



Rev. Fr. Mariusz Fuks—Pastor
**Our Lady
Star of the Sea**
CATHOLIC CHURCH
SAINT MARYS, GA



*Saint
Francis of Assisi*
Catholic Mission
FOLKSTON, GA

January 1, 2023
Mary, the Holy Mother of God

*The shepherds
went in haste to
Bethlehem and found
Mary and Joseph,*

*and the infant
lying in the manger.*

Luke 2:16

Prayer at the Manger:

With Mary and Joseph May we follow the faithful, loving witness
of Mary and Joseph as we seek to bring Jesus, your Word,
into the world. May we always follow his Gospel, now and forever. Amen.

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 fine one in the narthex, and return it to the church office.

106 East Dillingham Street ~ Saint Marys, Georgia 31558 / 700 Kingsland Drive ~ Folkston, Georgia 31537

GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

DIRECTORY

Church Office:912-882-4718
Church Fax:912-882-5845
E-Mail:office@weareolss.org
Pastor's Email:pastor@weareolss.org
Website:www.weareolss.org
Office Hours:Mon—Fri: 9AM—2PM
After Hours Emergency:912-882-3760

STAFF

Rev. Fr. Mariusz Fuks, Pastor
Rev. Mr. Timothy Hughes Deacon
Rev. Mr. Henry Nieves Deacon
Susan Bayless, Parish Secretary
..... Parish Bookkeeper
Bill Whitlock (OLSS), Parish Council President
Tina Baxter (SFoA), Parish Council President
Lloyd Streit (OLSS) Parish Finance President
Bob Schlag (SFoA), Parish Finance President
Bryant and Kristie Shepard, Religious Education
Mike Anderson, Music Ministry

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday:(OLSS) 11:00AM / (SFoA) 8:30AM
Vigil:(OLSS) 5:00PM (except on Holy Saturday)
Weekdays:
Monday:NO MASS
Tuesday:5:30PM
Wednesday—Friday:8:00AM
Wednesday (SFoA),6:00PM
First Fridays:8:00AM in the Historic Chapel
First Saturdays Devotions and Mass:10:00AM
Holy Days of Obligation:TBA

CONFESSIONS

Saturday (OLSS):3:30PM—4:30 PM
Wednesdays & Sundays (SFoA):30 minutes before Mass
First Friday Adoration:9:00AM—9:00PM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20;
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13;
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

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, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9AM—12PM.

Altar Servers: Always looking for new altar servers and experienced altar servers. For more information contact the church office at 912-882-4718.

Catholic Youth Ministry: For more information email Kristie and Bryant Shepard at reli-gioused@weareolss.org.

RCIA: Adults interested in learning about the Catholic Church call Parish Office 912-882-4718.

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.

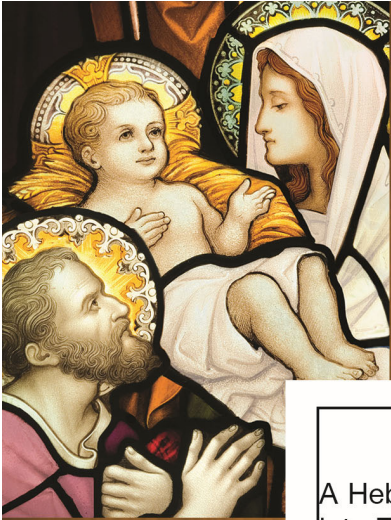
Shut-ins & Hospitalized Family Members: When you or your loved one is getting ready for a planned surgery or procedure or things unplanned happens and you end up in the hospital. Please notify Parish Office at 912-882-4718.

Religious Education: Sundays during the school year September 11, 2022 through May 14, 2023, 9:15AM-10:30AM in the Religious Education building. Email Bryant and Kristie Shepard at reli-gioused@weareolss.org.

Ladies Auxiliary: The ladies of our parish use their skills and talents in a wide variety of roles. Contact Sally Caez at caez@tds.net.

Knights of Columbus (K of C): This is a global Catholic fraternal service order founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney on March 29, 1882. It has grown to support refugee relief, Catholic education, local parishes and diocese, and global Catholic social and political causes. Membership is limited to practicing Catholic men. For more information contact Tom Jenkins or Norberto Caez at KofC@weareolss.org.

Ushers: Our ushers provide a welcoming presence to parishioners and visitors as they enter the church. If interested in becoming an usher, please contact parish office at 912-882-4718.



The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found

MARY AND JOSEPH, AND THE INFANT LYING IN THE MANGER.

Luke 2:16

January 1, 2023 • Mary, the Holy Mother of God

SHALOM

A Hebrew word that many people are familiar with is *shalom*, commonly translated into English as “peace.” However, the word is much richer, deeper, and broader than that. As a matter of fact, when the blessing in today’s first reading concludes with *shalom*, it serves as a summary of the entire blessing: *shalom* is God’s wholeness, well-being, longevity, harmony, as well as God’s peace. Perhaps Mary prayed this blessing while she found herself in the midst of angels, shepherds, and—quite likely, thanks to the shepherds—inquisitive neighbors who had been told of the wondrous birth. Perhaps she prayed for God’s *shalom* not only for herself, but also for her child as she reflected on his birth. As we stand at the threshold of a new year, we can likewise pray this blessing, with Mary as our example, pondering the mysteries of Christ in our hearts, praying for the richness, depth, and breadth of God’s *shalom*.

MARY THE CAREGIVER

At some point in time, most people will find themselves needing to watch over another person. This is true for parents and children of course; for others, perhaps an aging parent or spouse; a friend or neighbor living alone after surgery. At these times, along with the caregiving of the moment, there is often a focus on the future, a wondering about what will come. Quite naturally for the new mother Mary there is this future focus, with many possibilities for her to hold in her heart. She reflects quietly in the midst of the very hectic series of events that follow the birth of her child: hurrying shepherds who go and tell the wondrous news to others, then those others sharing their amazement. Luke tells us that Mary keeps all of this, and reflects on it in her heart. Mary is watching over Jesus as mothers do, watching over each and every moment.

GOD THE CAREGIVER

As Mary watches over her child, so did Israel pray for God to watch over them and one another, to bless and keep them, as Mary kept and reflected on things in her heart. Mary’s face surely shone upon the infant Jesus, as Israel prayed for God’s face to shine upon them with that graciousness we also know in her whom we call “full of grace.” At the conclusion of the blessing in today’s first reading is a prayer for God to look on us in kindness and, even more, to grant us peace. It may be in this final line of the blessing that we see God most at work in the face and the care of Mary, gazing gently on her child, wishing the fullness of God’s *shalom* for Jesus and his future. Our mission as disciples is to show the divine care we hear in the blessing prayer, and to live out the care-giving we see today in Mary.

TODAY’S READINGS

Numbers 6:22–27
Psalm 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4–7
Luke 2:16–21

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Matthew Rowan, Denis McShane, Fr. Eric Vogt, Carol Riley, Linda Jordan, Evelyn Meaux, Kieran Gaughan Jr., Bruce Giegerich, David Bliton, Annie Hyver, Kathleen Rogers, Elizabeth Newcity, Buck Johnson. Mary Fouraker, "Skipper" Boone, Micky Nieves, Lithornia Simmons, Leo Provanzano, Greg Williamson, Mary Angela Morrissey, 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, Ianthe Brathwaite, 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, Barbara Trudeau, Marie & Tony Franzese, Katy Sherrill, Nathaniel Evans, Xavier Van Moer, Jim Walsh, Tim Roberson, Judy Bailey, Enzo and Maria Lopez, Veronica Gillis, Joyce Rinck, Kitty Rodriguez, David Cocomazzi, Doris Adams, 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

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

On this feast, we can see how devotion to Mary has been a beacon of hope to the sick throughout history. In the new cathedral of Los Angeles, the faithful enter through a single door topped by a striking sculpture of Mary with arms stretched down in compassion. Sculpted into the massive bronze doors are the titles of Mary most treasured by various cultures. Many of them speak of how the sick are consoled by a sense of Mary's presence.

Dorothy Day once recalled St. Bonaventure's remark that after the Lord's long forty days of fasting in the desert, when he was diminished and weak from his struggle, the angels who ministered to him went first to the Blessed Mother's house. There they saw the soup that was on her stove, and took some to the Lord so that he would delight in it even more since his mother had prepared it. "Of course," said Dorothy Day matter-of-factly.

In praying the rosary and savoring the stories of Mary's steadfast love in the face of all suffering, the sick are strengthened by one of our tradition's most shining treasures, and the whole Church is enriched.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



FORMED.org...A revolutionary online platform featuring some of the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies. This is a wonderful resource for personal Faith Formation. To sign up FREE visit formed.org and click on "sign up" and then click "Sign up as a parishioner" then enter *Our Lady Star of the Sea*, 106 East Dillingham Street, Saint Marys, GA 31558. Enter your email and create a password (You will use this to log in later). You can get Formed on your phone, tablet, Roku, Amazon Firestick, Apple TV. ENJOY!!!



BLESSINGS

Today's readings include another account of the story of Jesus' birth. The reading from the book of



Numbers reminds us that we are blessed. We are looked upon with kindness and grace. The psalm and Galatians remind us of the blessings given through God's Son. Luke tells of our ultimate blessing, that Mary, a human being like us, gave birth to a child who is God's Son. Mary, a young mother, watches all that is happening around the birth of her son. She listens as the shepherds bring messages from angels, a message she also received from an angel, about her son. Yet Mary remains silent. She keeps all this news about her son to herself. She reflects on all these experiences. The only thing she shares is the name of her son, Jesus, a name given him before he was even conceived. Her silence leaves us wondering if this is how one responds to such a great blessing.

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OLSS COMPARISONS FROM LAST YEAR

DEC 25, 2022	DEC 26, 2021
Collection  \$15,685.79	Collection \$ 11,600.50
Mortgage  \$ 65.00	Mortgage \$ 785.00

SFoA COMPARISONS FROM LAST YEAR

DEC 25, 2022	DEC 26, 2021
Collection  \$ 8,520.00	Collection \$ 375.00
Mortgage  \$ 0.00	Mortgage \$1,254.00

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) signifies the sacrificial nature of giving of something of yourself to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

The **VIRTUS** Protecting God's Children training is required for all volunteers and employees in the Diocese of Savannah regardless of whether or not they come into contact with children.. The following sessions have been added to the schedule:

January 11—ZOOM Remote 6PM—9PM
REGISTRANTS WILL BE SENT THE ZOOM MEETING LINK, ALONG WITH THE RULES FOR THE SESSION BY EMAIL 24 TO 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE CLASS. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- **NO ONE UNDER AGE 18 MAY BE IN THE AREA OF THE ADULT WHO IS TRAINING – INCLUDING INFANTS AND TODDLERS.**
- **PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO BE SEEN ON CAMERA DURING THE DISCUSSION BY THE FACILITATOR IN ORDER TO VERIFY ATTENDANCE.**
- **THE SESSION BEGINS AT 6:00PM. NO PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE SESSION AT 6:01PM. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE ADMITTED PRIOR TO THAT TIME AND YOUR DISCONNECTION IS LOST, LOG BACK ON AGAIN AND THE FACILITATOR WILL ADMIT YOU.**

January 21—St. John the Evangelist School—Valdosta 9AM—12PM

Seating is limited and pre-registration is required online. Register at virtusonline.org. A LAPTOP or DESKTOP is recommended for registration. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to be present. Child care is not provided.

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

- 12/31/22—Saturday Vigil: **5:00PM**
For the repose of the soul of Donald Trednick
- 1/1/23—The Octave Day of Christmas: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
St Francis of Assisi Mission: **8:30AM**
Pro Populo / For the People
Our Lady Star of the Sea: **11:AM**
Birthday blessings for Father Mariusz
- 1/2/23—Monday: **NO MASS**
- 1/3/23—Tuesday: **5:30PM**
- 1/4/23—Wednesday: **8:00AM**
For the repose of the soul of Robert Bryan
- 1/4/23—Wednesday: **6:00PM at St Francis of Assisi**
- 1/5/23—Thursday: **8:00AM**
- 1/6/23—First Friday: **8:00AM at the Historic Chapel**
- 1/7/22—Saturday Vigil: **5:00PM**
Pro Populo / For the People
- 1/8/22—The Epiphany of the Lord
Saint Francis of Assisi Mission: **8:30AM**
Our Lady Star of the Sea: **11:00AM**
Birthday blessings for Samuel Dominici

Our offices will be closing at noon on Friday, Dec. 30th and reopening Tuesday, Jan. 3rd.



SAVE THE DATE

Get yourself picture ready! We are pleased to announce that our church is in the process of putting together a directory of all our parishioners at both Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Francis of Assisi. Professional photographs will be taken at OLSS March 2-7 and March 9-12. There will be a sign-up link on our website and in the bulletin at a later date. Stay tuned for more exciting details.

An active parishioner is a person who participates in the life of the Church. This means to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and share in Christ's role as priest, prophet and King. We are called to lead others to faith by our good example, through loving service to others, and offering our prayers, works and activities to God.

- **An active parishioner** is a person who has received or is preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.
- **An active parishioner** is a person who attends Mass regularly and actively supports the sacramental programs for Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. Parents who want a Catholic Faith Formation & Education for their children will see to it that their family attends Mass faithfully EVERY Sunday.
- **An active parishioner** gives of themselves by donating *TIME, TALENT and TREASURE* to the ministries of the parish and or to the volunteer organizations that support the parish. We are to share in the responsibilities that keep our Parish alive in a vibrant way. *And lastly,*
- **An active parishioner** is a good financial steward of the church. As a parishioner, it is important to understand that giving financially to support the parish is a vital and key component to active parishioner status.

WHY YOU NEED TO BE AN ACTIVE PARISHIONER

Parishioners desiring to rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Francis of Assisi Mission, seeking to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, or those wishing to be joined in Holy Matrimony must first be verified as "active members" of the parish. Please do not think, "Well, Father sees me and knows who I am," because the verification is not based on memory but what is in the database.

An Active Member:

- (1) Is properly registered on the parish rolls, with all contact information kept current.
- (2) Faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- (3) Participates in parish activities/ministries whenever possible; and
- (4) Consistently uses the parish envelope system for donations to support the parish ministries and other social and ministerial services. The envelope system tracks both Mass attendance and giving. **If you give online, please turn in your envelope at Mass and check "I've given electronically".**

An extended time with no activity will place a family on inactive status. This is important so that the Diocese does not assess OLSS & SFoA for Inactive parishioners.

If not yet registered, please complete our registration form on our website at [weareolss.org/Newcomers/Parish Registration](http://weareolss.org/Newcomers/Parish-Registration) or pickup a form from the ushers or in the parish office.

Thank you.



ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR BULLETIN!
CALL OUR OFFICE FOR DETAILS 912 -882- 4718

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FAMILY PRACTICE

Carlos A Levy, MD
Ashley Levy, FNP-C

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St Marys, Ga 31558
(912) 882-4254

DR. CARLOS A LEVY, MD - PARISHIONER

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Keith Brown

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BOB SPINO—PARISHIONER

Women's Help Center

904-628-0365

4209 University Blvd. S. Jacksonville, FL 32216
4116 Blanding Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32210
6210 Samuel Wells Dr #1201, Jacksonville, FL 32216
541841 US Hwy. 1, Callahan, FL 32011

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