



# 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

## 16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom  
of their Father.” - Mt 13:43a



## GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

### Directory

Church Office.....912-882-4718  
 Church Fax.....912-882-5845  
 Email.....office@weareolss.org  
 Pastor's Email.....pastor@weareolss.org  
 Website.....www.weareolss.org  
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### Staff

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 OLSS Parish Finance President  
 Bob Schlag (SFoA) .....sfoaparish@weareolss.org  
 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

Ron McBee, Cheryl Burke, 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**

## A Kingdom not of this world

Here's my latest idea for our T-shirt-and-bumper-sticker culture: "Those who are just must be kind." OK, it's not my idea; the Wisdom writer came up with it first. But it encompasses in a nutshell what the whole Bible intends to say about the nature of God. Some folks have always been enamored of God's justice, and others pin all their hopes on God's mercy. Yet divine justice includes clemency by definition. You can't separate these two without risking a misunderstanding of both.

If it's hard for many of us to imagine a "master of might" who governs with lenience and permits repentance, it's because we have precious few role models of this approach in the authorities around us. If you had parents who were both just and kind, then God bless you. This will make the concept of an all-powerful yet abundantly merciful Lord plausible to you. But those who had rigidly authoritarian parents or entirely permissive ones will find the balance between justice and mercy difficult to fathom and nearly impossible to imitate. For those experiencing this quandary, my advice is to paint yourself a wall plaque and read these words every single day: "Those who are just must be kind."

## Slow to anger, rich in kindness

Does God get mad? Anyone who doubts this must be unfamiliar with much of the Old Testament and a fair amount of the new. Just think of Noah's ark riding above the devastation and Jesus with a whip of cords in the Temple and you get the idea. Of course, to speak of God having an emotional experience of anger is anthropomorphism. The Bible doesn't suggest that God flushes red and has steam coming out of his ears like a cartoon character.

But clearly human beings make choices and pursue directions that are contrary to the Holy Will. And this contrariness is something that provokes a divine response. How could it not? Those who love must also know outrage when the beloved is in jeopardy. But the divine response unfolds slowly. It's built into history according to the original design of creation, time, and space. No thunderbolt is likely to be sent Earthward the moment you break a commandment.

But sooner or later, the effects of that breakage and many others like it will be felt. A corrective will be issued. And heaven help you when that corrective arrives.

And heaven will help you. That's the point here. While it really does make a difference to God whether we move toward the designs of love or away from them, the situation is not hopeless. At any moment we can turn around—five miles down the wrong road or 5,000 miles—and be rescued by a gracious and merciful God, as the psalmist declares. That isn't because God is a patsy for sinners. It's because the ends of love can only be love. I'm not saying sin doesn't matter. It matters immediately, urgently, and ultimately. But love matters more. Love matters originally, essentially, and eternally.

## The kingdom of justice and mercy

Last week we heard a parable about a generous sower who is something of a cockeyed optimist. This week's gospel features another sower who is agriculturally double-crossed by an enemy. Our earlier farmer only had to contend with the irregularities of the soil. This new farmer has an active opponent who deliberately sows weeds into the wheat field.

Why doesn't the farmer act at once to allow the servants to pull up the weeds? Such a move might also dislodge the crop he is trying to cultivate. This is the best argument against capital punishment or any absolute formula of retribution I've ever heard. God doesn't send the thunderbolt at once because there is still time, still a chance that the crop in each of us might be safely harvested. When plants are young it is hard to see which is which, weed or wheat. The time will come when the differentiation is final and the fruitless bundles must go the way of the fruitless. But that time is for the master to decide, not the servant.

Human justice, with its clean distinctions and quick retribution, often misses the opportunity of the patient farmer. I knew a young gang member who, in an impulsive rage, fatally stabbed a caseworker trying to help him. He went to jail for murder 20 years ago and is still there. The frustrated young man had no education, no role models, no opportunities apart from life on the streets.

The middle-aged man he has become has bitterly repented his criminal past, is finishing a college education behind bars, and leads a Christian and purposeful life. Other caseworkers who knew the murdered man and the reformed murderer have vouched for his parole but to no avail. Human justice has failed to prepare a place for such people and so they are not reintegrated into society. Divine justice has: It's called reconciliation.

Jesus is quick to tell another story about sowing, this one about tiny seeds that produce enormous consequences in a mustard bush. Once again the outcome cannot be foretold by the evidence contained in the beginnings. We hear this theme echoed in the story of the woman, the flour, and the yeast. How could these mere grains make such a difference to three measures of flour? To the human eye it might seem impossible. Yet to God all things are possible.

### Hidden from the world's foundation

The surprising nature of the kingdom of God seems to have been buried just like all these seeds into the ground of being at the dawn of creation. Jesus implies that the Kingdom is no second thought after original sin but integral to the design of the world. Certainly the enemy has had plenty of opportunities to sow mayhem into that rich field, but the Kingdom relentlessly springs up along with it as God always intended it would.

We, too, are given every opportunity to participate in and cultivate the fruits of the Kingdom, and we are not left guessing how to do this. Justice is fundamental, and kindness is nonnegotiable. These two divine attributes are the seeds from which Kingdom comes.

### Related Scripture links

Not of this world: *John 18:36*

Justice and mercy: *Ps. 25:6-7; 51:3-19; 130:1-8; 143:1-12; Isa. 1:18; Luke 1:76-79; Col. 1:13-14*

With God all things are possible: *Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Matt. 19:26; Mark 10:27; Luke 1:37*

### Catechism links

Justice: CCC 376; 1805; 1807

Heaven: CCC 325-326; 1023-1029

Kindness: CCC 736; 827; 1832

Mercy: CCC 1829; 2447

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## 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

**07/22/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil**

*For the repose of the soul of Louis Guisto*

**07/23/23 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**8:30 AM - (St. Francis)**

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

*For the repose of soul of Lou Lambremont*

**07/24/23 - Monday: NO MASS**

**07/25/23 - Tuesday: 5:30 PM**

*For the souls in Purgatory*

**07/26/23 - Wednesday: 8:00 AM**

*Blessings for Ezra Marie Williams*

**07/26/23 - Wednesday in SFOA 6:00 PM**

**07/27/23 - Thursday: 8:00 AM**

*For the repose of the soul of Timothy Ford*

**07/28/23 - Friday: 8:00 AM**

*Blessings for Alexis Wyatt*

**07/29/23 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM**

*For the repose of the soul of Andrew Whitlock*

**07/30/23 - SEVENTEETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)**

*Birthday Blessings for Bob Schlag*

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

*For the repose of the soul of Mary Bertino*

## 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.

## 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](http://weareolss.org) under the Newcomers heading.**



#### Readings for the week of July 23, 2023

Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (5a)/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30  
 Monday: Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 12:38-42  
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5,6/Mt 20:20-28  
 Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/Mt 13:1-9  
 Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Mt 13:10-17  
 Friday: Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 13:18-23  
 Saturday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/ Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42  
 Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 (97a)/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46



#### Observances for the week of July 23, 2023

Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Monday: St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest  
 Tuesday: St. James, Apostle  
 Wednesday: Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Saturday: Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus  
 Next Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

JULY 16, 2023	JULY 17, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ 6,927.50 	COLLECTION - \$ 9,106.50
MAINTENANCE - \$ 198.00 	MORTGAGE - \$ 6,109.00

#### SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

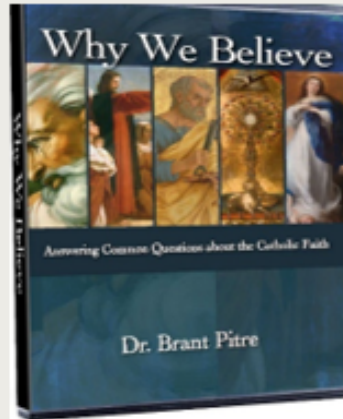
JULY 16, 2023	JULY 17, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ 980.00 	COLLECTION - \$ 735.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ 175.00 	MORTGAGE - \$ 345.00



## 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.

PILGRIMAGE TO

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## How to Register for the Pilgrimage?



### Book Online!

Booking online is fast, safe & easy! Simply visit this website and find the blue "Let's Book" button to begin the registration process

**Let's Book**

Simply scan this QR Code with your smart phone to be taken directly to our web page with all details, Pricing, Options, and Registration Form!



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### Questions?

Email: [danielle@206tours.com](mailto:danielle@206tours.com)



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Wednesdays, Sundays,  
and Holidays