



December 14 – December 20

Wednesday: Mass-12:00 noon (English)

Baptism Class-6:00pm, Social Hall

Thursday: Confessions-6:00pm

Mass-7:00pm (Spanish)

Friday: Mass-12:00 noon (English)

Saturday:

5:00pm – Confessions

6:00pm – Vigil Mass (English)

Sunday:

8:00am – Mass, Holy Family (English)

9:30am – Mass, St. Paul (English)

12:00pm – Mass, St. Paul (Spanish)

“All of us, in union with Christ, form one body, and as part of it, we belong to each other.” Rom 12:5

***St. Paul Catholic
Church and Mission***

***Iglesia Católica San
Pablo y Mislone***

4178 Highway 441 South, Douglas, Georgia 31535

Parish Office Phone: 912-384-3560

Church email: saintpaul@windstream.net

Parish Website: www.stpaulmissions.org

Confessions: Thursday from 6:00-7:00pm,
Saturday 5:00-6:00 at St. Paul, or by appointment

Holy Family Catholic Church

126 Holy Family Rd., Willacoochee

Administration □ Administración

Parochial Administrator:

Rev. Saimel Perdomo

Deacon Ron Milkas

Church Secretary: Janet Benton

MASS INTENTIONS

INTENCIONES DE MISA

December 14 – December 20

Sunday, Dec. 14 – 12:00 Mass- Christopher & Fermin
Plascencia, Celestino Plascencia

Wednesday, Dec. 17 – Poor Souls in Purgatory

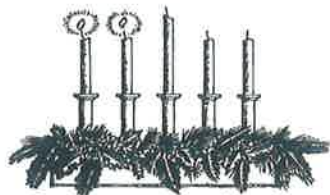
Thursday, Dec. 18 – Neria Kasubis Feria

Friday, Dec. 19 – Our Parishioners, Special Intention

Saturday, Dec. 20 –Our Parishioners who are ill

**Our Mission
Statement
Declaración
de Misión**

**"Nosotros, siendo muchos, formamos
un solo cuerpo en Cristo, y en ese
cuerpo cada uno esta al servicio de los
demás." Rm 12,5**



Third Sunday of Advent Reflection

Dear Parishioners:

The Church celebrates today the third Sunday of Advent, as we light the rose candle, we hear the voice of the prophet Isaiah who invites us to rejoice because the Lord manifests his glory and saves his people. The consequence of this manifestation is a renewal of our trust and confidence, regaining new strength and casting out all fear.

The Gospel teaches us today that if we want to follow the Lord's path, we are not supposed to look only for the great miracles; most of the time God shows his power in the new light we receive to contemplate the reality with new lenses, in the strength to continue to walk amid many uncertainties, in the disposition to listen or in the miracle of having been made cleansed after the sacrament of confession. This is why Jesus says to the disciples of John the Baptist: "blessed is the one who takes not offense at me." If we want to receive the joy that comes from the Lord, we need to try to understand how He shows his vindication, letting goodness always prevail over evil and giving as an example of patience.

In both of our communities we have concrete reasons to rejoice. We celebrate today the first Mass in our remodeled chapel at Holy Family. We are so grateful for these months of hard work and service. Moreover, today we rejoice because the Blessed Sacrament will be present in our chapel

again, because we will be able to celebrate Christmas in the church and because the whole community feels renewed and blessed. At Saint Paul we are very happy and pleased as well, for the Guadalupe festival and for the participation of many people who have served for many months. We are especially grateful this year for the visit of four Sisters, "Siervas de Jesus," from Miami. We are grateful also for the big attendance at the breakfast with Santa this year.

I invite you to give thanks to God once again for the joy of our Faith and for his goodness that endures forever. Let us all continue our preparation for Christmas with joy and openness to God's grace.

Fr. Saimel Perdomo



CHRISTMAS EVE/ NOCHEBUENA DECEMBER 24, 2025

**4:00pm—ST. PAUL, CHILDREN'S MASS,
(ENGLISH)**

6:00pm—HOLY FAMILY

**11:00pm—ST. PAUL, MIDNIGHT MASS
(SPANISH)**

CHRISTMAS DAY/ DIA DE NAVIDAD DECEMBER 25, 2025

9:30am—ST. PAUL (ENGLISH)

11:00am—ST. PAUL (SPANISH)

Parish Office closed December 23-26.



GARTLAND AWARD RECIPIENT

We congratulate Nancy Jacobs, who received from Bishop Stephen Parkes the 2025 Gartland Award. Named for the first Bishop of our Diocese, the awards are given to parishioners for outstanding service to their parishes. Congratulations, Nancy!



Tercer Domingo de Adviento

Reflexión

Queridos feligreses:

La Iglesia celebra hoy el tercer domingo de Adviento, y al encender la vela rosa, escuchamos la voz del profeta Isaías, quien nos invita a regocijarnos porque el Señor manifiesta su gloria y salva a su pueblo. La consecuencia de esta manifestación es la renovación de nuestra fe y confianza, recuperando nuevas fuerzas y desterrando todo temor.

El Evangelio de hoy nos enseña que, si queremos seguir el camino del Señor, no debemos buscar solo los grandes milagros; la mayoría de las veces, Dios muestra su poder en la nueva luz que recibimos para contemplar la realidad con una nueva perspectiva, en la fuerza para seguir adelante en medio de tantas incertidumbres, en la disposición a escuchar o en el milagro de haber sido purificados después del sacramento de la confesión. Por eso Jesús les dice a los discípulos de Juan el Bautista: «Bienaventurado el que no se escandaliza de mí». Si queremos recibir la alegría que proviene del Señor, debemos esforzarnos por comprender cómo Él manifiesta su justicia, permitiendo que el bien prevalezca siempre sobre el mal y dándonos ejemplo de paciencia.

En ambas comunidades tenemos motivos concretos para alegrarnos. Hoy celebramos la primera Misa en nuestra capilla remodelada de la Sagrada Familia. Estamos muy agradecidos por estos meses de arduo trabajo y servicio. Además, hoy nos alegramos porque el Santísimo Sacramento estará presente nuevamente en nuestra capilla, porque podremos celebrar la Navidad en la iglesia y porque toda la comunidad se siente renovada y bendecida. En San Pablo también estamos muy contentos y satisfechos por la fiesta de Guadalupe y por la participación de tantas personas que han colaborado durante muchos meses. Este año estamos especialmente agradecidos por la visita de cuatro hermanas, Siervas de Jesús, de Miami. También agradecemos la gran asistencia al desayuno con Santa Claus de este año.

Los invito a dar gracias a Dios una vez más por la alegría de nuestra fe y por su bondad que perdura para siempre. Continuemos nuestra preparación para la Navidad con alegría y apertura a la gracia de Dios.

Padre Saimel Perdomo

MISA DE ANIVERSARIO DE BODAS DE ORO Y PLATA

**25th o 50th aniversario
de bodas en 2026**

**15 de febrero de 2026, 1:00pm
Catedral-Basílica de San Juan
El Baptista, Savannah**

**RSVP antes del 25 de enero:
diosav.org/gold-and-silver**

FYI
~FOR YOUR INFORMATION~

TOY DRIVE

St. Paul is having a Toy Drive to collect new, unwrapped toys to give children this Christmas Season. Your donations can be placed in the designated box in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

In memory/honor of: Jerry Batten, Bill & Evelyn Aldridge, Larry Ferguson, Pablo Arandela, Luz Arandela, Larry Ferguson, Jr., Von Williams, Trish Irving, Tony Williams, Nick Williams, Justin Williams, Buddie & Ruby Williams

Additional donations from: Mr. & Mrs. Roberto Torres, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. James Dennis, Mr. George Keaveney, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Ross, Mr. & Mrs. Roberto Torres, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo Gomez, Mrs. Maria Mandujano & Mr. Felipe Escobar, Mr. Ruben Tinajero & Mrs. Maria De Jesus Saenz

NEXT BAPTISM CLASS

The next baptism class is Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00pm in the social hall for parents & godparents who want to baptize their child.

LA PRÓXIMA CLASE DE BAUTISMO

La próxima clase de bautismo será miércoles 17 de diciembre a las 6:00pm en el salón social para padres y padrinos.

AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP

St. Paul

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| FY Offertory Budget | \$305,000.00 |
| Received to date | 167,777.00 |
| Received 12-7-25 | 8,645.00 |
| FY Bldg Fund Budget | 144,000.00 |
| Received to date | 15,834.00 |
| Received 12-7-25 | 2,159.00 |

Offertory: Holy Family

Sun. (12-7-25): \$630.00

OUR WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
OUR ARMED FORCES**

Jose Bardomiano, Brenda Contreras, Sgt. Blake Downs (N. Carolina), MSgt. Emmanuel Gamboa (New Mexico), Kristopher Lentz (Fort Campbell, Kentucky), April M. Martin (Japan), Michael Martinez, CW3 Jeb S. McKinnon (USA), Martin Rios, Candise R. Rolerson (Wichita Falls, TX), Juan Vargas, Erick Vilches, Octavio Rodriguez, Rolando Chavez

**Pray for us that we
may be healed.**

Mary Bodnar, James Bookhardt, Benny Carino, Lee Ann Cash, Toby Cash, Maria Gomez, Gilbert Hernandez, Larry Hinson, Pong Holton, Tina Hoover, Norman Lafond, **Donnie Lott**, Carlo Maini, Roxanne Maini, Kayla Marlow, Margaret Milkas, Don Nolan, Malou Navarro, Ian Nugent, David Perry, Lou Pierce, David Powell, Andrew Smith, Gene Waldron, Ramona Witthoft, A.D. & Mary Young, Rosario Zoffranieri

PLEASE REMEMBER:

No Food to be eaten in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, Day Chapel or Main Church—food may only be eaten in the Social Hall.

No hay Comida Para comer en las aulas, los pasillos, los baños, la capilla diurna y la iglesia principal--solo en salón social.

CAPÍTULO PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE NIÑOS

Visite la página Web de la diócesis para leer el código: www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection o 888-357-5330.

CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Visit website: www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection
Or call 888-357-5330 to report knowledge of abuse.

ADVENT

SAYING "YES" TO GOD

The will of God is to make each of us "full of grace," just like Mary. A wonderfully appropriate Scripture passage for Advent, the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38) is a main part of the Christmas story.

Christ became human because Mary was willing to yield to "the power of the Most High." Without Mary's assent at the Annunciation, God's plan for the Incarnation would have had to unfold another way. Mary's co-operation was essential, for God does not force his creatures to bend to his will. Rather, we are invited to cooperate with grace.

Mary serves as a model for each of us who have also been invited to cooperate with God's transforming presence. Christ can only be born in us if we, like Mary, are willing to say "Yes" to God's invitation and open ourself to the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. Like Mary, we are all called to nurture and give birth to Jesus so that he may be born anew in our hearts and in our world.

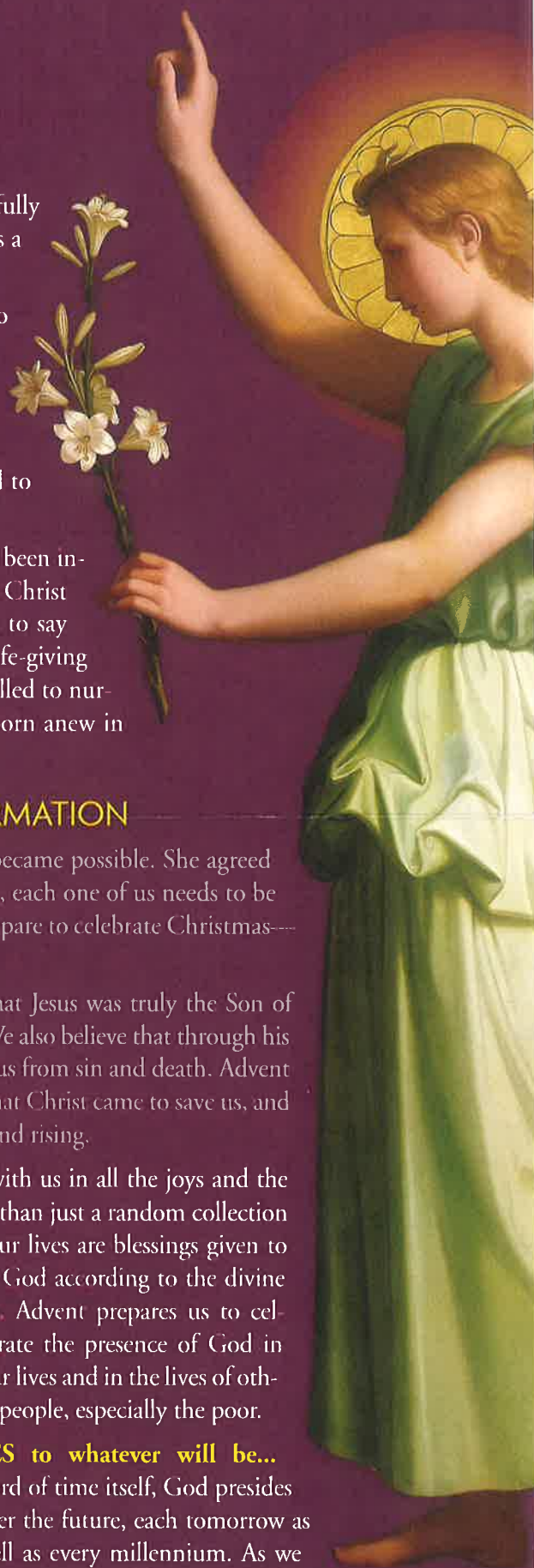
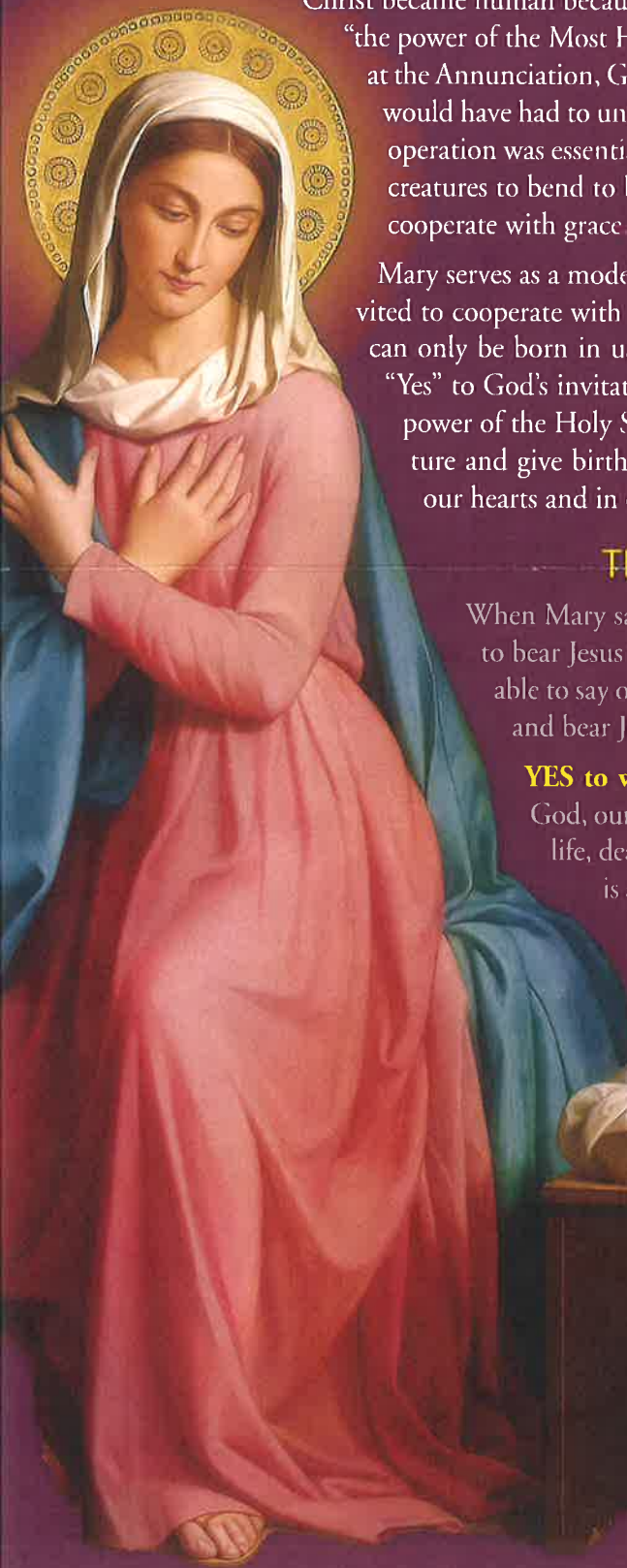
THE SEASON OF AFFIRMATION

When Mary said "Yes" to God, Christmas became possible. She agreed to bear Jesus in her womb. During Advent, each one of us needs to be able to say our own "Yes" to God as we prepare to celebrate Christmas—and bear Jesus in our hearts.

YES to what has been... We affirm that Jesus was truly the Son of God, our Emmanuel, God-With-Us. We also believe that through his life, death and resurrection, he saved us from sin and death. Advent is a time for us to acknowledge that Christ came to save us, and he did just that by his dying and rising.

YES to what is... God is with us in all the joys and the sorrows of our lives. More than just a random collection of atoms, our lives are blessings given to us by God according to the divine plan. Advent prepares us to celebrate the presence of God in our lives and in the lives of other people, especially the poor.

YES to whatever will be... Lord of time itself, God presides over the future, each tomorrow as well as every millennium. As we yearn for the full coming of the kingdom of God, our desire for the coming of Christ gets renewed in Advent.



THE “O ANTIPHONS”

The **O Antiphons** refer to the seven verses that are recited (or chanted) preceding the *Magnificat* during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, December 17-23. These antiphons form the basis of the Advent hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” put to music in 15th century France.

December 17—*O Wisdom*, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

December 18—*O Sacred Lord* of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

December 19—*O Flower of Jesse’s Stem*, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

December 20—*O Key of David*, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

December 21—*O Radiant Dawn*, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice, come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22—*O King* of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O Keystone of the mighty arch of humanity, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

December 23—*O Emmanuel*, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

THE SYMBOLS OF ADVENT

The **Advent Wreath** and the **Colors of Advent** are probably the most popular symbols of the season. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches where four candles (and often a fifth, in the center) are arranged. During Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each week representing the coming of the Lord. The first, second and fourth weeks’ candles are **violet**, the primary color of Advent, symbolizing royalty as we await the birth of Jesus Christ our King. The **rose** colored candle used during the third week represents joy as Christmas draws nearer. If used, **white** is the color of the center candle, representing the purity of Christ.

Another symbol, **The Jesse Tree** represents the family tree of Christ as a member of the royal family of King David, whose father was Jesse. Through this family history (see Mt 1:6-16), the story of God’s salvation plan is recalled in the royal line from Jesse to the coming of the Messiah. Each day of Advent a homemade ornament is added to the Jesse Tree, a small tree made of evergreen branches. These symbolic ornaments each represent a family member, event or prophecy that moves God’s plan to fulfillment in Jesus.

Other symbols include a **Nativity Scene (Crèche)** representing the birth of Jesus, and often including figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, angels, and animals. **Angels**, which are significant in the Advent season as messengers of God’s announcement of Jesus’ birth to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. **Evergreens**, plants like holly, ivy, and pine represent eternal life and God’s everlasting love.

FEASTS OF MARY DURING ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Immaculate Conception December 8 (December 9th this year). Mary, conceived through an act of love by her mother and father, was born free of original sin and its effects from the first moment of her existence. This special privilege was conferred on her through God’s grace in anticipation of the Redemption.

Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12. This feast celebrates the apparition of Mary to Juan Diego in the hills near Mexico City in 1531. Diego’s cloak bore the image of Mary and has become Mexico’s most popular religious symbol. This appearance encouraged native peoples to embrace Christianity.

Mary, Mother of God January 1. The Council of Ephesus (431), one of the earliest councils of the Church, declared that Christ was divine as well as human and that Mary, therefore, could be called not only as “the Mother of Jesus,” but also as “the Mother of God.”



MASS READINGS FOR ADVENT 2024

1st Sunday Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:12—4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

2nd Sunday Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6

3rd Sunday Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18

4th Sunday Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Third Sunday of
ADVENT



ST PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH PRESENTS A

TOY DRIVE

**GIVE A TOY
LIGHT UP A HOLIDAY**

DONATIONS ACCEPTED FROM NOW UNTIL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21



NEW TOYS ONLY

IGLESIA CATOLICA SAN PABLO PRESENTA UNA

COLECTA DE JUGUETES

REGALA UN JUGUETE
ILUMINA UN DIA FESTIVO

SE ACEPTAN DONACIONES
DESDE AHORA HASTA

DOMINGO
21 DE DICIEMBRE



Solo juguetes nuevos

CAMPAIGN UPDATE



**HARVEST
of HOPE**

COSECHA de ESPERANZA

WE PRAY TOGETHER

Heavenly Father, who in Your providence have brought us together at this time and in this place, we ask You to guide, inspire, and bless our Diocese of Savannah and the Harvest of Hope campaign.

Provide us, Your children, with the rich soil of faith, hope, and love, that the seeds we are planting now will bear abundant fruit for generations.

As we work together for the full coming of Your kingdom, O Lord, may we find a new way of belonging to You and to one another, rejoicing always in Your generosity.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Planting seeds for the future of
the Diocese of Savannah*



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

CAMPAIGN NUMBERS

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge or a donation to the Harvest of Hope campaign!

ST. PAUL, DOUGLAS

- We currently have 161 pledges and donations
- For a total of \$364,862 (The goal is \$275,695)
- This is 132% of our total goal!

HOLY FAMILY, WILLACOOCHEE

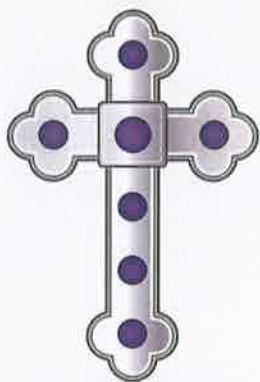
- We currently have 10 pledges and donations
- For a total of \$21,711 (The goal is \$21,496)
- This is 101% of our total goal!

If you have not pledged, join us in order to make this campaign a great success!

As a reminder, the Harvest of Hope campaign is over a 3 year period. If you pledged, you will be having payment envelopes sent to your address. You will be receiving these envelopes at the end of September. We will also have payment envelopes for the campaign here at our church. Don't forget your payments!

Thank you to our office staff who have done such a wonderful job throughout the campaign. A special thank you to Fr. Saimel Perdomo, Janet Benton, Gary Holland, and Nancy Jacobs!

For more information, please contact our campaign director Bryan Bedoya at 512-608-1360 or bbedoya@guidanceingiving.com



HARVEST of HOPE **COSECHA de ESPERANZA**

ORAMOS JUNTOS

Padre Celestial, que nos has reunido hoy y aquí en Tu providencia, te pedimos guíes, inspires y bendigas nuestra Diócesis de Savannah y la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza.

Otorga Señor a Tus hijos, el terreno rico de la fe, esperanza y el amor, para que las semillas que sembramos hoy den frutos abundantes para las generaciones venideras.

Mientras trabajamos juntos por la venida plena de Tu reino, Señor, que encontremos una nueva forma de ser para Ti y para los demás, regocijándonos siempre en Tu generosidad.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo Nuestro Señor. Amén.

Sembrando semillas para el futuro de la Diócesis de Savannah.



NÚMEROS DE LA CAMPAÑA

¡Gracias a todos los que se han comprometido o han hecho un donativo a la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza!

SAN PABLO, DOUGLAS

- Tenemos 161 compromisos y donaciones
- Para un total de \$364,862 (La meta es \$275,695)
- ¡Esto es 132% de nuestra meta total!

SAGRADA FAMILIA, WILLACOOCHIEE

- Tenemos 10 compromisos y donaciones
- Para un total de \$21,711 (La meta es \$21,496)
- ¡Esto es 101% de nuestra meta total!

Si aún no te has comprometido con nosotros, ¡únete a la causa para que esta campaña sea un gran éxito!

Como recordatorio, la campaña Cosecha de Esperanza tiene una duración de 3 años. Si se comprometió, se le enviarán sobres de pago a su dirección. Los sobres le llegarán al final de septiembre. También tendremos sobres de pago para la campaña aquí en nuestra iglesia. ¡No olvide hacer sus pagos!

Gracias al personal de nuestra oficina, que han hecho un trabajo maravilloso durante toda la campaña. ¡Un agradecimiento especial para el Padre Saimel Perdomo, Janet Benton, Gary Holland y Nancy Jacobs!

Para más información, póngase en contacto con nuestra directora de la campaña Bryan Bedoya en el 512-608-1360 o bbedoya@guidanceingiving.com

Jubilee 2025

We Are Pilgrims of Hope

On May 9, 2024 Pope Francis solemnly announced that the Church's Jubilee year 2025 "will be a Holy Year marked by a lively experience of grace and an opportunity to be renewed in the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth, where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises."

"Hope is the virtue that gives inward direction and purpose to the life of believers so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic; and that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that, in the Spirit of Jesus, these can become, for those who receive them, rich seeds of hope."

Our Pilgrimage Journey to and with Jesus

A pilgrimage is both an outer journey to a sacred place, and an inner journey to meet Christ and deepen our relationship with him. Thus Pope Francis desires that this Jubilee Year be a time "to encourage and sustain the hope that guides our steps towards the goal of a genuine, personal encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, who is not only the destination of our earthly pilgrimage but also a constant presence in our lives. I invite everyone to place their trust in the Lord who not only guides us, but is God-with-us, who loves us and walks with us in every circumstance of life. He shows us the path of love, lifts us up when we fall and supports us in our labors, opens our eyes to see our wretchedness and that of the world, but at the same time fills us with hope."



THE MEANING OF THE JUBILEE LOGO: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The official logo of the 2025 Jubilee Year shows four colorful pilgrims, who symbolize all of humanity coming from all directions on their common journey to Christ. As they embrace each other in unity, the figure in front grasps the cross, which is the sign of our hope that united with Jesus we will also move through our death to new life. The elongated cross also changes at its base into an anchor, which was an ancient sign of hope because sailors used the anchor to stabilize ships during storms. So during the challenges of our daily lives and the events of the wider world symbolized by the rough waves beneath the pilgrims, hope keeps us focused on the goal of our pilgrimage to draw ever closer to encounter the Risen Christ.



WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

The jubilee year (from the Hebrew word *yobel*, meaning horn, which was blown to proclaim the year's beginning) is an ancient Jewish tradition (see Leviticus 25:8-17, 29-31) of pardon and reconciliation celebrated every 50 years (after a "sabbath of sabbaths," 7 x 7 years) when the community imitated God's mercy and forgiveness by forgiving debts and by each family returning to its own land and not cultivating it that year.

This jubilee tradition was first adapted for Catholics in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII as a universal "year of forgiveness of all sins." Since that time the "ordinary" jubilee years have usually been at 50 or now 25 year intervals (the last was in 2000), with other "extraordinary" jubilee years declared for special reasons like that of Mercy in 2015. Jubilee years are characterized especially by prayer, good works, pilgrimages to sacred sites (especially Rome), cultural events and special indulgences for those who participate.

THE HOLY DOOR OF ST. PETER'S

Since the 1500's, the ceremonial opening at St. Peter's Basilica of the usually locked massive bronze Holy Door (also called the "Door of the Great Pardon" since its 16 panels portray various biblical scenes of sin and redemption) begins each Jubilee Year. After reciting specific prayers and invoking the Holy Spirit, the Pope pushes open the door and enters the Church, inviting pilgrims likewise to renew their spiritual journey and cross the threshold.



The opening of the Holy Door invites the faithful to embark on a journey of even deeper faith. Crossing the threshold of the door is a powerful act, inspired by Jesus' words in John 10:9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." This passage highlights the transformative experience of entering through the Holy Door, symbolizing the decision to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The door serves as a physical and spiritual gateway, leading pilgrims into the sacred space of the church and inviting them to renew their commitment to their faith.

2025 JUBILEE PRAYER PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation of a
new heaven and a new earth, when,
with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. *Amen.*



For more information on the 2025
Jubilee Year of Hope and how you may
participate more fully see the Vatican's
official website at
www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html

ST PAUL'S COLUMBARIUM



*St Paul now offers a
serene and sacred place
for deceased loved ones.*

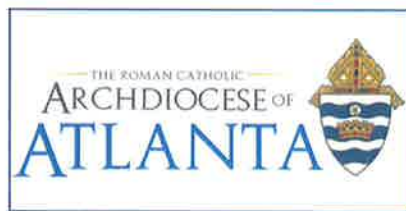


“LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”

P.S. 122

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

- Meet with the Priest is who is to perform the ceremony
- Bring Baptism and Confirmation certificates
- Must complete a pre-Cana (marriage) class either through the Diocese of Savannah, Arch-Diocese of Atlanta or the Diocese of St Augustine.
- Complete all necessary forms
- At least one of the witnesses **must be** Catholic.





Say to the fearful of heart:

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God,

he comes with vindication;

With divine recompense

he comes to save you.

ISAIAH 35:4



The Gift of Questions

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

We sometimes imagine that a sign of a strong faith is firm conviction and freedom from doubt. However, despite our imaginings, the authentic experiences of saints and ordinary people alike seem to point in another direction. The question of John the Baptist today—"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3)—suggests that John is filled with questions, and these are important questions because they are asked from the depths of King Herod's prison, which is not exactly the place of idle musings or concerns.

If John, who is a great saint and a man who encountered Jesus and witnessed the powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit at his baptism, can have a question, doesn't it suggest that questions are acceptable—perhaps even needed? Perhaps questioning is an indication of faithfulness, not a lack of faith. Questions do not suggest that something is missing; rather, they confirm that something is growing and developing. The Baptist could just have easily said, "Jesus, you are doing and saying more than I ever imagined possible. Please help me to understand," or, to quote an unnamed saint, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24).

God will not shatter, and faith will not collapse, because you have questions or doubts.

Experience suggests that questions and doubts strengthen our belief and our commitment to a life of faith. ●



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LEARN ABOUT
AUTHOR
FR. THOMAS M.
SANTA, CSSR

Reflect

Do I welcome questions, mine and others, as a way to grow in faith?

Dear Padre,

Does the Bible say that Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy at the Annunciation?

The announcement of Jesus' birth in Luke begins, "In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph...and the virgin's name was Mary" (Luke 1:26-27). This Scripture passage taken out of context could possibly give the impression that "in the sixth month" refers to Mary. However, it refers to Mary's cousin Elizabeth, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy with John the Baptist. The proper context is a few verses before this one that reads, "Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months" (Luke 1:24).

Regarding Mary's pregnancy, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel tells her, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (Luke 1:31, 35). Gabriel also informs Mary, "And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren" (Luke 1:36).

In general, women already in their sixth month of pregnancy would likely be aware of their condition, and it would not be easy to conceal from others. ●



GEMINI

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| December 15 | December 16 | December 17 | December 18 | December 19 | December 20 | December 21 |
| Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Advent Weekday | Fourth Sunday of Advent |
| Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a | Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Mt 21:28-32 | Gn 49:2, 8-10 Mt 1:1-17 | Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25 | Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Lk 1:5-25 | Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38 | Is 7:10-14 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24 |



ALESSIA PIERDOMENICO / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

There are many settings in which the Christian faith is considered absurd.... Yet, precisely for this reason, they are the places where our missionary outreach is desperately needed. A lack of faith is often tragically accompanied by the loss of meaning in life, the neglect of mercy, appalling violations of human dignity, the crisis of the family, and so many other wounds that afflict our society.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 9, 2025