



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 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A TREASURE
BURIED IN A FIELD." —MT 13:44

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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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 SFoA Pastoral Council President
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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

Doris A. Adams, Doris Thomas, 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 Pethel, Jennifer Moran, Marie Stoner, Mac and Peggy Maurin, Michael Manfredi, Sherri Lynn Jokic, Robert Allatin, Rhonda Avilles, 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

Buried treasure

Looking for buried treasure was a big pastime for kids in my neighborhood 40 years ago. Not that there was likely to be much treasure in the coalfields of central Pennsylvania. That didn't keep us from looking and hoping, though. Digging was, at least, a local tradition. So we drew up maps and marked "the spot" with X in the time-honored way. And we showed up at mealtimes dirtier and not a penny richer. Unless you count a can full of rusty nails, shiny rocks, and bits of colored broken glass as treasure.

I can't imagine that among today's avid young pirates there aren't a few who sneak out now and then to dig and dream. Older pirates forsake the shovel and seek their fortunes in the lottery, at the casino, or perhaps by playing the stock market. Maybe some of us never stop believing in the windfall, the forgotten rich uncle, or surprises in the family will. But even the wildest dreamer must occasionally entertain the shadow of a doubt that the treasure is, in fact, out there.

And here comes Jesus, telling us that the child in us was right all along. There is a treasure hidden in the world, waiting to be discovered, and it's entirely possible that we might be the ones to find it. Better yet, all who seek will inevitably find it. It's enough to make me want to march right back out there and get dirty before lunchtime.

Hold the shovel

But I should warn you, the treasure may or may not be buried in a field. It could be in the jewel market, resting at the bottom of the sea, or nestled in your attic. It could be hidden and need to be uncovered. Or it could be in plain view but only an expert can recognize its value. It might be gained by hard physical labor and hauling. Or it may be the fruit of wisdom and prudence, as with the one who knows that both tradition and innovation can be precious commodities.

Do you understand these things? If you say, "Yes" then you are answering as the first disciples did. And they understood very little of what they gave assent to, as it turns out. But chances are most of us understand enough to get the point of the many parables Jesus tells us about the kingdom of God.

It's not "out there" in some celestial realm waiting for our arrival after death or at the end of time. The Kingdom is here, hidden in the midst of things, in the womb of the world we live in. If we press our ear to the world we can hear its beating heart. The Kingdom lives. And it lives in us. Or else Jesus didn't really mean it when he said, "The Kingdom is within you." But I think he was quite serious.

And if by now you're wondering if we're going to spend the whole summer talking about the Kingdom, let's just say we certainly could. Matthew mentions the Kingdom nearly 50 times, so it's not an idle theme to this evangelist. His is the gospel that starts out with talk of kings and kingdoms: of the Magi from foreign realms coming to Herod, who sits like a spider in his web contemplating their unwelcome news of a newborn king.

Kingship and its power and possibilities are central to the story Matthew is telling. Whether or not Jesus is the king of the Jews is crucial to his trial by Pilate. And one of the final declarations that Jesus makes in this gospel is this: "All power in heaven and on Earth has been given to me." At the end of the story—not to mention the end of the ages—only one king is left standing.

That earlier king

Once there was a boy king whose dad was a bit of a pirate, to be honest. Solomon inherited David's buccaneer heart but the only real treasure he discovered was in a dream he once had. God came to him like a genie with a lamp and offered him one unlimited wish. I can think of lots of ways to use that wish: A cure for cancer. Peace in our cities, our nation, our world. An end to world hunger. A solution to global warming. The one thing that would never have occurred to me was what Solomon wished for: an understanding heart.

That is precisely what made Solomon a born king: that he knew what a leader really needs. A king who knows his own mind may seem principled, a person of convictions. But he merely has a grip on himself. Whereas a king who knows the hearts of others has uncovered the buried treasure of effective diplomacy. This one knows who the allies are and what the enemies want.

Solomon the boy king knew what to ask for. But the grown-up King Solomon ended up squandering his treasure, as prodigal sons throughout the Bible often did. He couldn't stop being the buccaneer even when he had the only real treasure in his possession.

So he collected wealth to build up Jerusalem and its Temple through brutal taxation, and collected wives to solidify his relationships with other nations. The shrines to the gods of the foreign wives grew in defiance of that same Temple, and the animosity toward his kingship ended up dividing his kingdom, never to be mended. The divided kingdom was vulnerable to other nations and was eventually conquered. Thus ends the unhappy story of the king with the understanding heart.

Do You understand these things?

Again, the question Jesus poses to his disciples remains the question we must answer. Believing in the kingdom of God, or believing that it is buried in our world, or even understanding what a pearl of great price it is to possess is simply not enough. A textbook understanding of religion is quite useless, and I say that as a writer of religion textbooks. Knowing about the Kingdom is like finding the treasure and buying the field—and not digging it up. Or purchasing the pearl, putting it in a vault, and forgetting about it. We can dredge up the finest haul in our nets or have well-stocked and versatile storerooms of wisdom.

But if all we do with this treasure is quote the church fathers, bow before the tabernacle, and keep the Commandments, then we, like Solomon and the disciples, have failed to understand the one thing needful. Possessing the Kingdom is one thing. Being possessed by the Kingdom is something far greater

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Related Scripture links

They who seek will find: *Luke 11:9-13*

The Kingdom is within you: *Luke 17:20-21*

All power has been given to Jesus: *Matt. 28:18*

Catechism links

Kingdom: CCC 541-560

Kingship of Jesus: CCC 436-440; 668-672

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

07/29/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil

*For the repose of the soul of
Andrew Whitlock*

07/30/23 - SEVENTEETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30 AM - (St. Francis)

Birthday Blessing for Bob Schlag

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

For the repose of soul of Mary Bertino

07/31/23 - Monday: **NO MASS**

08/01/23 - Tuesday: 5:30 PM

COMMUNION SERVICE

08/02/23 - Wednesday: NO MASS

08/02/23 - Wednesday in SFOA NO MASS

08/03/23 - Thursday: NO MASS

07/04/23 - Friday: 8:00 AM

COMMUNION SERVICE

07/05/23 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM

*For the repose of the soul of
Louis Giovaniello*

07/06/23 - EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)

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

Birthday blessings for Tim Murphy

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 under the Newcomers heading.

Readings for the week of July 30, 2023

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
Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9



OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR		SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR	
JULY 23, 2023	JULY 24, 2022	JULY 23, 2023	JULY 24, 2022
COLLECTION- \$ 6,271.50	COLLECTION - \$ 6,666.50	COLLECTION- \$ 1,328.00	COLLECTION - \$ 1,044.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ 190.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 10,911.32	MAINTENANCE - \$ 50.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 200.00



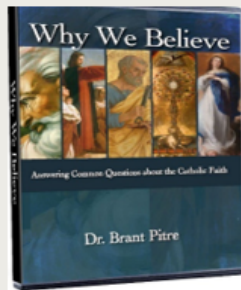
**FIRST
FRIDAY OF
THE MONTH
ADORATION
9am - 9pm**



Fr. Mariusz is traveling home to Poland next week. He will be out of the office August 1- August 18

Why We Believe

Answering Common Questions About Our Catholic Faith



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.

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:

**RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**



Registration for our 2023-24 Religious Education is now open online on our website.

Please go to <https://weareolss.org/pparish-life/education> to complete the registration form.



VIRTUS

Protecting God's Children

The next Virtus Training will be on Saturday August 26, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Social Hall. To register for the training please visit www.virtusonline.org and click on first registrant box. Follow the directions and click on the upcoming Virtus Training box to register. Any questions, please contact Norberto Caez at caez@tds.net or (912) 673-6085 after 4:00 PM

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, Wednesday and Thursdays from 9am - 12pm

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

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

RCIA: Adults interested in learning about the Catholic Church call Ray Meaux at 912-882-2343

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 we end up in the hospital Please Notify Parish Office at 912-882-4718

Religious Education: Sundays during the school year September 10, 2023 ~ May 12th, 2024, 9:15am-10:30am at the Religious Ed Building. Email Bryant and Kristie Shepard at relregioussed@weareolss.org

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

The **Knights of Columbus (K of C)** is a global Catholic fraternal service order founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney on March 29, 1882, It has grown to support refuge relief, Catholic education, local parishes and dioceses, and global Catholic social and political causes. Membership is limited to practicing Catholic men. For more info Contact Norberto Caez- KofC@weareolss.org

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

Father's Hospitality Angels: Volunteers dedicated to serving our priest and parish through sacramental receptions, welcoming newcomers, children's movie nights, Senior Home Outreach, and much more. We host many fundraising events throughout the year to fully support our ministry and special projects. If you would like to spread your wings and join us, we meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6PM in the Social Hall or call Victoria Brooks for more information - 912-322-6857



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