



SAINT MARYS, GA
**Our Lady
 Star of the Sea**
 CATHOLIC CHURCH
 THE HOLY SITE FOR
 THE 2025 JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



*Saint
 Francis of Assisi
 Catholic Mission*

FOLKSTON, GA



OFFICE HOURS & PHONE

Monday / Friday 9:00AM - 2:00PM
 Church Office 912-882-4718
 Office Email- office@weareolss.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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 Parish Secretary
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Phoebe Ricard
 Parish Bookkeeper
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MINISTRY STAFF

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Bryant & Kristie Shepard
 Directors of Religious Education
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COUNCILS

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**SFOA Pastoral &
 Finance Council**
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OLSS Finance Council
 Kevin Wagner - President
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 Pastor
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 Permanent Deacon
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Rev. Mr. Paul Lang
 Permanent Deacon
deaconpaul@weareolss.org

Rev. Mr. Henry Nieves
 Permanent Deacon
deaconhenry@weareolss.org

Holy Rosary
 30 minutes prior to Mass

First Fridays Mass
 8:00 AM at Historic Chapel

**Fridays Eucharistic
 Adoration**
 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM



OLSS SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 PM
 (except on Holy Saturday)
 Sunday 11:00 AM

OLSS DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday No Service
 Tuesday 5:30 PM
 Wednesday - Friday 8:00 AM

SFOA SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 AM

SFOA DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday.....5:00 PM

OLSS CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
 30 Minutes before Mass
 or by appointment

SFOA CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before Mass
 or by appointment

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.

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 INTENTIONS

11/22/25 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM Mass
+ Zofia & Zygmunt Niksa

11/23/25 - SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING
8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)
+ Crew Paul Collins
11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
+ Jim Walsh

11/24/25 - Monday: NO MASS

11/25/25 - Tuesday: 5:00 PM
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Rosary

11/26/25 - Wednesday:
8:00 AM Mass at OLSS
+ Charlie Kirk

No 5:00 PM Mass at SFOA

11/27/25 - Thursday: 8:00 AM Mass
Jenny Ford

11/28/25 - Friday: No 8:00 AM Mass

11/29/25 - Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM Mass
River Fiorelli - 5th Birthday Blessing

11/30/25 - I SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8:30 AM (St. Francis Mission)
+ Fr. William Leahy
11:00 AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
Pro Populo / For the People

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



For those families requesting a Letter of good standing, participation letter from the office for school registrations, Sacraments, Godparent verification, etc. you must meet the following criteria;

1. Be officially registered in our parish for at least six months. Considerations will be taken for military families new to the parish and will be addressed on case-by-case basis.
2. Be in good standing which means you and your family regularly attend Mass and contribute to our offertory program. You must use your assigned envelope/giving number for these donations to be recorded properly. We understand that sometimes people are unable to give to the parish; however, placing your envelope even if its empty in the basket helps us determine that someone is in fact participating in the life of a parish.
3. If you have moved away and are not actively participating in our parish life, and if we have not seen you at mass for weeks and months, we may be unable to issue you with the above mentioned documents. Additionally, your standing within the parish may differ from those who consistently attend and share with our community their Time, Talent and Treasure.

Sacrament of Baptism in OLSS

A newborn child should be baptized within the first few months of life. A child who has reached the age of kindergarten should receive some basic instruction/preparation before reception of the Sacrament. In order to have a child baptized at Our Lady Star of the Sea, at least one parent must be a practicing Catholic, and registered in the OLSS Parish. A child to be baptized should normally have two Godparents, a male and a female. In order to serve as a Godparent, a person must be a practicing Roman Catholic, fully initiated, and at least sixteen years of age. A Godparent must supply a letter from his/her proper pastor indicating suitability to serve as a Godparent for Baptism. Parents are asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Class which lasts approximately one hour.

Sacrament of Marriage in OLSS

Those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage need to contact the church office for a list of instructions at least six months in advance of the anticipated wedding date. Definite plans for a particular date should not be made until such contact has been completed. Only when a priest or deacon has decided that he will officiate at the marriage, will a definite date be set. There is a requirement for marriage preparation classes. Options for these will be discussed when you meet with the priest or deacon you have chosen as your celebrant

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

All the names of the sick we receive will be entered on the prayer list for one month, and then removed. If you would like your loved one to remain on the prayer list longer, please let us know, and we will happily oblige.

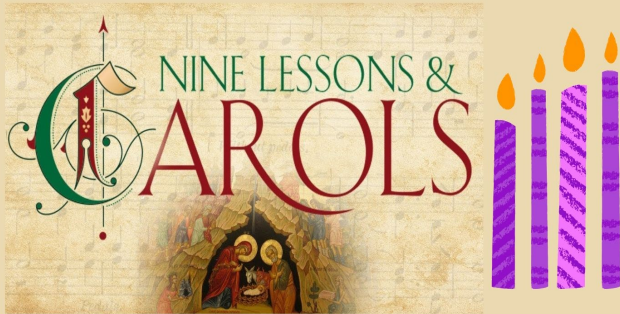
Mike Perry, Carissa Himes, Anne Greco

Dean Sparks, John Davant

**Barbara Foster, Karen Foster,
Wayne & Kay Simpson, Larry Millard**

Margaret Wilson, Pat Recore

God our Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



Please join us:

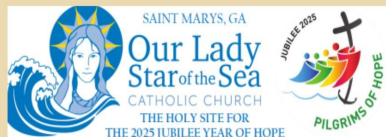
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

Featuring the OLSS Choir

Sunday, December 7, 2025

5:00 pm

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.



106 East Dillingham Street ~ Saint Marys, Georgia 31558

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

Let's drop some names. Who's the most impressive person you ever met? I had a glass of wine with Henri Nouwen some years ago. I was at a party attended by Hans Küng - though he certainly wasn't aware of me. I think I passed Yoko Ono at a crowded bazaar and was nine rows from Paul McCartney at a concert, speaking of the Beatles. I even sat next to a soap opera star at a funeral reception. That's the extent of my brush with royalty. My usual circles are far less august.

If my fate were uncertain and I had to make a midnight appeal to the person with the most juice possible, I'm afraid I'm not even on speaking terms with a bishop, mayor, or billionaire. It can be rotten to be unfriended by VIPs! So imagine being an anonymous person who did the crime and some time - and now your time is up and you're going to be executed. Where can you turn for hope of a reprieve? In ancient times you turned to the king. Only from the throne could such judgment be rendered. Because kings ruled by divine decree, a king's declaration went from his mouth to God's ear. Kings were bigger than high priests, procurators, and all their tribunals put together. What the king said came to pass. The problem for the average anonymous insurrectionist was gaining access to a king in the 11th hour - or any hour for that matter. Because neither you nor any friend of yours were on speaking terms with royalty, you could kiss your life good-bye.

So here you are, wretched and hanging from a cross, bleeding and dying, along with two other condemned men. And one of them, honest to God, is this Jesus person you've heard about. Rulers and soldiers are sneering, his friends and followers have clearly abandoned him - except for a few powerless women. Yet you know he's here under very different auspices than you. He did not do the crime, and he should not be on this cross, suffocating and humiliated in public like this. People who should know better are shouting: If you have friends in high places, Christ, why don't you call on them now? It's incredible that they speak to him this way. Even you, who are no angel, are offended. You take it upon yourself, criminal though you are, to be the only lawyer the Son of Man will ever have to represent him. And because you spoke for Jesus in this awful hour, when he doesn't look anything like a King of the Jews or a Prince of Peace, today you'll sit in the highest place of all with him.



**St Francis of Assisi
Church - Christmas Gift
Drive for Folkston Park
Nursing Home**

Little things can mean so much to those who have so little.

SFoA Church members are asked to bringing gift items to Church between

November 16th through December 14th to brighten up this Christmas for the residents of Folkston Park Nursing Home. Those items can be such things as; large print crossword puzzle books, adult level coloring books, water based markers, tote bags, body and hand creams, sweat shirts & sweat pants (Women & Men: Lg, XLg, 2XLg), bathrobes, hair brushes, non-slip slippers, lap blankets, etc... A collection box will be set-up and labeled in the Church narthex. All items need to be new, unused and unwrapped. Santa's Helpers will distribute the gifts to Folkston Park residents during our parish's Christmas caroling on December 14th at 3PM.

All are welcome to participate.

Thank you for your Christ centered generosity and your efforts to make this Christmas blessed for the residents of the Nursing Home.

**"Oh Come All Ye
Faithful"**

Come all ye Singers and Santa's Helpers of all ages to bring the Joy of Christmas to the residents and staff of Folkston Park Nursing Home on Sunday, December 14th, at 3 PM.

We have three 1 hour practices scheduled at SFOA: November 24, December 1 & December 8, all starting at 6PM. Our songs are Christmas standards, so if your schedule doesn't allow you to attend all practices don't let that keep you from participating. Besides singers, Santa's Helpers will distribute goodies and can sit alongside residents, encouraging their participation. What better gift can we give Jesus this Christmas than to give the gift of ourselves to others?



**Adopt an angel this Christmas season
and share some cheer!**

Angel tree will be placed in the narthex the weekend of November 22nd/23rd. Pick an angel tag. Place unwrapped gifts in a gift bag with angel tag attached by December 7th.

Angel gifts will help local children, senior citizens and foster families. Do you know a family in need? Please contact Rhonda Hughes at 912-464-4197 by November 21st so we can add requests to the tree.



Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with others this Christmas season.

Be like a Magi, bring a gift !

We are called to serve Christ in others – what better time to do so than at Christmas? In honor of the Wise Men who brought the first gifts to the Christ

child, we can be Magi as well and bring gifts to others! This year at St. Francis of Assisi, in addition to the Angel Tree (which serves children), we would like to collect gift cards for the needy in our community. If you would like, you can bring gift cards from Harvey's, Walgreens, Dollar General, Family Dollar, or other local restaurants/businesses. Then those cards will be distributed to those in need.

A suggested amount is \$25, but any amount will be greatly appreciated! There will be a box in the narthex for you to drop the cards in. The cards will be collected until December 14. Please join in as we give Gifts from the Magi!





**Eternal rest grant unto him o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him,
may he rest in peace, Amen**

Fr. William J. Leahy

**It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of the
Reverend Father William Leahy,
who entered eternal life on November 16, 2025.**

Fr. Leahy was a Pastor of OLSS & SFOA from 1987 - 2001

The funeral arrangements for Father Leahy are as follows:

Funeral Mass:

**Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 10:00 am
Cathedral/Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Savannah**

Burial:

**Immediately following the Funeral Mass
at Catholic Cemetery, Savannah**

During the season of Advent
Misa de Angelis will be celebrated Ad Orientem in OLSS.
The permanent parts of the mass will be prayed in Latin language.
The Latin text with English translation will be provided.

“Mass ad orientem is a Catholic Mass where the priest and congregation face east, or symbolically face east (face the Tabernacle)

Why would anyone prefer Mass where the priest faces away from the congregation? The key consideration given by those arguing for this, who include prominent theologians such as Cdl. Joseph Ratzinger, before his election as Pope Benedict XVI, and Cdl. Christoph Schönborn, in a book he wrote in 1996, can be expressed as a question: **to whom are the prayers of the Mass, particularly the Eucharistic Prayer, addressed?** If they are addressed to God, then it makes sense for the celebrant to say them toward something symbolizing God, in union with the people. Historically, this has been the East: the direction of the rising sun. The association of a particular direction, within a church, with God, is strengthened if that is where the crucifix and tabernacle are to be found, or, in ancient churches, a mosaic in the apse ceiling of Christ in glory. Even if the church is not in line with the geographical East, the direction of the altar from the nave can be regarded as symbolizing the East, and priest and people can direct their gaze, and their prayers, toward it, together.

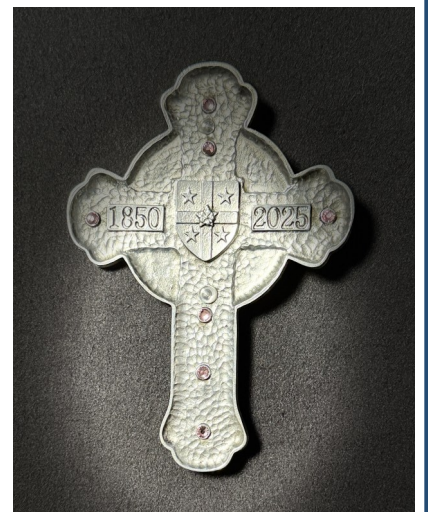
Cdl. Ratzinger was particularly critical of a tendency he detected in celebrations “toward the people.” On the one hand, the people in practice can end up looking not at what the priest is praying toward, but at the priest himself, introducing what Ratzinger called “an unprecedented clericalization.” On the other hand, the priest can end up focusing his attention on the people.

The new result is what Ratzinger called a “closed circle”: a group of people addressing each other, when they should be opened out toward God. (Quotations are from Ratzinger, *Spirit of the Liturgy*, 2000.) This is particularly emphasized when the seating in church is arranged in a circle around the altar.

The direction of prayer has had an enormous impact on the style of celebration. Priests celebrating toward the people can see if people are paying attention, like a public speaker or performer. If he is facing away from them, he has little idea of what is going on in the nave. Before Vatican II, this was regarded as a good thing: in the 1962 Mass, even when a priest is told to turn to face the people (for example, when he turns to them to say, “Dominus vobiscum”), he should keep his eyes lowered. He should not be distracted by the congregation from his work of prayer, and the congregation should not be distracted by him. Where celebration versus populum is the norm, Catholics can get used to priests trying to engage them in what is going on with eye contact, emphasis in what they are saying, and even unscripted remarks. Experiencing Mass celebrated the other way can even be disconcerting. The point of it, however, is to allow the people to do what the priest should be doing: addressing their prayers to God. Above all in the Eucharistic Prayer, a celebrant facing East allows the people to follow what is going on in their own way, and to unite themselves spiritually to his prayer to God, which he leads from the altar...”



At the 175th Anniversary Mass that took place on July 19 and honored this special milestone for our Diocese, a special cross was given to representatives of each community to return to their parish. As a sign of unity in honor of Christ Our Hope, Bishop Parkes have asked that the cross be placed upon the altars throughout the Diocese on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, which is celebrated this weekend.



WHAT'S GOING ON ?

Mon 11/24	SFOA - 6:00 PM - Caroling Practice OLSS - 6:00 PM Knights of Columbus - RE BUILDING - DOUBLE CLASSROOM
Tue 11/25	SFOA - 9:30 AM - Ladies Cursillo - SOCIAL HALL
Wed 11/26	SFOA - 3:30 PM - Men's Cursillo - SOCIAL HALL OLSS - 6:00 PM - Women's Book Club - RE BUILDING - DOUBLE CLASSROOM
Thu 11/27	OFFICES CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!!
Fri 11/28	OFFICES CLOSED OLSS - 9:00 AM - Women's Book Club - RE BUILDING DOUBLE CLASSROOM



Wishing all our parishioners
a blessed and joyful
Thanksgiving, surrounded by
the love of family, friends,
and all who are dear to you.
May God fill your homes
with peace, gratitude, and the
warmth of His abundant
blessings.

- Fr. Mariusz

OFFERTORY UPDATE

OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

NOVEMBER 16, 2025	NOVEMBER 17, 2024
COLLECTION - \$ 8,843.00	COLLECTION - \$ 8,876.63
MAINTENANCE - \$ 410.00	MAINTENANCE - \$ 515.00

SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

NOVEMBER 16, 2025	NOVEMBER 17, 2024
COLLECTION - \$ 965.00	COLLECTION - \$ 1,205.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ 435.00	MAINTENANCE - \$ 591.00

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	Lectors	Altar Servers	Ushers
Sat 11/22	Richard Foy Jim Moore	Landon Wilkins Isaac Dominici Samuel Dominici	Ron Logan Darlene Logan Dante Russo James Pappas
Sun 11/23	Lucia Feijo Brian Benton	Joaquin Gomez, Evan Gomez, Colton Wilkins	Keith Danos Colleen Danos Carl Boria Roberto Garza
Tue 11/25	Karen Hill		
Wed 11/26	- _____ -		
Thu 11/27	- _____ -		
Fri 11/28	NO MASS	NO MASS	NO MASS
Sat 11/29	Jim Moore Mary Ann Moore	Waylon Wilkins Colton Wilkins Landon Wilkins	Dave Costa Diane Costa James Pappas Saul Capulong
Sun 11/30	Judy Buchanan Ray Meaux	Isaac Dominici Samuel Dominici	Keith Danos Colleen Danos Clyde Miller Robert Cappello

SFOA LECTOR SCHEDULE

Sunday 11/23	Mary Fouraker Lynn Crews
Sunday 11/30	Lewart Simmons Lynn Crews



The Church dedicates
November to
remembering all her
faithful children who
have departed from
this life, but have not
yet attained the joys
of heaven.

Pray for the dead
relatives and friends

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 Kathy@atlanticsaltrealty.com
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FAMILY PRACTICE

Carlos A Levy, MD
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PARISHIONER

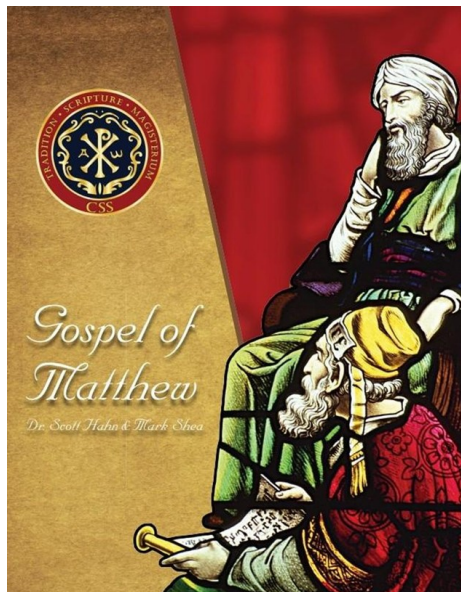
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MILES P. HENDRIX, ESQ.
 PARISHIONER

PARISHIONER



All men are invited to join us for a bible study written by Dr. Scott Hahn and Mark Shea
Gospel of Matthew
 Wednesday evenings beginning December 3rd
 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Religious Ed building.
 Join Deacon Tim as he leads us throughout this new liturgical year.

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 PARISHIONER

BE AWARE OF A FRAUD/ SCAM EMAILS FALSLY PURPORTING TO BE SENT FROM FATHER MARIUSZ

Unfortunately Many Parishioners have been receiving fraudulent e-mails from someone pretending to be me, Fr. Mariusz. Please be aware that our staff, to include myself, NEVER ask for any material favors, money, gift cards, gift certificates etc., through e-mail or text message. Please do not respond to these emails, delete them, report them as spam.

NEVER EVER TAKE ANY ACTIONS REQUESTED IN THE E-MAILS OR TEXTS !!!

Please be very Cautious and careful since this was not the first time they tried to do it and probably not the last time they will try to do it.

Sincerely; Fr. Mariusz - Pastor

