

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

3rd Sunday OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Fr. Mariusz Fukś, Pastor

©LPI

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

Directory

Church Office.....912-882-4718
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Email.....office@weareolss.org
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Office Hours.....Mon-Fri.:9am – 2pm
After Hours Emergency.....912-342-0708

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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

12/16/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil
*For the repose of the soul of
Martha MM Varga*
12/17/23 - **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
8:30 AM - (St. Francis)
Pro Populo / For the People
11:00 AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
12/18/23 - Monday: **NO MASS**
12/19/23 - Tuesday: 5:30 PM Mass
Deirdre Stokes Birthday Blessing
12/20/23 - Wednesday 8:00 AM at OLSS
*For the repose of the soul of
Frank Welch*
12/20/23 - Wednesday 6:00 PM Mass at SFOA
12/21/23 - Thursday 8:00 AM
12/22/23 - Friday 8:00 AM
12/23/23 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Pro Populo / For the People
12/24/23 - **FOURTH OF ADVENT**
8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)
11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)

Giving our testimony

Who are you? If you had to describe yourself to someone, how would you begin? Some of us would start with a physical description: I am so tall, with such color skin, hair, and eyes. . . . Others would begin with the relationships that define us: I am a parent; I am married or single; I live in community. We might define ourselves by our work: I am a student, a sales clerk, a lawyer, a busboy, or retired. If we are particularly brave or feel a need to declare ourselves, we may even find one word to testify to the deepest part of our experience: I am a Christian. I am a woman. I am gay. I am African American.

Testimony in reverse

When they put the question to John the Baptist, however, asking him, “Who are you?”, he did not answer in any of these ways. Instead, he described himself by admitting who he was not: “I am not the Christ.” John knew, of course, that *that* was the real question behind the inquiry being made of him. The leaders from Jerusalem didn’t need to know his name or his occupation. They already knew he was John the baptizer and self-appointed scourge of God. What they really wanted to know was: Who did he *think* he was? What did he *think* he was doing? And most important of all, by whose authority was he doing these things?

“Are you Elijah?” they then asked. Did he consider himself the great prophet of Hebrew history, traditionally expected to return at the time of the messiah? “No,” John said. So finally they grew exasperated with his denials and demanded that he give them an affirmative answer: “Then, what do you have to say for yourself?”

It was then that John described himself as a voice. He reduced his entire existence down to a single attribute: I speak. I speak for God.

How John arrived at this self-understanding is illuminating for those of us who may not be exactly clear on our own identity. We all know how to introduce ourselves to strangers; but which of us is sure of who we truly are at 3 in the morning when we can’t sleep and don’t know where our lives are headed? At those times, we may want to try introducing ourselves to *ourselves*. And John’s self-introduction may help us.

Who we are not

So often we identify ourselves wrongly, because we have confused who we are with the roles we play. Sometimes parents cannot stop parenting, even when their children are full-grown. Or bosses run their families like corporations and wonder why it’s not working. We make more fundamental mistakes when we define ourselves too narrowly or erroneously: as failures, or as bad sheep, or whatever image was affixed to us as children.

I knew a beautiful young woman who called herself “fat girl” because that was what her father had called her growing up. Though everyone else knew her as an accomplished person, intelligent, witty, kindhearted, she lived out of a very narrow identity and was prone to depression and defeatism as a result.

An essential part of living a Christian identity is to live in the truth. As it says in the gospel, the light is given to us, and we are to testify to it. There is no room in the life of a Christian for living in the dark. If lies have been told about us from an early age, we must not continue to tell them now as if they are true. We have to abandon them and step into the light. Poor self-esteem isn’t just a sorry state of affairs. It is the territory of the prince of lies, and we are called out of it by our faith.

Called out of darkness

Stepping into the light may not be easy. It can require healing, and we have healing sacraments for that, like reconciliation and anointing. It may require counseling and 12-step programs to de-program ourselves from the lie and to embrace the truth. It can mean dramatic changes in the way we have been living, and it can mean ending relationships that were built to support what is untrue about us. For some rare few among us, it can simply mean making a decision to say no to the lie and yes to the truth.

We may want to review what John said first when they asked him who he was. He said he was not the Christ. We have to remember this about ourselves, too. We are not God. We are not self-sufficient, all-powerful, all together. We need others, we need help sometimes, we need support and encouragement and love. Being called out of the darkness and into the light can take time, and we shouldn’t be too hard on ourselves. When you come out of a dark room, it takes time for your eyes to adjust to the light.

Naming who we are

Testifying to the truth about ourselves, as John demonstrated, comes in two stages. First is knowing who we are not and dispelling all the lies about ourselves we are tempted or socialized into telling. The second is in discovering who we truly are. John came to know himself as a voice, and so he spoke for God. And what are you: a voice, an ear, a heart, a hand? Each of us has been made uniquely suited to serve the God who loved us into being. And once we clear away the lies and step into the light, we will know quite precisely who we are.

Related scripture links

More on John’s identity: *Luke 7:24-29; John 5:31-35*
Jesus as the voice of truth: *John 8:31-32; 14:6; 17:17-19; 18:37-38*
You are the light of the world: *Matt. 5:14*
I am the light of the world: *John 8:12*
Light and darkness: *John 3:19-21; 12:35-36, 46-47*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Luke Brooks, Stan Wojnar, Chris Wojnar, Glen Franklin, 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, 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, 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**

ULTREYA- CHRISTMAS GATHERING



3rd Monday-
December 18th
at
The Hughes Home
211 Wheeler St.
Saint Marys, GA

Please bring a dish to share
Please bring your Angel Tree Gift
Bring your Christmas Spirit !!!!
ALL CURSILLISTAS WELCOME

OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

DECEMBER 10, 2023	DECEMBER 11, 2022
COLLECTION - \$ 15,650.50	COLLECTION - \$ 6,843.95
MAINTENANCE - \$ 765.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 890.00

SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

DECEMBER 10, 2023	DECEMBER 11, 2022
COLLECTION - \$ 1,200.00	COLLECTION - \$ 1,236.83
MAINTENANCE - \$ 502.00	MORTGAGE - \$ 616.00

Thank You for your support

Ushers Needed



*Were here to
Serve*

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.

Dear Parishioners,

Many people use split contributions (cash or one check for multiple donations). In order to have your contribution credited towards the funds you would like, please make sure to either enclose a slip of paper designating specific amounts to the funds; write it on the check or if you're turning in the envelopes corresponding to the funds, make sure to mark the amount for each fund on the envelope. This will help our counters to distribute your contribution correctly.

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 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

SFOA MASS AT 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 25th,

CHRISTMAS

OLSS MASS at MIDNIGHT (12:00 AM)

OLSS MASS at 11:00 AM



JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY

MOTHER OF GOD

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

MASS TIMES;

SFOA MASS AT 8:30 AM

OLSS MASS AT 11:00 AM

STILL ADVENT

CHRISTMAS

Kathy Levy

Coastal Real Estate Specialist GA & FL

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CIPS, GRI, MRP, Green, SRES, RSPS, SFR

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GREG & SUE LOCKHART - PARISHIONERS



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LPC, NCC, CST

Licensed Professional Counselor
National Certified Counselor
Christian Sex Therapist

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912 - 882- 4718

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reading this,
so are your
potential
customers.**

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Thank You Secret
Santa for treating us
with Donuts Social this
Sunday



**PILGRIMAGE
TO
POLAND WITH
FR.
MARIUSZ**

SCAN

