

## St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church



# Advent Wreath

- 1st CANDLE** – (purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE** – We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)
- 2nd CANDLE** – (purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION** – God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to “get ready”. Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)
- 3rd CANDLE** – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY (Luke 2:7-15)
- 4th CANDLE** – (purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE** – The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us (John 3:16-17)
- 5th CANDLE** – (white) **“CHRIST CANDLE”** – The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth (John 1:29)

Our Lady of Guadalupe  
December 12, 2014

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph." So an angel appeared to Mary, a poor young girl in a tiny village. Is it any wonder, then, given her own humble story, that when Mary has chosen to reveal herself, it has so often been to simple people in obscure places? The three shepherd children from Fatima, Portugal, were anything but prominent. An illiterate farm girl named Bernadette witnessed the miracle at Lourdes, France. And St. Juan Diego was a simple peasant from a small Mexican village whose faith and fortitude were central to the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This apparition in particular--when Mary met and spoke with Juan Diego and later imprinted her miraculous image on his cloak (the tilma)--reminds us that Mary wants to associate herself with all of us in our daily lives. The beautiful and scientifically inexplicable imprint of Mary on the tilma depicts a woman dressed in the traditional garb of Juan Diego's people. It is as if Mary were saying, "I am one of you." She was a simple girl with a profound faith. And look how that faith changed the course of human history!

As Mary says in the Gospel for today's feast, "I am the handmaid of the Lord." She claims no lofty status for herself but simply makes herself available for God's plan: "May it be done to me according to your word." Through her apparitions, Mary seems to be encouraging us to say the same thing. If she is one of us, then we can be like her. We can say yes to God's will in our lives just as she did. But we have an added advantage: we have our Blessed Mother in heaven to pray for us in the process!



**Intercessions for Life**

For medical professionals who are involved in the destruction of human life: may they repent and open their hearts to God’s mercy and love in preparation for the coming of Christ;

Let us pray to the Lord:

Information for the weekend of 11/23/2014



Offertory \$2,141.00  
 Campaign for Human Development \$523.00

Information for the weekend of 11/30/2014

Offertory \$3,405.00

**Mass Intentions:**

Dec. 6 Saturday  
 Dec. 7 Sunday  
 Dec. 10 Wednesday  
 Dec. 11 Thursday  
 Dec. 12 Friday  
 Dec. 13 Saturday  
 Dec. 14 Sunday

**Requested for:**

Tony Fleckenstein †  
 Our Parishioners  
 Pat Ryan †  
 Tom Zinner †  
 Our Parishioners

**Requested By:**

Rita Zinner  
 Emily Ryan  
 Rita Zinner

**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:**

Gn 3:9-15, 20  
 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12  
 Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:**

Is 40:1-11  
 Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:**

Is 40:25-31  
 Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:**

Is 41:13-20  
 Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:**

Zec 2:14-17 or  
 Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab  
 Lk 1:26-38 or  
 Lk 1:39-47

**Saturday:**

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11  
 Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Sunday:**

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11  
 1 Thes 5:16-24  
 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

**Monday, December 8, 12:00 noon**

**Lector:** Craig Breyne  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** LaDonna O’Byron and Bob Lipscomb  
**Altar Servers:** Any Available

**Monday, December 8, 7:00pm**

**Lector:** Jesse Petrella  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Teresa Miller and James Watson  
**Altar Servers:** Jorge Moreno Sr.

**Saturday, December 13, 5:00 PM**

**Lector:** Billy Glidewell  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Kathy Abood and Richard McPhee  
**Ushers:** Ron Sicina and Barbara Hellinger

**Sunday, December 14, 9:00 AM**

**Lector:** Chloe Patterson  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Bob Lipscomb, Teresa Miller, Eva White, Rita Zinner, and \*\*John Lueken  
**Altar Servers:** Lorette Edwards and KC Edwards **Crucifer:** Logan Fitz  
**Gift Bearers:** Grace Glidewell and Kaylee Pappa  
**Ushers:** Andrew Chapko and Melina Patterson  
**Greeters:** Grace Glidewell and Kaylee Pappa

Give thanks for religious. A parishioner writes, “We thank God today and every day for every religious sister who taught us in school, not only our ABCs, but also to love God.” Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Retirement Fund for Religious

**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, Bob Deer, 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.

If you haven't picked an ornament from the Giving Tree it is not to late there are still a few left. Please return the gifts no later than December 14th. The gifts will be distributed to the families by December 18th. God Bless



Let the Knights of Columbus help you get prepared for Christmas. As you leave today please visit our table by the door and make your selection. Your purchase helps us to help others. We will be selling Keep Christ in Christmas Yard signs, Car Magnets, and Christmas Cards.



Please welcome as the newest members of St. Mary, Mother of God.

**Kevin and Pam Moser**

If you attend St. Mary, Mother of God on a regular basis and have not registered we ask you to complete the following and drop it in the offertory basket. A parish registration form will be mailed to you. Or if your information has simply changed let us know. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTIONS**

- SHOW KINDNESS...It's a choice. Please choose it.
- SHOW PATIENCE...Just remember, you're not perfect either.
- SHOW ENCOURAGEMENT...if you do, people will strive for more.
- SHOW COMPASSION...Put yourself in someone else's shoes.
- SHOW WISDOM...It's in short supply these days.
- SHOW FAIRNESS...Don't stack the deck in anyone's favor.



**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.



# St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

## A Messenger Sent from God

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



It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." Mark 1:2 (NIV)

Based on Mark 1:1-8 (NIV)

LOCUSTS	PATH	GOSPEL	VOICE	PROPHET
CALLING	HONEY	STRAIGHT	CHRIST	JOHN
REPENTANCE	PREACHING	RIVER	JESUS	DESERT
JORDAN	SANDALS	BAPTIZE	MESSENGER	CONFESS

### Second Sunday of Advent

"One mightier than I is coming after me." In today's Gospel, John the Baptist speaks about what's to come. It's going to be different. It's going to be better. When he comes--the Messiah--something amazing is going to happen. "I have baptized you with water," John says, but "he will baptize you with the holy Spirit." With the coming of Christ, we move from water to Spirit--in other words, from the natural to the supernatural. Jesus takes our lives to a new level. But we have to be ready to join in on this spiritual journey. That's why John went around baptizing people for the repentance of their sins. He wanted to be sure their spirits were open to the Spirit. He wanted to help them be ready when the time came.

During Advent, we take a similar approach. We focus on what lies ahead: the coming of Christ. Of course he already came at the first Christmas when he was born of the Virgin Mary. Certainly, part of this season involves preparing for Christmas when we remember this original "advent" of the Lord. But another important element of these days is to make ourselves ready for the second coming of Christ. This is the moment for which we must always be ready. But we have an advantage that John's followers did not have. We already have the Spirit of the Lord in our hearts as baptized Christians. Now, the Lord himself is at work in our souls to prepare us for his return. The question is only how cooperative we are going to be in the process. How attentive will we be to the promptings of this Holy Spirit which are often as quiet as a whisper? Let's be sure, during the busy pre-holiday bustle, to set aside enough quiet time that we can properly "prepare the way of the Lord" by listening to his voice.



Every month Pope Francis announces his monthly prayer intentions, and requests that we include the intentions in our

personal prayers. For the month of November please remember these:

**Lonely people.** That all who suffer loneliness may experience the closeness of God and the support of others.

**Mentors of seminarians and religious.** That young seminarians and religious may have wise and well-formed mentors.

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation Mass Schedule**

Monday, December 8th  
12:00noon & 7:00pm



**Word of Life**

“Love your children. In them you can see Baby Jesus. Pray for them a lot and every day put them under Holy Mary’s protection.” ~Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

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Save the date December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Women’s Guild will host its Annual Christmas Dinner which includes a visit with Santa for the children. The Church will provide a Turkey. Please bring one of your favorite holiday dishes or desert and share the afternoon with your Parish family. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the gathering hall; please sign-up so we have an idea how many to plan for.



**Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of December 8 - December 14**

Monday, December 8	<b><i>Immaculate Conception of Mary</i></b>	
	Mass	12:00 noon
	Mass	7:00pm
	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	8:00pm
	Office Closed	
Tuesday, December 9		
Wednesday, December 10	Novena	6:15pm
	Mass	6:30pm
	Choir	7:00pm
Thursday, December 11	Reconciliation	11:00am
	Rosary	11:35am
	Mass	12:00 noon
	Prayer Group	1:15pm
Friday, December 12	Reconciliation	11:35am
	Rosary	11:35am
	Mass	12:00 noon
Saturday, December 13	Mass	5:00pm
	Anointing of the Sick	
Sunday, December 14	<b><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i></b>	
	Choir	8:20-8:50am
	Rosary	8:30-8:45am
	Mass	9:00am
	Anointing of the Sick	
	Faith Formation Classes	10:20-11:20am
	WG Christmas Dinner	