTENANCE - \$ 1,091.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 2,437.00

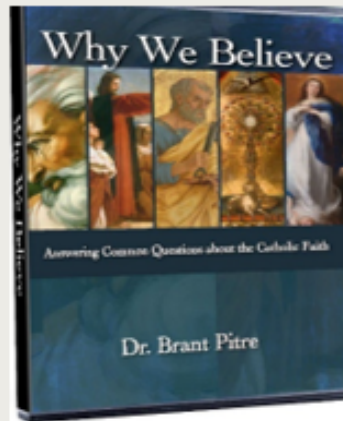
SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

JULY 9, 2023	JULY 10, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ TBA	COLLECTION - \$ 815.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ TBA	MORTGAGE - \$ 611.00

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 6 Why Confess to a Priest?
- Sept 13 Do Catholics Worship Mary? What does the Bible teach about her?
- Sept 20 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.

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12 PM to 5 PM

CLOSED

Wednesdays, Sundays,
and Holidays