

## St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church



### **St. Joseph Athens Parish Trip to see Pope Francis**

Join the people of St. Joseph Parish and Fr. Gaurav Shroff on a 5-day trip to see Pope Francis in Philadelphia, September 25-29. Also included, a visit to Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the home of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, from Emmitsburg, MD, and a visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the St. John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington DC. The pilgrimage starts in Baltimore the evening of Friday, September 25 and ends in Washington DC on Tuesday, September 29.

Cost is \$150, which includes a charter bus service to all sites, and \$218 per-night for 4 nights of hotel accommodations in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, breakfast included. Other meals and air transportation to & from Baltimore not included (airfare \$246).

If you are interested, you will need to contact Lynn Renna. For more information contact Lynn by the deadline of May 1st at [lynnrenna@att.net](mailto:lynnrenna@att.net) or 706-338-3434. Or call Marilyn Potat at 770-775-1086 if you have any questions.

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### **Prayer & Study Group**

St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church, Thursdays, at 1:15pm. Come join us for fellowship, knowledge, and prayer. During the next session we will be studying "What's So Amazing About Grace?" Author: Philip Yancy.

For more information please call the facilitator LaDonna O'Bryon at (706)468-8905 or Rita Zinner at (770)775-1888.



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Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers:

Joseph Solis, Dylan Brimberry, Layna Deraney, Gabriel Duffey, Madison James, Jorge Moreno, and Mark Myles.

### **The Women's Guild**

Our next event will be our Parish picnic at Dauset Trails. Save the date. Sunday, April 26th at 2:00pm

Please fill out the sign up sheet with the number who will attend and the side dish you will bring.

The church will be providing Main dish and hot dogs. The picnic will be held at Pavilion #1 rain or shine (unless there are severe storms). Pavilion #1 is close to the Animal Trail and Visitor's Center.



**Intercessions for Life**

For all people: may we realize our own God-given dignity,  
as well as the dignity of others;  
We pray to the Lord:



Offertory

\$ 3,499.00

Thank you to those of you who signed up to begin Online Giving. If you have not yet signed up for Online Giving, please prayerfully consider this option. Not only can it be used along with our offering envelopes, it will also help decrease busy work for our wonderful volunteers, reduce expenses, and allow the parish to count on a steadier stream of income. You can visit the parish website at [www.stmaryjackson.parishesonline.com](http://www.stmaryjackson.parishesonline.com) to sign up or receive more information.

For those of you who use our online giving program thank you. If you have any questions please feel free to call Cathy at 770-775-4162.

**Mass Intentions:****Requested for:****Requested By:**

Apr. 27	Saturday	Kristopher Stark †	Stark Family
Apr. 28	Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Apr. 29	Wednesday		
Apr. 30	Thursday		
May 1	Friday	Hugh and Marcella Glidewell †	
May 2	Saturday		
May 3	Sunday	Our Parishioners	

**Saturday, May 2, 5:00 PM****Lectors:** Billy Glidewell**Extraordinary Ministers:** Rich McPhee and Eva White**Altar Servers:** Any Available**Ushers:** Tom Matelski and Ron Sicina**Sunday, May 3, 9:00 AM****Lector:** Bill Myles**Extraordinary Ministers:** Kathy Abood, Teresa Miller, Bob Lipscomb, John Lueken, and \*\*Bill Hunter**Altar Servers:** Chloe Patterson and KC Edwards**Crucifer:** Rachel Weaver**Gift Bearers:** Marilyn Potat and Janet Xanders**Ushers:** Mark Hofmann and Jerry Holland**Greeters:** Bob and Mary Ann Lipscomb**Readings for the Week****Monday:**

Acts 11:1-18

Jn 10:1-10

**Tuesday:**

Acts 11:19-26

Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday:**

Acts 12:24--13:5a

Jn 12:44-50

**Thursday:**

Acts 13:13-25

Jn 13:16-20

**Friday:**

Acts 13:26-33

Jn 14:1-6

**Joseph the Worker:**Gn 1:26--2:3 or Col 3:14-15,  
17, 23-24

Mt 13:54-58

**Saturday:**

Acts 13:44-52

Jn 14:7-14

**Sunday:**

Acts 9:26-31

1 Jn 3:18-24

Jn 15:1-8

**The Flowers on the Altar  
this weekend**

were generously donated in  
Loving memory of  
Kristopher Lee Stark †

**Liturgical Schedule**

# St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

## **Please remember the following people in your prayers:**

LaDonna O'Bryon, George Hofmann, Ginny Markham, Jan Jost, Tom O'Bryon, and David Haistens.



It has been decided by our Pastoral Council that names, like always, can be placed on our Prayer List for a period of approximately three months. At that time, if you wish to keep the name of you or your loved one on the Prayer List please call the office. If you or a loved one are in need of prayers and/or the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the office at 770-775-4162.

### **Membership and Registration**

Welcome to St. Mary, Mother of God, Church. We would be delighted to have you join our Parish Family. Please complete a registration form available in the Parish Hall in the Armoire.



Please do not take for granted that you are registered in the parish just because you attend Mass here or that you were registered as a child with your parents. When you become an adult, you should register under your own name. If not, it could become quite embarrassing to us, or to you or your family, if someone wants to make wedding plans, have a baby baptized, or if you have been asked to act as a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation which requires a letter from us stating that you are a practicing Catholic. To do this, we should have a record of your membership and attendance. Please take a moment to register. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm. Thank you.

Remember, the following parishes provide the Catholic chaplains for these hospitals:

- Sylvan Grove Hospital - St. Mary, Mother of God, Jackson 770-775-4162
- Spalding Regional Hospital - Sacred Heart, Griffin 770-227-2378
- Henry Medical Center - St. James, McDonough 770-957-5441
- Southern Regional Hospital - St. Philip Benizi, Jonesboro 770-478-0178
- Piedmont Hospital - Christ the King Cathedral, Atlanta 404-233-2145
- Crawford Long Hospital - Sacred Heart, Atlanta 404-522-6800
- Emory Hospital - St. Thomas More, Decatur 404-378-4588
- Newton General Hospital - St. Augustine's, Covington 770-787-1064

If someone in your family is admitted to one of these hospitals, the parish responsible for that hospital should be notified as well as notifying St. Mary, Mother of God, Church. They will have people serving that hospital on a regular basis and are closest in an emergency situation.

### **SACRAMENTAL GUIDELINES**

**Baptisms-** In order to have a child baptized in this parish: (a) at least one parent must be a practicing Catholic and a registered member of this parish for at least 3 months, and (b) the parents must take the Baptism Class unless they have taken the class within the last 3 years.

**First Holy Communion** –In order to receive First Holy Communion, a child must: (a) be at least 7 years old and a registered member of this parish, (b) be able to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the sacrament, and (c) have been in the Faith Formation program for at least one year prior to the taking the First Holy Communion program.

**Confirmation--** In order to be Confirmed, a youth must (a) be a baptized and practicing Catholic, (b) a registered member of this parish, (c) at least 15 years old or a sophomore in high school, and (d) have been in the Faith Formation program for at least 2 years immediately prior to the Confirmation program. ( Adults and those in OCIA follow different guidelines.)

**Marriage** – A couple wishing to be married at St. Mary, Mother of God must fulfill these requirements: (a) at least one of them must be a practicing Catholic and registered in this parish ( a former member of the parish or others must have a letter of permission from their current pastor authorizing them to marry outside of that parish); (b) they must have indicated to the priest or deacon of this parish their desire to be married here at least 6 months prior to the projected date of their marriage; and (c) have completed the required Marriage Preparation program. No arrangements for a reception should be made until the date for the projected marriage has been confirmed by the Parish Office.



Archbishop Gregory invites you and your parish family to join him and Catholics from across the Archdiocese to gather for this year's Eucharistic Congress at the Georgia International Convention Center, June 5th and June 6th, 2015. We take this opportunity to reconnect with friends, spend quiet time in prayer and listen to dynamic speakers such as Fr. Bob Barron, Stephen Ray, Lino Rulli, and Teresa Tomeo.

As always it is vital that we have volunteers so that this event runs smoothly.

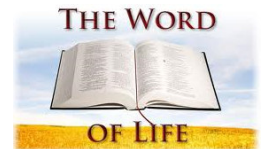
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Eucharistic Congress 2015:** "I will be with you always". The Eucharistic Congress comes this year to the Georgia International Convention Center Friday, June 5th – Saturday, June 6th. **Please prayerfully consider giving time as a volunteer... your generosity will be much appreciated.** Volunteer registration closes as of May 1st so that plans may be made according to the number of volunteers committed at that time. Of particular need each year are volunteers for the Kids Track...please help spread the word that the number of children who can register and participate in the Kid Track depends completely on the number of adult volunteers registered by May 1st.

Please register on-line using the link below or if you can not register online contact St. Mary, Mother of God office for registration forms.

<http://congress.archatl.com/volunteers/>

"I pray that at every level a general commitment to support the family will reappear and be strengthened, so that today too—even amid so many difficulties and serious threats—the family will always remain, in accordance with God's plan, the 'sanctuary of life'."

— Pope Saint John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae)*, no. 6) © 1995 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.



### St. Mary, Mother of God Mission Statement

The mission of St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church is given by Christ's command to go out into the whole world and preach the Gospel to all the people. This is done in union with , and subject to our Holy Father Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Atlanta, Wilton Gregory. We answer God's call to enter his Mystical Body, known through his visible Church on earth. Striving to be his holy people, we avail ourselves of God's means of grace, especially the frequent reception of the sacraments, fervent prayer and our connection to the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church.

Anyone wishing to request a Mass intention or flowers for the Altar should contact the church office for date and availability.

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING**  
**1-888-437-0764 (24 hours a day) or**  
**404-888-7804**

**PATH:** If you need help in healing from an abortion. Brochures can be found in the Armoire. Please call Mary Ann McNeil at 404-896-6521.

If you wish to have an item placed into the weekly church bulletin. It must be to the church office no later than 12 noon on Monday (**at least 2 weeks before your scheduled event**). It must be in writing, there are forms in the church office or you can email it to [stmarysinjackson@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmarysinjackson@bellsouth.net).

Thank you.

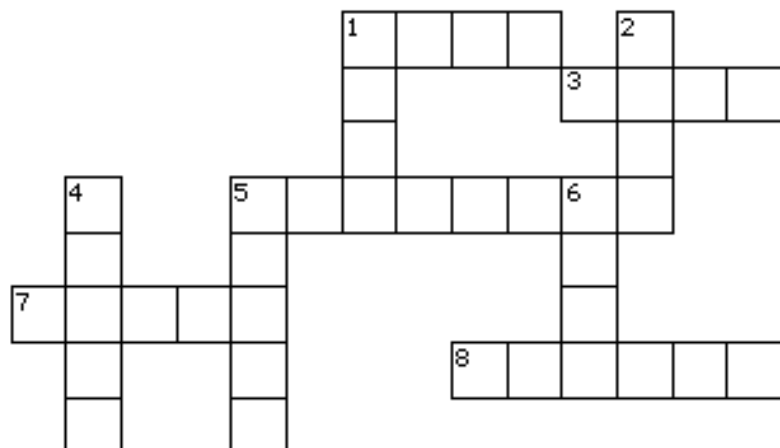
*Article Deadlines*

# St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church



## The Good Shepherd

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11 (NIV)



### ACROSS

1. The period from birth to death
3. A wild animal that look like a dog and hunts in a pack
5. One who takes care of the sheep
7. What we use to speak
8. To hear or pay attention to something

### DOWN

1. A strong feeling of affection
2. The opposite of bad
4. A group of sheep herded together
5. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
6. Goes faster than walking

LOVE	LISTEN	VOICE	RUNS	FLOCK
WOLF	SHEEP	LIFE	GOOD	SHEPHERD

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

"And I will lay down my life for the sheep." Jesus himself gave us the image of himself as the Good Shepherd. In trying to teach us about who he was, his love for us, and his mission to save us, he chose to speak in these terms. The picture is a comforting one. We can imagine the natural beauty of a shepherd on a hillside, gently leading and guiding his sheep to the places where all their needs are met. The shepherd makes sure they are fed, watered, rested, and, of course, safe. This last element is what separates a good shepherd from a bad one. When a threat approaches his flock, the good shepherd will do whatever is necessary to save them, even at risk of his own safety. The bad shepherd, on the other hand, thinks only of himself and abandons the sheep in order to protect his own skin.

It's important, in understanding the analogy, for us to realize that we, the sheep of Christ's pasture, do face real threats, though they may be the kind that are hard to recognize. The wolves that prowl around our souls are the vices of anger, jealousy, lust, greed, gluttony, vanity, and laziness. We traditionally call these the seven deadly sins, and they are truly deadly. When we give in to them, we cut off our souls from the source of real life: God. But Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for us, literally. Jesus suffered and died on the cross, taking away the deadly consequence of sin. This selfless act has saved us by offering the forgiveness and reconciliation that our souls, weak and weary from the attacks of evil, desperately need. What a gift to be in the care of such a shepherd. What a joy to be in this flock where, as Jesus says, "I know mine and mine know me."

Knights of Columbus Annual Vidalia Onion Sales - It is that time again for Vidalia Onions, the Knights will be taking orders after Easter for expected delivery at the end of April. We will be selling them again for \$10.00 for a 10 pound bag. Please look for our sign up location in the parish hall . Once again, a good crop of onions is expected for those that enjoy these Georgia delicacies.



## Knights of Columbus

Many of us name Psalm 23 as our favorite. It is sung at funerals, including at Blessed Mother Teresa's. It adorns many a home in framed needlepoint and refrigerator magnets. Many of the words remain in our memory, available for instant recitation when the time is right. Of course, truth be told, it may be the only real psalm we know, or at least the only one whose number we know.

There is a reason for the popularity of this psalm. The image it conveys to us is one of helpless little lambs that are so very loved by a Good Shepherd. We see ourselves as lambs being led by someone who cares so much for us. When we are hurt, he holds us. When we are lost, he finds us.

Some have said that, because most of us have never seen a real shepherd at work, the image does not have the same power. But the popularity of the image tells a different story. Add to the images mentioned above the reality that this Good Shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, and the image is pretty easy to understand. We hear his voice, and we follow; we follow him into eternal life.

The Women's Guild will have their monthly meeting on Sunday, April 26. All women of the parish are welcome. Please join us.



Join Us!

### Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of April 27 - May 3

Monday, April 27	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	7:00pm
Tuesday, April 28		
Wednesday, April 29	Novena	6:15pm
	Mass	6:30pm
Thursday, April 30	Reconciliation	11:00am
	Rosary	11:35am
	Mass	12:00 noon
	Prayer Group	1:15pm
Friday, May 1	First Friday Adoration	10:30-11:45am
	Reconciliation	11:00am
	Mass	12:00 noon
Saturday, May 2	Mass	5:00pm
Sunday, May 3	Choir	8:20-8:50am
	Rosary	8:30-8:45am
	Mass	9:00am
	Faith Formation Classes	10:20-11:20am
	Knights of Columbus Breakfast	