

Our Lady  
Star of the Sea  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

106 East Dillingham Street  
Saint Marys, Georgia 31558

Saint  
Francis of Assisi  
Catholic Mission

700 Kingsland Road  
Folkston, Georgia 31558

# 2nd Sunday OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

Fr. Mariusz Fuks, Pastor

©LPI



## 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  
Office Hours.....Mon-Fri.:9am – 2pm  
**After Hours Emergency.....912-342-0708**

### Staff

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## OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA WEEKLY SCHEDULE

<b>Mondays</b>	No Daily Mass
<b>Tuesdays</b>	5:00 pm Rosary & Adoration, 5:30 pm Daily Mass
<b>Wednesdays</b>	7:30 am Rosary, 8:00 am Daily Mass
<b>Thursdays</b>	7:30 am Rosary, 8:00 am Daily Mass
<b>Fridays</b>	7:30 am Rosary, 8:00 am Daily Mass
<b>Saturdays</b>	4:30 pm Rosary, 5:00 pm Mass (except on Holy Saturday)
<b>Sundays</b>	10:30 am Rosary, 11:00 am Mass
<b>Confessions</b>	
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	<b>30 minutes before Mass or by Appointment</b>

## 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

12/09/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil  
*Bryant & Kristie Shepard  
Wedding Anniversary*  
12/10/23 - **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8:30 AM - (St. Francis)  
*Pro Populo / For the People*  
11:00 AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)  
*For the repose of the soul of  
Judith Garza*  
12/11/23 - Monday: **NO MASS**  
12/12/23 - Tuesday: 5:30 PM Mass  
*Agnes Rodman Birthday Blessing*  
12/13/23 - Wednesday 8:00 AM at OLSS  
*For the repose of the soul of  
DeLeon Columba*  
12/13/23 - Wednesday 6:00 PM Mass at SFOA  
12/14/23 - Thursday 8:00 AM  
*For the repose of the soul of  
Clara M. Howard*  
12/15/23 - Friday 8:00 AM  
*Grace of healing for Kelly Langham*  
12/16/23 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM  
*For the repose of the soul of  
Martha MM Varga*  
12/17/23 - **THIRD OF ADVENT**  
8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)  
*Pro Populo / For the People*  
11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)

## Prepare the Way.

What are you waiting for? The most disastrous answer anyone can give to that question is *nothing*. It's the Advent question, boiled clean of all the theology and catechism we were taught and can't use where the rubber meets the road of life. Forget the miracle birth for a moment; and incarnation and the sacred science of salvation. What is it we need and want, and is that the same as what we anticipate?

For some of us the problem lies right here, in that what we really hope for and what we expect are two very different things. The deep desire of our hearts, and what we've come to expect from religious promises, have very little in common. Oh, sure, we believe we'll get pie in the sky when we die. God will make everything all right in the end, if we keep the rules and don't cause too much damage to ourselves and others. What it comes down to is that we've come to view the whole enterprise of religion as a severely delayed system of gratification: Almost too little. And certainly too late. It doesn't have to be this way.

## Listen to your heart.

So what's the answer to the question: What are we waiting for? The longing of our hearts tells us the answer, if we take a moment to listen. Life can be really hard on us, and we poor humans are very vulnerable creatures. Our families may be hurting. Love hurts, and the loss of it hurts. Loneliness makes us feel isolated. Our jobs may be killing us, or joblessness may threaten our security. We carry the burdens of our sick with us; our own health may be in jeopardy. We worry about our children and our elders. At this time of the year especially, financial trouble may bear down on us. Conflicts that arise during the holidays every year may already be surfacing. When we are truthful about what we are waiting for, some of us will have to admit that we're waiting for the other shoe to drop, or for the hardship to just get harder.

But when we feel the tensions and even the despair of living, some part of us is also waiting for something else. We call this experience hope-against-hope. Even when things all seem to be going in a bad direction, our hopes are pushing in a better one, however absurd that may seem. When the economy is shrinking all around us, we hope we won't be affected. When someone is very ill, we hope the doctors will be able to affect a cure. When we have lost someone to death, we hope we will see them again. Life goes down a difficult road, but our hopes refuse to follow.

If we listen to our hopes, instead of to the voice of despair, we experience the meaning of religious faith. We don't wait for evidence to appear that things will get better. We simply fling all our anticipation in the direction of our heart's desire and trust that God does too.

## Listen to the promises.

"Comfort, give comfort to my people." These words from Isaiah, the prophet of Advent, remind us who we're dealing with. Our God is the God who fills in the valleys and lowers the mountains so that the way between God and us is smooth. This road between us is the highway of hope, and it's a two-lane route. Our hope in God's promises moves on one side, and God's strength and encouragement travels on the other. In a world of rough words and deception, kindness and truth meet here. Despite the overwhelming evidence of injustice and violence, on this smooth road between God and us, justice and peace shall kiss. We don't have to wait for "later." God's promises are waiting for us on this road right now.

It may be hard for us to see up this road, because by our nature we are locked into a single moment of time when things seem pretty fixed as they are. But "a day with the Lord is like a thousand years," and God is not bound by the inconvenience of time. If hopes that seem almost absurd rise up in us in times of distress, that's because as believers we share in God's freedom to move beyond the present hour to the eternal promise of joy and victory. It's not just that things will work out "someday." In God's eyes, from the perspective of eternity, they already *have* worked out. The victory was never in question.

## Don't just wait, prepare

The generation into which John the Baptist arrived was waiting for the fulfillment of its hopes, just as we are. John told them that it wasn't enough for people of faith to wait: They had to *prepare*. It makes sense. If we really trusted that God was coming, we wouldn't just sit around and wish that it would happen. (If *you* thought God was coming today, to your house, what would you do about it?) Hope is not a passive virtue. We can't just sit on it. Hope is a working virtue. We lean into it—and into its fulfillment—as we prepare for what we trust is coming. Comfort is coming. Kindness and truth are coming. Justice and peace are coming. Jesus the Lord is coming! And if we believe that, we will live as though it's already come to pass. In the heart of God—which we come to know in our experience of hope—it already has.

### Related scripture links

Faith as the evidence of things hoped for and not seen: *Heb. 11:1*

Confidence in hope: *Prov. 23:17-18; 1 Thess. 5:8-11*

We hope with all of creation: *Rom. 8:18-25*



## OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

DECEMBER 3, 2023	DECEMBER 4, 2022
COLLECTION - \$ 12,580.59	COLLECTION - \$ 11,774.50
MAINTENANCE - \$ 5,189.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 2,308.50

## SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

DECEMBER 3, 2023	DECEMBER 4, 2022
COLLECTION - \$ 1,240.00	COLLECTION - \$ 1,090.00
MAINTENANCE - \$ 1,167.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 1,022.00

Thank You for your support



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Dan Riley, Tina Hood,  
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, Jennifer Moran, Mac and Peggy Maurin, Michael Manfredi, Robert Allatin, Rhonda Avides, Ivy Luna, Ron Petry, Linda Perry, Matthew Rowan, Denis McShane, 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](mailto:OFFICE@WEAREOLSS.ORG)

## Ushers Needed

Now that  
we have  
returned



to four ushers, we are in need of a few more. Please contact the office at 912-882-4718 to get the details on how you can become a member of this ministry.

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](mailto:C.Barrington1986@gmail.com) for questions.



Saint Francis  
of Assisi

ANGEL TREE



## 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](mailto:dominici.jason@gmail.com)

**Catholic Youth Ministry:** For more information email Kristie and Bryant Shepard at [relregioused@weareolss.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 23rd

VIGIL FOR 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
OLSS MASS at 5:00 PM

DECEMBER 24,  
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SFOA MASS at 8:30 AM  
OLSS MASS at 11:00 AM

DECEMBER 24  
VIGIL FOR CHRISTMAS  
OLSS MASS at 5:00 PM

DECEMBER 25th,  
CHRISTMAS

OLSS MASS at MIDNIGHT (12:00 AM)  
SFOA MASS at 8:30 AM  
OLSS MASS at 11:00 AM

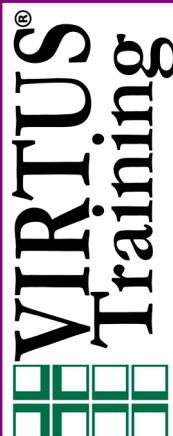
STILL ADVENT

CHRISTMAS



### 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.



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 on 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 on the Virtus Website.

Kathy Levy

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PARISHIONER

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GREG & SUE LOCKHART - PARISHIONERS



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LPC, NCC, CST

Licensed Professional Counselor  
National Certified Counselor  
Christian Sex Therapist

*Hablo Español*

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