

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

Our rich Catholic tradition is filled with many symbols that can be powerful reminders to help keep us focused on what is truly important.. As you decorate your home, discuss with your children what these decorations symbolize to help your family prepare your hearts more fully to God's presence:

- The Wreath**--A symbol of the nature of real love that never ceases and is one continuous round of affection.
- The Fir Tree**--The pure green of the stately fir tree remains green all year round. It is a reminder of everlasting hope. The needles point heavenward and remind us that our thoughts should also turn toward heaven.
- The Star**--The bright star that showed the way to the stable in Bethlehem is a sign that the promise of a Saviour has been fulfilled.
- The Candy Cane**--A symbol for the shepherd's crook that is used to help bring back strayed sheep.
- The Bell**--A reminder of the bell tied to sheep and cows so that the sound of the bell would help the shepherds find them when they wandered.
- Angels**--Announce the Good News that the Word has been made flesh and our Saviour King is born.
- Candles**--Provide light in the night just as Christ illuminates the darkness within us.
- Holly Leaf**--A symbol of immortality. Its branches are a reminder of the crown of thorns and its berries the blood our Lord shed for us.
- The Magi**--Remind us to consider what gifts we would give our King.
- The Creche**--The greatest gift God could give to us. His only Son.
- Santa Claus**--A symbol of the generosity and spirit of good will that should be in our hearts all year through.

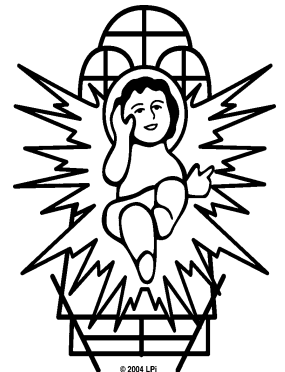


Advent Penance Service

Wednesday, December 17th at 7PM

The Holiday Mass Schedule

12/24/14	Wed	4:00 pm 12:00 Midnight	<i>Christmas Children's Mass Christmas Mass Vigil Mass</i>
12/25/14	Thur	10:00am	<i>Christmas Day Mass</i>
12/26/14	Fri	12:00 noon	Mass
12/27/14	Sat	4:00 pm	<i>Vigil of the Feast of the Holy Family</i>
12/28/14	Sun	9:00 am	<i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>
1/1/15	Thur	5:00pm	<i>Feast of Mary, Mother of God *Holy Day of Obligation</i>



Intercessions for Life

For all expectant mothers, especially those facing challenges: That they may look to Our Lady's example of faith in God's care;
We pray to the Lord

Readings for the Week**Monday:**

1 Sm 1:24-28
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday:**Morning**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67-79

Thursday: Christmas Day**Vigil:**

Is 62:1-5
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight:

Is 9:1-6
Ti 2:11-14
Lk 2:1-14

Dawn:

Is 62:11-12
Ti 3:4-7
Lk 2:15-20

Day:

Is 52:7-10
Heb 1:1-6
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59
Mt 10:17-22

Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Sunday:

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14
Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 or
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



Offeritory

\$3,235.00

Mass Intentions:

Dec. 20 Saturday
Dec. 21 Sunday
Dec. 24 Wednesday
Dec. 24 Wednesday
Dec. 25 Thursday
Dec. 26 Friday
Dec. 27 Saturday
Dec. 28 Sunday

Requested for:

Kristopher Stark †
Our Parishioners
Our Parishioners
Our Parishioners
Our Parishioners
Harry Thomas †
Kristopher Stark †
Our Parishioners

Requested By:

Emily Ryan

Jean Thomas
Stark Family

Wednesday, December 24, 4:00 PM**Lector:** Lorette Edwards**Extraordinary Ministers:** John Lueken and Kathy Abood**Altar Servers:** KC Edwards and Stephanie Chan**Crucifer:** Sharon Chan**Gift Bearers:** Terry and Steve Edwards**Ushers:** Jerry Holland and Tom Matelski**Greeters:** John and Janice Lueken**Wednesday, December 24, 12:00 Midnight****Lector:** Michael Jackson**Extraordinary Ministers:** Rita Zinner, Margarita Moreno, Eva White**Altar Servers:** Ken White and Jim Lally**Crucifer:** Mike Gozdick **Thurifer:** Jesse Petrella**Gift Bearers:** Terry and Steve Edwards**Ushers:** Dennis Ordyna **Greeters:** Jack and Betty Herbert**Thursday, December 25, 10:00 AM****Lector:** Bob Lipscomb**Extraordinary Ministers:** Rich McPhee and Tod Stark**Altar Servers:** Bill Hunter**Greeters:** Tod and Cathy Stark**Saturday, December 27, 5:00 PM****Lector:** Michael Jackson**Extraordinary Ministers:** Tod Stark and Rich McPhee**Ushers:** Ron Sicina and Barbara Hellinger**Sunday, December 27, 9:00 AM****Lector:** Jorge Moreno Sr.**Extraordinary Ministers:** Bill Hunter, Bill Lewis, Margarita Moreno, Rita Zinner, and **Bill Myles**Altar Servers:** Andrew Chapko and Chloe Patterson**Gift Bearers:** Tom and LaDonna O'Bryon**Ushers:** Tim Chapko and Mike Palka**Greeters:** Tom and LaDonna O'Bryon**Liturgical Schedule**

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

Please remember the following people in your prayers: Jan Jost, Butch Corcoran, Patricia Tideswell, Loretta Zach, Pat Eldred, Mack Goins, Margarita Rodriguez, Rick Hines, Andrew Payne, Danny Foster, Tech Dipalma, Vanessa Atkinson, Jenn, Julian Myers, Bob Abood, Lucile Gardner, Marianne Beating, Bill Wagner, Pat Zimmerman, Lisa Steele, Alvin Crusan, Edna Kelley Daniels, Christine Horton, Tony Davison, Tommy Glidewell, Margaret Gates, Sue Samp, Yvonne Truett, Diane Davis, Leony Natad, Lucas Holland, Lidia Lower, Ashlynn Geringer, Patsy Burdette, Jeanel Wehner, Teresa Giambalvo, Cameron Taylor, Strickland Family, Carolyn Wright, Hurley Turner, and Carlton Turner.



If you know of a person whose name should be added or deleted from this prayer list, please let someone in the church office know. If you or a loved one is in need of prayers and/or the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the office at 770-775-4162. If you are unable to reach Fr. Natad, and you are in Griffin/Spalding please call the office of Sacred Heart 770-227-2378. If you are in Henry Co. please call the office of St. James 770-957-5441.

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.

The Nativity of the Lord

"Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." Take a moment to contemplate the Nativity scene displayed at your church for the season. Most parishes set up a large stable hosting the Holy Family, embellished by lights or greenery and surrounded by the Christmas cast of characters. Undoubtedly, at least one of the shepherds in the scene is carrying a sheep on his shoulders or has one following close beside him. The image is one of a faithful man who went straight from his work in the fields--where the angels appeared--to the manger in nearby Bethlehem.

When the shepherds heard the heavenly announcement, "A savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord," they acted on the news right away. They picked up and journeyed to find the "infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." The artists who depict these humble men with their sheep in tow are suggesting that the shepherds came as they were. They didn't pause to make arrangements for the sheep or to take a shower. They went to worship the baby Jesus without pretense or preparation. And we are called to do the same, to come to Jesus as we are, without hesitation.

Today, we celebrate the fact that God came to earth as a baby, a beautiful, innocent infant who does not judge or reject people. He came as a tiny child who asks only for our love and attention in return. Like the shepherds, we too have received the good news! We have a savior who loves us and can be found by all those who desire to know him. Let us go then, without delay, into the presence of the baby Jesus who welcomes us to his manger this Christmas Day.

Word of Life

"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.'"

— Luke 1: 41-42 (NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.)

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EMPTY INK CARTRIDGE?

We will take it! Please recycle your used computer ink cartridges to the church. The church receives credit for every cartridge that is donated. That money is used for church supplies and materials. There are donation baskets in the armoire in the gathering hall. Thank you everyone who have donated their used cartridges.

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.

Prayer & Study Group

St. Mary, Mother of God, Catholic Church, Thursdays, at 1:15pm. Come join us for fellowship, knowledge, and prayer. For more information please call the facilitator LaDonna O'Bryon at (706)468-8905 or Rita Zinner at (770)775-1888.



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.

Thank you.

Article Deadlines

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

An Angel Visits Mary



You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
Luke 1:31 (NIV)

Based on Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

K V G J E U J H T U Z G T J N
 X I Y K V V V Z S H N U B K J
 P D N W U E J N F O R M O O B
 C J K G L L I O W N N O R S D
 H B E E D G X E S N R O N Z B
 I C G S R O F V B E M W D E I
 H N L I U P M I I B P A V Q B
 A Q V B I S H L R M W H R L A
 Z Z J P J P L X T C D Q W Y G
 D F H H D P F P H N A C I K A
 A D A F R A I D W N V X K N B
 E B W Q K U P O V X I J X Y R
 Q G P L T C T L R X D L F H I
 E L I Z A B E T H Q B O C Y E
 Y K C N P O S T D N F E E O L

ELIZABETH	JESUS	JOSEPH	BORN	AFRAID
SON	KINGDOM	DAVID	GABRIEL	BIRTH
MARY	TOWN	ANGEL	THRONE	VIRGIN

Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Mary chose to cooperate with God. She didn't completely understand how his plan was going to unfold. She couldn't have known exactly what it all meant for her future. But she chose to offer herself to God's service nonetheless. And thanks to that generosity, the first Christmas happened nine months later.

Mary gives us a powerful example of saying yes to God. For her, the divine plan was revealed through the visit of the angel Gabriel. For us, it is usually revealed in less dramatic ways. We hear God's voice through the readings at Mass, through the homily, through the wise counsel of a trusted friend, through a spiritual book, through an inspirational speaker, or just in the prayerful silence of our own hearts. Regardless of how God speaks to us, we are in a similar situation to Mary's. We are faced with the choice either to accept God's will in our lives, saying yes as Mary did, or to say no and choose a different path. It may be tempting to stick to more familiar ground or to avoid the challenge of surrendering our plans to God. But just look what happened when Mary decided to let God lead: the greatest miracle in all of history! God became man because of a faithful woman. And God wants to work miracles through us too. Every time we cooperate with his will, he transforms us into more loving, more generous people.

As we round the corner toward Christmas this week, may we embrace God's will in our lives with the same joy and openness that ultimately allowed Mary to embrace the infant Jesus in her arms on Christmas Day.

**MASS TIME
CHANGE!**

Beginning this month are changing the time for our Saturday evening mass time from 5:00pm to 4:00pm.

Catholic Charities Atlanta

The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day second collection will benefit Catholic Charities Atlanta. Catholic Charities Atlanta has a 60 year legacy in Georgia of charity for our most needy brothers and sisters - a mission inspired by our Catholic faith. Many of their clients are members of the working poor who work several jobs and long hours to support their families. Many of these individuals are also facing a life crisis and are alone and frightened. Catholic Charities Atlanta staff helps identify their problems and provide them with the resources to put them on the path to self-sufficiency.

Their services are aimed at empowering people to utilize their strengths and resources so as to meet the needs of their families and contribute to our community. Last year they served nearly 18,000 individuals in need in metro Atlanta and north Georgia. Please give generously where it truly counts. Help Catholic Charities to provide help and create hope for individuals and families in need in Georgia.

On Saturday, December 27th following the 4:00pm mass St. Mary, Mother of God will have a dinner honoring all of our wonderful volunteers. Please RSVP by either calling the office 770-775-4162, signing the sign up sheet in the Gathering hall, or emailing at stmarysinjackson@bellsouth.net. This meal will be catered so to make sure we have enough food please let us know if you will be attending. Thank you and God Bless.



Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of December 22 - December 28

Monday, December 22	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	7:00pm
Tuesday, December 23		
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Children's Mass	4:00pm
	Christmas Midnight Mass	12:00am
Thursday, December 25	Christmas Day Mass	10:00 am
Friday, December 26	Reconciliation	11:35am
	Rosary	11:35am
	Mass	12:00 noon
Saturday, December 27	Reconciliation	3:00-3:45pm
	Mass	4:00pm
	Appreciation Dinner for Volunteers following Mass	
Sunday, December 28	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i>	
	Choir	8:20-8:50am
	Rosary	8:30-8:45am
	Mass	9:00am