

Our Lady Star of the Sea CATHOLIC CHURCH

106 East Dillingham Street
Saint Marys, Georgia 31558

1st Sunday OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

*Saint
Francis of Assisi
Catholic Mission*

700 Kingsland Road
Folkston, Georgia 31558

Fr. Mariusz Fukś, Pastor

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

Directory

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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

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**

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 SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

12/02/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil
Pro Populo / For the People
 12/03/23 - **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 8:30 AM - (St. Francis)
For Lyle and BJ Wheling
 11:00 AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
For the repose of the soul of
Clara M. Howard
 12/04/23 - Monday: **NO MASS**
 12/05/23 - Tuesday: 5:30 PM Mass
For the deceased members
of Knights of Columbus
 12/06/23 - Wednesday 8:00 AM at OLSS
For the repose of the soul of
Clara M. Howard
 12/06/23 - Wednesday 6:00 PM Mass at SFOA
 12/07/23 - Thursday 8:00 AM
For the repose of the soul of
Hannah McCandless
 12/08/23 - Friday 8:00 AM
 12/09/23 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Pro Populo / For the People
 12/10/23 - **II SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
 8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)
 11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
For the repose of the soul of
Judith Garza

Now is the time.

Someone ought to find out what time is made of and get a patent on the stuff. Think of the possibilities! Sometimes it runs through your hands like sands through an hourglass. At other times it crawls glacially across an afternoon as you wait for a doctor's test results. A day takes forever when you're a kid waiting for Christmas. But the years are over in the blink of an eye when you realize with astonishment that your life is mostly behind you. Time is like a brat that behaves precisely as it wants to, usually in a way that is designed to get on your nerves. If someone could patent this amazing substance, and learn to control its properties, there's no telling what it could lead to.

Science says that time is simply the measure of change. If nothing ever changed, we would have no way to observe the existence of time at all. But because things change—seasons, the weather, the natural world, us—we know that there is such a thing as time. And for all of its capricious behavior, the one thing we do know about time is that sooner or later we will run out of it. The definition of our world is that it is finite, and the definition of our humanity is that it is mortal. Things change. Time passes. We die.

Does anybody really know what time it is?

The main problem with time is not that it passes but that we don't really know what time it is. The psalmist says our lives are over like a sigh. How long is a sigh? Scripture also determines mortal life as "seventy years, or eighty for those who are strong." But we know that some die young, as children, or even in the womb. No one is guaranteed 70 years. None of us is guaranteed more than the present hour.

So knowing that it's 5 o'clock or 9 o'clock isn't all that helpful. A clock tells us about the position of the sun but nothing at all about where we stand in regard to eternity. That might sound spooky. But it's also honest.

The church year begins today, this first Sunday of Advent, and scripture focuses our attention on this business of time because it's urgent. We are starting a new liturgical year, but even as we do, the secular year is waning. In a city where I used to work, secretaries threw their page-a-day calendars out the windows of office buildings during December. The days of the old year streamed like confetti through the air, stopping traffic and making us all pause in a moment of respect for the passing of the old year. In the same way, the church asks us now to consider seriously what's gone before us and what lies ahead.

Make us turn and be saved.

So what can we do about the lateness of the hour and our finite humanity? In Hebrew, the thing to do is to turn (*t'shuvah*). In Greek, the word is change (*metanoia*). In English we say conversion. Taken together, we see that the only response to the reality of time is to do what time does: *move*. We have to step out of our lethargy and make viable changes before the capacity to change is lost to us for good.

This is hard, because we are notoriously stagnant creatures. We like to get settled, hunker down, and go dormant. Even when our lives aren't working and cause suffering, the last thing we want to do is make changes. Can't we take a pill for this? When it comes to the ache of our mortality, the answer is no. Isaiah puts the matter baldly: Our reluctance to be responsive to the ongoing tug of life makes us "unclean," like those who've touched death. Our efforts to hide our messes with a dollop of good deeds are mere window-dressing on pollution. Like withered leaves we will be carried lifelessly away. What does not grow is already dying.

At this point we might be ready to cry help! And that's appropriate, because according to Isaiah, we need God to do the saving. God will return to us, even though we are the ones who wandered away to begin with. "O, that you would rend the heavens and come down!" When we are really stuck, God will move heaven and earth to un-stick us.

Be watchful ! be alert !

Advent is the perfect time to examine our lives and wake up to the urgent call of life within us. Communal reconciliation is available in these weeks to unburden us of some dead wood. The old year is dying; think of old habits that could likewise be put to rest here and now. We may need to make changes so that our significant relationships may be more life-giving. How can we move in that direction, and how might we ask God to "return" as well? Sometimes the movement required is monumental, like leaving situations of abuse or injustice behind. Or facing our addictions and admitting we need outside help. Sometimes the cost of change will be extraordinary. But what is the cost of remaining as we are?

Because the time is short, whether we can measure it in years or minutes. We do not know when the time of the great "arrival from ahead of us" will come, as Jürgen Moltmann put it, nor do we know the hour of our death. Jesus is coming, and we can't just "look busy," as the T-shirt slogan once advised. The time to change is now or never.

Related scripture links

Our life is over like a sigh: *Psalm 90:1-10*

Urgency of the time: *Matt. 24:37-44; Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Thess. 5:1-8*

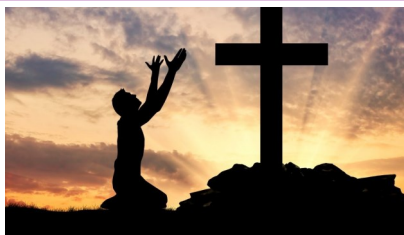
God's help for us: *Psalm 6:5; Rom. 9:16; Eph. 6:10-17*

Need for change: *Isa. 1:16-18; Matt. 13:15; Eph. 5:14*



There is a Virtus Training in Spanish on Saturday December 9, 2023, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier Church in Brunswick. If you are interested, please register in the Virtus website.

There is Virtus Training in English on Saturday January 20, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at OLSS. If you are interested, please register in the Virtus Website.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Sanford Adams, Doris Adams, Brian McLain, Brian Lewis, Tammy Gabrinetti, Maureen

Heath, Buddy Miller, Albert Matthews, Clifford Morris, Sheila Williams, Tess Rivera, Mary Glasgow, Ron Carr, Doris A. Adams, Doris Thomas, Ron McBee, Cheryl Burke, Hailey Moody, Joseph and Deborah Mroz, Felicia Fink, Ducky Marx, Janet Gusgeski, Carole Linker, Peggy Schwarting, Michelle Ng, Braeden Hormann, Donald Koski, Christopher Clay Field, Lana Miltenberg, Logan Hackney, Kathy Mulcahy, Ann Chartrand, Marguerite Paddock, Jennifer Moran, Mac and Peggy Maurin, Michael Manfredi, Robert Allatin, Rhonda Avides, Ivy Luna, Ron Petry, Linda Perry, Matthew Rowan, Denis McShane, Carol Riley, Linda Jordan, Evelyn Meaux, Kieran Gaughan Jr., David Bliton, Annie Hyver, Elizabeth Newcity, Buck Johnson, Mary Fouraker, 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, 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

OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

NOVEMBER 26, 2023	NOVEMBER 27, 2022
COLLECTION - \$ 8,619.50	COLLECTION - \$ 7,283.50
MAINTENANCE - \$ 138.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 112.00

SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

NOVEMBER 26, 2023	NOVEMBER 27, 2022
COLLECTION - \$ 675.00	COLLECTION - \$ 740.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ 315.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 286.00

Thank You for your support



December 17, 2023
ANGEL TREE

Five more children and a homeless man have been added to the Angel Tree. Our goal is to get new items to disadvantaged children during the holiday season. Please return Angel Tree gifts no later than December 17 to ensure delivery. Contributions are accepted so that we can purchase gifts if needed. Gifts can be left unwrapped. Contact Candas at C.Barrington1986@gmail.com for questions.

ANGEL TREE

**PILGRIMAGE
TO
POLAND WITH
FR.
MARIUSZ**



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 Jason Dominici at dominici.jason@gmail.com

Catholic Youth Ministry: For more information email Kristie and Bryant Shepard at relregioused@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 relregioused@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 sacramenta 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



FRIDAY DECEMBER 8th
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

MASS TIMES:
OLSS 8:00 AM & 7:00 PM
SFOA 5:00 PM



Mark Your Calendar... Mouthwatering Monastery Marvels

It's that time of year again!!! Biscotti, Fudge, Fruitcake, Coffee, and Honey. Get these sweet treats as gifts, or for yourself. These items are made by the monks of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA. Your purchase supports them, as well as your local Knights of Columbus. Quantities are limited, and they will be on sale the weekends of, Dec 2-3; 9-10 and 16-17 if still available! Get them before they're gone, and thank you for your continuous and generous support! Cash, check or charge.



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