

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



DECEMBER 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Fr. Mariusz Fukś, Pastor

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GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

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OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA WEEKLY SCHEDULE

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY PLEASE
FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE ON THE RIGHT



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI WEEKLY SCHEDULE



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

12/30/23 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil
Birthday Blessing for James Nolan
12/31/23 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
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
Gabriel Aaron Valot
01/01/24 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE MOTHER OF GOD
11:00 AM Mass (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
01/02/24 - Tuesday 5:30 PM Adoration &
Communion Service
01/03/24 - Wednesday 8:00 AM Communion Service
at OLSS
01/03/24 - Wednesday 6:00 PM Communion Service
at SFOA
01/04/24 - Thursday 8:00 AM Mass
01/05/24 - Friday 8:00 AM Communion Service
01/06/24 - Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
For the repose of the soul of
Margaret Messino
01/07/24 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:30 AM - (St. Francis Mission)

11:00 AM - (Our Lady Star of the Sea)
Pro Populo / For the People

Letter from the Pastor,

Dear Beloved parishioners and friends of Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Francis of Assisi,

As we joyfully celebrate the birth of our Lord and anticipate the approaching New Year, I extend my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you. May the spirit of love, peace, and joy fill your hearts and homes during this festive season.

I am immensely grateful to those of you who took the time to send cards, gifts, and heartfelt wishes. Your generosity, support, and kindness have touched my heart deeply. It is a true blessing to witness the spirit of giving and love within our parish community.

Throughout the year, your kindness has been a source of strength and inspiration for me as your Pastor. I am grateful for the genuine care and support you consistently show. Your individual and collective efforts make Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Francis of Assisi vibrant and welcoming.

I would like to share with you that on Monday I will be traveling to Poland to visit my mother, to celebrate her 82nd birthday and spend precious time with my family.

As we navigate the uncertainties of the world, please remember to stay safe and take good care of yourselves and each other. I will hold you in my prayers while I am away.

May the light of Christmas guide you into a New Year filled with hope, blessings and opportunities for growth.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Rev. Fr. Mariusz Fuks
Pastor, Our Lady Star of the Sea and Saint Francis of Assisi

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**

Holy Family Values

The great marathon of the holidays is almost over. Most of the big meals have been cooked; most of the significant family gatherings have met. There may be a stray uncle still in the guest room, and the kids aren't back to school yet, but for all intents and purposes, the holiday season is on the wane. We can all start breathing again!

For many of us, the holidays are the best time of year, when people we love gather for a once-a-year festival of love and sharing. It's time for feasting and gift-giving. It's time to tell the old stories and a few new ones. It's time to see the new babies and the old grandmas and to take a lot of pictures. The generations are on parade. It's the family-at-a-glance, a snapshot of where we've come from and where our line is headed.

But the holidays can also be a tender and difficult time. We notice the empty chairs of those we've lost, some recently and some perpetually. We note the absence of those who didn't come, couldn't come, perhaps weren't welcome to be among us. Maybe *we* were the ones who weren't invited; or we weren't convinced the effort to be a part of the picture was worth the price it would cost to be there. Or maybe we're all that's left of our family, and no new community has formed to take its place.

Holidays cut both ways, and families are at once the most important and the most potentially devastating people we know. We love them, despite any painful memories they bring up for us. They also drive us crazy, for not living up to our expectations, for not being the people we might have wished they were or needed them to be.

My Family sure isn't holy

What should we do with our families, especially those members that frustrate, hurt, and disappoint us? Should we forgive or just forget them? Can we live without them? Is it possible to honor the parent who was never there for us, or the child who seemed destined to push every one of our buttons? Do we have to acknowledge the older sister who joined the Mormons, or the father-in-law who gets disruptive when he drinks, or the niece who has pierced every available inch of her skin?

When the feast of the Holy Family arrives every year, these questions rise up in us, too. Because the scripture readings, which may seem out of step with our modern lives on any Sunday, on this feast in particular really seem from outer space!

First we have the wisdom reading from Sirach, who writes about an ideal: The generations should care for one another. The younger generation has a special obligation to honor and look after their elders, even if their minds fail.

Well, some of us have and are taking care of our elders. Some experience the terrible burden of remaining faithful to the care of grandparents, parents, or spouses who have Alzheimer's or other debilitating conditions. Even under the best circumstances, in relationships that have always been characterized by love and gentle responsibility, the task is hard.

People often ask: But what about my old man? He wasn't around when I was growing up. Why should I be expected to honor him when he never honored his obligations to me? Or parents may ask: What about my child? She dropped out of school, is addicted to drugs, or lives with that man I told her to stay away from. Why should I honor our relationship when she has never honored me with obedience and has only brought me heartache and shame? Parents worry about the younger generation that doesn't go to church. Grown children fret about the older generation who caused injury to their self-esteem, if not physical harm. How can we hold such families together? And why should we be expected to?

Jesus had a "perfect" family

Jesus had it easy, we think. Holy families like his didn't have the problems real families have. Well, yes, his father was only his foster-father, and his mother was a teenager. And they had a baby in a barn because they were poor and traveling at the time of his birth. And not long after the baby was born, a powerful person tried to kill him and they had to leave the country to save his life. When presented in the temple, a prophet calls the baby a sign of contradiction, not a prince of peace! But other than that, theirs was a normal, stable, happy family life.

The myth of the "perfect" holy family hasn't served our families well. Our families are hardly perfect. There are leaks in the family ark, and kinks in the family links. We have stories to tell, and we have secrets that we never tell. But what held the family of Jesus together and made them holy is the same power that's available to us: the bond of love. Paul says in Colossians: "And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." Families are never perfect, but love perfects the bond that holds us together.

How love binds us

Paul describes the situation very realistically. It takes compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness, to bring us all together. He acknowledges that we will have grievances against each other, and that there are surely things to overcome. Let Christ's peace control your hearts, he says. And be thankful. If we are working our way toward a holy family, this is the only road that leads there. But above all, love (1 Cor. 13).

Related scripture links

Other advice for families: *Deut. 5:16; 30:19; Mark 9:36-37; John 19:26-27*

Plea for unity: Phil. 2:1-4

Be ye perfect: Matt. 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36

Fruits of the Spirit: Gal. 5:22-23

But above all, love: 1 Cor. 13



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Keith Foster, Chris Rzepczynski, 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, Joseph and Deborah Mroz, 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 Avelles, 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**

OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

DECEMBER 24, 2023	DECEMBER 25, 2022
COLLECTION - \$	COLLECTION - \$ 15,685.79
MAINTENANCE - \$	MORTGAGE - \$ 65.00

SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

DECEMBER 24, 2023	DECEMBER 25, 2022
COLLECTION - \$	COLLECTION - \$ 8,520.00
MAINTENANCE - \$	MORTGAGE - \$ 0.00

Thank You for your support

Ushers Needed



*We're 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.

The Offices will be closed Monday January 1

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