



Our Lady Star of the Sea

CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE HOLY SITE FOR THE 2025
JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

SAINT MARY'S, GA

*Saint
Francis of Assisi
Catholic Mission*

FOLKSTON, GA



OFFICE HOURS & PHONE

Monday / Friday 9:00AM—2:00PM

Church Office 912-882-4718

Office Email— office@weareolss.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Susan Bayless

Parish Secretary

office@weareolss.org

Phoebe Ricard

Parish Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@weareolss.org

MINISTRY STAFF

Scott Dixon

Music Director

music@weareolss.org

Bryeant & Kristie Shepard

Directors of Religious Education

religioused@weareolss.org

COUNCILS

OLSS Pastoral Council

Darlene Logan—President

parishcouncil@weareolss.org

SFOA Pastoral & Finance Council

Tina Baxter—President

sfoaparish@weareolss.org

OLSS Finance Council

Kevin Wagner—President

financecouncil@weareolss.org

CLERGY

Rev. Mariusz Fuks

Pastor

pastor@weareolss.org

Rev. Mr. Timothy Hughes

Permanent Deacon

deacontim@weareolss.org

Rev. Mr. Paul Lang

Permanent Deacon

deaconpaul@weareolss.org

Rev. Mr. Henry Nieves

Permanent Deacon

deaconhenry@weareolss.org

Holy Rosary

30 Minutes prior to Mass

First Friday Mass

8:00 AM at Historic Chapel

Fridays Eucharistic

Adoration

5:30 PM—7:30 PM

OLSS SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil5:00PM

Sunday11:00 AM

OLSS DAILY SCHEDULE

MondayNo Service

Tuesday...Communion Service 5:30PM

Wednesday8:00AM

Thursday & FridayNo Services

SFOA SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday8:30 AM

SFOA DAILY SCHEDULE

WednesdayNo Service

OLSS CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

SFOA CONFESSIONS

30 minutes before Mass

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

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 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 INTENTIONS

8/16/25—Saturday Vigil 5:00PM Mass

+ *Lilly Tinker*

8/17/25—XX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30AM (St. Francis Mission)

Pro Populo / For the People

11:00AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)

+ *James John Sinkewicz*

8/23/25—Saturday vigil 5:00PM Mass

+ *Frank & Rose McNanna*

8/24/25—XXI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:30AM (St. Francis Mission)

11:00AM (Our Lady Star of the Sea)

Pro Populo / For the People

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

All the names of the sick we receive will be entered on the prayer list for one month, and then removed. If you would like your loved one to remain on the prayer list longer, please let us know, and we will happily oblige.

Fran Schneider



*A note
from the pastor*

For those families requesting a Letter of good standing, participation letter from the office for school registrations, Sacraments,

Godparent verification, etc., you must meet the following criteria:

1. Be officially registered in our parish for at least six months. Considerations will be taken for military families new to the parish and will be addressed on case-by-case basis.
2. Be in good standing which means you and your family regularly attend Mass and contribute to our offertory program. You must use your assigned envelope/giving number for these donations to be recorded properly. We understand that sometimes people are unable to give to the parish; however, placing your envelope, even if its empty, in the basket helps us determine that someone is in fact participating in the life of a parish.
3. If you have moved away and are not actively participating in our parish life, and if we have not seen you at mass for weeks and months, we may be unable to issue you with the above mentioned documents. Additionally, your standing within the parish may differ from those who consistently attend and share with our community their Time, Talent and Treasure.

Sacrament of Baptism in OLSS

A newborn child should be baptized within the first few months of life. A child who has reached the age of kindergarten should receive some basic instruction/preparation before reception of the Sacrament. In order to have a child baptized at Our Lady Star of the Sea, at least one parent must be a practicing Catholic, and registered in the OLSS Parish. A child to be baptized should normally have two Godparents, a male and a female. In order to serve as a Godparent, a person must be a practicing Roman Catholic, fully initiated, and at least sixteen years of age. A Godparent must supply a letter from his/her proper pastor indicating suitability to serve as a Godparent for Baptism. Parents are asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Class which lasts approximately one hour.

Sacrament of Marriage in OLSS

Those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage need to contact the church office for a list of instructions at least six months in advance of the anticipated wedding date. Definite plans for a particular date should not be made until such contact has been completed. Only when a priest or deacon has decided that he will officiate at the marriage, will a definite date be set. There is a requirement for marriage preparation classes. Options for these will be discussed when you meet with the priest or deacon you have chosen as your celebrant.

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

How much is good enough? How much is too much? How do we know when we've given all that is required of us? How do we know when we have been generous enough or faithful enough to please the Lord? How do we know we have done enough to avoid sin?

Today's second reading provokes self analysis in this regard: "In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood." While this may most often be interpreted as becoming a martyr, it also is similar to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemani. He sweat drops of blood because His whole being resisted the idea of enduring His Passion and Death.

How does our body react when we sin? Do we give into temptation so often that we don't even feel a ping to our conscience? Do we instantly regret what we have done and seek forgiveness from the person we have wronged? Do we look for the next available confession time? Do we let our sins pile up one upon the other and only seek the Sacrament when we can no longer stand it?

Our sins hurt His Sacred Heart. If we truly took that to heart, we would flee from sin so much more often. So let us turn away from sin and instead spread love and joy and truth. Let us set the earth on fire with the blazing love of God!

Jesus said in today's Gospel, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" He is anxious for the whole world to experience the fire of the Holy Spirit, not just two thousand years ago, but today as well.

When we are blazing with the Holy Spirit, we can change the world. But first, we must be transformed by that fire. We can live a good life without being transformed, but we cannot set the world on fire. We cannot help others be transformed by God's grace. It must begin with us.

What might that look like? It could be a miraculous moment like Paul being knocked down and hearing the voice of God. More common is a gradual movement of God that opens our eyes so we can see the world differently. Scripture comes alive and has more meaning. We see the most difficult people in our lives with compassion and charity. We notice crude language and immorality around us and reject it. We confidently talk about our faith and what God is doing in us, for us, and through us. Worship has meaning and is no longer an obligation, but a hunger. We desire holiness and virtue. We are filled with supernatural joy and peace and others notice. That's transformation.

When you are transformed, the people you live with may not be so thrilled. They stay the same and wonder what's wrong with you. Some might ignore your transformation. Others will avoid you or reject you. Still others will argue with you about it. In the same Gospel passage, Jesus tells us that He will bring division. There is conflict, accusation, rejection, complaining, threats, and sometimes separation. Jesus warned us.

Division is caused by Satan, not Jesus. He wants all people to be saved. He wants to open our minds to the truth, but some don't want to hear it. Does that mean we should stifle the Holy Spirit? Never! We have to love God more. We have to pray and fast for those who have not yet been transformed. We have to ask the Holy Spirit to give us holy boldness and prudence.

We can and should ask for more fire. God is always willing to give more. Are you willing to receive it? Be open to the blazing fire of the Spirit. Your transformation will help others open their hearts, minds and souls to God as well.

The gift of time is often taken for granted. If we live more mindfully of that gift, we waste less of it and maximize the moments in which we find ourselves. We give of ourselves in ways that are more meaningful and productive. The gift of tomorrow is not promised to you, but the gift of today has already been given. Use this day wisely because who knows what tomorrow may bring.

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 Boys: Always looking for new altar boys and experienced altar boys servers. For more information contact Jason Dominici at olssaltarservers@weareolss.org.

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

O CIA: Adults interested in learning about the Catholic Church email ocia@weareolss.org.

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 happen and end up in the hospital, please notify the Parish Office at 912-882-4718.

Religious Education: Classes for children grades K-8 are on Sundays during the school year, 9:15am—10:30am in the Religious Ed Building. Email Bryant and Kristie Shepard at religioused@weareolss.org.

Ladies Auxiliary: Fostering friendship in our faith community! Open to all women, ages 18-108! Meetings are help the 2nd Monday of the month at 6PM in the Social Hall. Funds generated at our Annual Christmas Bazaar are used to provide college scholarships, support the Youth Ministry & Vacation Bible School. We also provide prayer blankets for anyone who is ill or in the hospital—contact Darlene Logan (225-772-2797) or Tricia Jenkins (912-552-5683) for a blanket or additional information.

Knights of Columbus (K of C) is a global Catholic fraternal service order founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney on March 27, 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.

Ushers: Provide a welcoming presence to parishioners and visitors as they enter the church. If interested in becoming an usher, please call the church office, 912-882-4718.

Father's Hospitality Angels: Volunteers dedicated to serving our priest and parish through 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 (912-322-6857) for more information.

Legion of Mary: A lay organization to help the world by active works and prayers and to serve Jesus through Mary. Contact Maureen Van Horn (912-322-8672) or maureenvanhorn@tds.net.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Mon 8/18	NO SERVICE OLSS Ultreya 6:00PM— Social Hall
Tues 8/19	SFoA—9:30AM—Ladies Cursillo OLSS—5:30PM— COMMUNION SERVICE & ADORATION
Wed 8/20	OLSS—8:00 AM DAILY MASS SFoA—4:30PM—Men's Cursillo OLSS—5:30PM Legion of Mary—RE Building
Thurs 8/21	NO SERVICE SFoA—1PM Hands in Hands—Folkston Park Nursing Home OLSS—5:30PM—Ladies Cursillo—RE Building OLSS—5:30—Mens Cursillo—RE Building
Fri 8/22	OLSS—5:30PM to 7:30PM—COMMUNION SERVICE & ADORATION—MAIN CHURCH
Sat, 8/23	OLSS—5:00 PM—VIGIL MASS—MAIN CHURCH OLSS—6:00PM—Silent Auction—Social Hall
Sun, 8/24	SFOA—8:30AM MASS OLSS—11:00 AM MASS

Silent



Auction

*Fathers Angels invites you to a Wine and Cheese
Silent Auction*

Saturday

August 23rd at 6:30pm until 8:30pm.

*With many unique items in varying themes,
you'll be sure to find something you love.*

*Proceeds help support Fathers Angels ministries
outreach throughout the year and many Parish
projects*

Tickets are \$5 per person

*Includes access to the auction, appetizers, wine
and other drinks*

More Than
One Million
Copies Sold

Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

*Finding Intimacy with God
in the Busyness of Life*

JOANNA WEAVER

Bestselling author of *Having a Mary Spirit*

Women's Book Study

The Life of a woman today isn't all that different from the lives of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet...but the daily demands of a busy world just won't leave you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him...yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus, into the midst of your busy life, to extend the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters from Bethany. Tenderly, he invites you to choose t"the better part" - a joyful life of intimacy with him that flows naturally into loving service.

This 12-week study is centered on finding Intimacy with God in the Business of Life. Each weekly theme will be offered on Wednesday evenings (6:30—8:00 pm) and again on Friday mornings (9:00—10:30 am) in the OLSS Religious Education Building. Beginning on September 10th & 12th.

To sign up and for more information, contact Eileen Lang via email elang8484@gmail.com or call 732-489-1124.

The deadline for sign up is August 22nd to ensure we have time to order materials.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!!

It's that time of year!!! School has already begun, so we're gearing up for another great year of Religious Education! Classes will begin the first Sunday after Labor Day, September 7th, at 9:15 AM. Pick up is at 10:30 AM. To Register, go to www.weareolss.org and hover over the Ministries tab at the top. Go to RELIGIOUS EDUCATION and click. From there, you'll be able to register! Classes are for students in Kindergarten through 8th grade. For those in high school, use the same link and register for Catholic Youth Ministry. CYM meets on the same Sundays we have RE, from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM for food, fellowship, and fun! We look forward to another great year. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at religioused@weareolss.org.

Bryant and Kristie Shepard
Directors of Religious Education

OCIA REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), formerly RCIA, is the preparatory class for adults looking to gain more information and join the Catholic Church. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in joining us this year, please use the QR code to complete the registration form. Classes will begin the first Thursday after Labor Day (September 4, 2025), and meet every Thursday at 6:00 PM in the Religious Education building. If you have any questions, please send an email to ocia@weareolss.org.



OFFERTORY UPDATE

OLSS COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

AUGUST 10 2025	AUGUST 11, 2024
COLLECTION \$ 11,781.22	COLLECTION \$ 13,482.00
MAINTENANCE \$ 1,259.00	MAINTENANCE \$ 873.00

SFOA COMPARISON FROM LAST YEAR

AUGUST 10, 2025	AUGUST 11, 2024
COLLECTION \$ 1,450.00	COLLECTION \$ 830.00
MAINTENANCE \$ 350.00	MAINTENANCE \$ 843.50

The Parish Choir Needs You! Our church is in need of more singers, no experience necessary, just the love for music and community! We are looking for more singers for Saturday's 5PM Vigil mass and Sunday's 11AM Mass. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights. See Scott for more details. All are Welcome!





PARISHIONER



PARISHIONER



PARISHIONER



PARISHIONER



GREG & SUE LOCKHART

PARISHIONERS

**BE AWARE OF FRAUD/SCAM EMAILS FALSLY
PURPORTING TO BE SENT FROM FATHER MARIUSZ**

Unfortunately many parishioners have been receiving fraudulent e-mails from someone pretending to be me, Fr. Mariusz. Please be aware that our staff, to include myself, NEVER ask for any material favors, money, gift cards, gift certificates, etc., through e-mail or text message. Please do not respond to these emails, delete them, report them as spam.

**NEVER EVER TAKE ANY ACTIONS REQUESTED IN
THE E-MAILS OR TEXTS!!!**

Please be very cautious and careful since this was not the first time they tried to do it and probably not the last time they will try to do it.

Sincerely: Fr. Mariusz

