

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

The Baptism of the Lord

By the end of next weekend we will know the two teams that will be playing in Super Bowl XLVII. When the NFL draft took place during the last weekend of April many fans watched in eager anticipation to see whom their favorite team would select. When the draft was over, some of those same fans began an analysis of their team's picks trying to predict whether the new players would help their team develop into a winning combination. While seasoned players are often the ones who lead the way, the newest members of the team can be called on at a moment's notice to perform at the highest level of the sport. Fans and coaches alike were filled with expectations for these new recruits. And at this point in the season, near the end of the playoffs, we know whether those expectations were fulfilled or whether they were misplaced.

Early in his Gospel, St. Luke describes a similar situation in reference to John the Baptist. Of course, in first-century Palestine there was no "prophet draft" to see who could make the cut as best proclaimer of the word of God. We know that there was any number of people at the time of Jesus who exercised prophetic ministry. Some even claimed to be the Messiah who would throw off the yoke of a foreign oppressor, the Romans. John never claimed that.

Today's feast honors the second of three mysteries that are celebrated as the manifestation of Christ. Last week it was the Magi who bore witness. This week it is John the Baptist and the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. Next week it will be the miracle at Cana that testifies that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed One of God. Unlike some of the rookie players who were drafted last spring, we can acknowledge that Jesus has met every expectation and fulfilled all that we had hoped for.

©2012 Liturgical Publications Inc



Catholic Day at the Capitol

The Archdiocese of Atlanta and Diocese of Savannah invite Georgia Catholics to the State Capitol in Atlanta on Thursday, February 4, 2016 from 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. The day will start with a legislative briefing at 8:30 a.m. at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 48 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303.

We will walk together to the Capitol to view the opening of the session and meet your legislators. Lunch will be on your own. The event is free, but registration is required so that we can communicate last minute changes.

For more information or to register, please call 404-920-7340 or email communications@archatl.com.

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.

Intercessions for Life

For all baptized Christians:

May the Lord grant them the grace to live out their baptismal call with renewed joy and to recognize within this call a need to respect all life from conception to natural death;

We pray to the Lord:



Readings for the Week

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8
Ps 116:12-19
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20
1 Sm 2:1, 4-8
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20
Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10
Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11
Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25
Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a

Ps 89:16-19
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a
Ps 21:2-7
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

Is 62:1-5
Ps 96:1-3, 7-10
1 Cor 12:4-11
Jn 2:1-11



Offertory (for the week of December 20th)	\$3,661.00
Offertory (Christmas Masses)	\$3,399.00
Offertory (for the week of December 27th)	\$2,985.00
Offertory (Solemnity of Mary)	\$ 824.00
Offertory (for the week of January 3rd)	\$4,547.00

Mass Intentions:

Requested for:

Requested By:

Jan. 9	Saturday		
Jan. 10	Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Jan. 13	Wednesday	Joey Lueken †	Lueken Family
Jan. 14	Thursday		
Jan. 15	Friday	John Lueken	Lueken Family
Jan. 16	Saturday	Otis Burdette †	Patsy Burdette
Jan. 17	Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Jan. 17	Sunday	George Steil †	Stark Family



On the First Friday of each month the schedule is Rosary 10:15am, Reconciliation 11:00am, Adoration 10:30-11:45am, and Mass at 12:00 noon.

The remaining Friday's during the month we will say the Rosary at 10:45, Adoration 11:00, followed by Mass at 12:00 noon.

Saturday, January 16, 4:00 PM

Lectors: Michael Jackson

Extraordinary Ministers: Eva White and Richard McPhee

Altar Servers: Any Available

Ushers: Tom Matelski and Ron Sicina

Sunday, January 17, 9:00 AM

Lector: Jorge Moreno Sr.

Extraordinary Ministers: Bob Lipscomb, James Watson, Bill Lewis, Carlton Turner, **Bill Myles

Altar Servers: Ken White and Billy Fisher

Crucifer: Chris Hotchkiss **Thurifer:** Mike Palka

Gift Bearers: Rich McPhee and Marc Zies

Ushers: Bill Hunter and Dennis Ordyna

Greeters: Janice and John Lueken

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, January 17, 11:30 AM

Lector: Jim Brimberry

Extraordinary Ministers: Jayne Holloway

Altar Servers:

Andrew Chapko and Adrianna Chapko

Crucifer: Cody Brimberry

Gift Bearers: Usher choose family

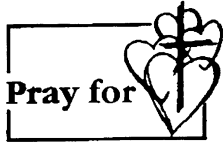
Ushers: Any Available Ushers

Greeters: Any available Youth

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Jan Jost, Sue Samp, Jeanel Wehner, John Potat III, Tommy Glidewell, Gage Van Dyck, Jon Peters, Patsy Burdette, Ashlynn Geringer, Barbara Lynch, Lu Davis-Moore, Rebecca Geringer, Robert Dube, Frank Fross, Gary Bennett, Tripp Kelly, Bill Nelson, Mark Cole, Steven Mitchell, Bill Bush, Matt Brown, and George Roberts.



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.

Everyday Stewardship

Recently, my high school daughter attended a baptism at a nondenominational church of one of her friends. A decent group of girls, from all different denominations, attended and congratulated her after the service. The photos from the event show faces full of joy and the love the girls had for their friend. The girl had been planning this event for many months, seemingly against her mother's wishes, but in the end, her mother and grandparents attended the service as well. I guess since it meant so much to her daughter, in the end she couldn't help but give in and put aside her bias against religion and attend.

And it was very important for this girl. She not only wanted to belong to the body of Christ, she wanted to begin a new chapter in her life. Yes, she was a new creation in Christ and that made her very happy, but we sometimes focus so much on the theology of the sacrament that we can minimize the experience of a fresh start in life. Who we were previously exists no more, and God only sees the unblemished lamb before him.

When Jesus sought out the baptism of John, it was not the same baptism that you and I receive. There was no sin to wash away and no dying and rising, but it was a profound new beginning, the start of a ministry that would lead to the death and Resurrection into which we then are baptized.

After your baptism, what was your new life like? Do you not remember because you were a baby? If you came into the Church through RCIA later in life, maybe you can answer this more easily. But if you were baptized as an infant, perhaps it is time to recapture that moment and reflect on being a new creation. It will make your stewardship way of life more meaningful and provide the strength to answer the Lord's call every day.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © Liturgical Publications Inc

Evangelization Committee:

Please pray for the efforts of our parish. Those desiring to participate in any way to help spread the catholic faith, especially through prayer, as we discern a plan, should contact Turner Duffey: 678-508-2745 or turnerduffey@hotmail.com

Bulletin Mailing List

If you would like to be added to the list to receive our weekly bulletin by email, please email Cathy at: stmarysinjackson@bellsouth.net Please know that your email will be kept confidential.



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 "The Transformative Power of Faith" Author: Grayson Warren Brown. For more information please call the facilitator LaDonna O'Bryon at (706)468-8905 or Rita Zinner at (770)775-1888.



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

Archdiocesan Abuse Reporting Hotline
1-888-437-0764
(24 hours a day)

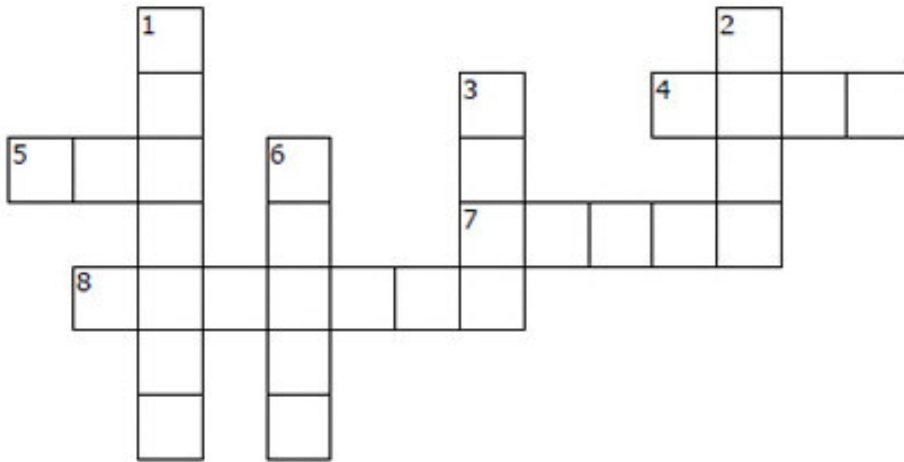
PATH: If you need help in healing from an abortion. Brochures can be found in the Armoire. Please call Mary Ann McNeil at 404-896-6521.

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



ACROSS

4. The name of the man who baptized Jesus
5. A male offspring
7. The sound produced by vibration of the human vocal cords
8. To cover briefly completely in water or pour water over a person's head

DOWN

1. A shoe consisting of a sole fastened to the foot by straps
2. A deep feeling of affection for a person
3. A bird often used as a symbol of peace
6. Clear, colorless, odorless, tasteless liquid; H₂O

VOICE	WATER	JOHN	LOVE
SANDALS	BAPTIZE	DOVE	SON

Baptism of the Lord

"After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened." What a treat to be in that crowd! Just imagine the experience of witnessing this manifestation of divinity! To SEE the Holy Spirit "in bodily form like a dove" and to hear the voice that "came from heaven" announcing Jesus' true identity. Don't we all long for this kind of miraculous clarity? Wouldn't it do wonders for our faith if we had such unmistakable certainty about who Jesus really is?

It's easy to imagine that the first Christians had it easier than we do. They got to be with Jesus in person, and to witness the miracles that went along with his years on earth. Because of this, we can quickly forget the benefits we enjoy that they did not. We live on the other side of the Resurrection, for example. The first followers of Christ believed in him BEFORE he rose from the dead. We, on the other hand, have the confidence of knowing that this man literally conquered death. We also have two millennia of Christian witness through the saints to pull upon. The first Christians had no idea what this new religion would produce, how many people would embrace it, or how it would change the world for the better. We know that Christianity has been fruitful beyond measure.

Today's Gospel informs us that it was only after they were baptized that the people witnessed the opening of heaven. Even Jesus himself was baptized before he heard this earthly confirmation of his heavenly origin. We who have been baptized, following the example of Christ, also have "access" to the voice of God. In the silence of our hearts, and through God's word in the Bible (another advantage we enjoy), heaven is "opened" for us as well.

**St. John the Evangelist
Catholic School**

invites you to join us for an
Open House

Meet the faculty, take a personal tour of the campus, and experience the faith filled community at St. John the Evangelist Catholic School.

**January 23, 2016
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Reverence, Respect, Responsibility

www.sjecs.org
404-767-4312



**Martin Luther King, Jr. Quiet Day of Reflection
January 18th**

Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center, located at 6700 Riverside Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 30328 is offering a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Reflection on Monday, January 18, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

We are honored to have Lerita Coleman Brown, PhD as our honored guest for the day to guide us in reflections on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Brown is professor emerita of psychology at Agnes Scott College in Decatur. She has published over thirty articles including, "An Ordinary Mystic: Contemplation, Inner Authority, and Spiritual Direction in the Life and Work of Howard Thurman." Thurman deeply influenced Dr. King and a great deal of the modern Civil Rights Movement. As a prolific writer, he served as a spiritual advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

You won't want to miss this unique opportunity to hear the esteemed Dr. Brown share her thoughts and reflections on these great men. Reserve your spot at www.ignatiushouse.org or call 404-255-0503.

Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of Jan. 11 – Jan. 17

Monday, January 11	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	7:00pm
Tuesday, January 12		
Wednesday, January 13	Novena Mass	6:15pm 6:30pm
Thursday, January 14	Reconciliation Rosary Mass Prayer Group	11:00am 11:35am 12:00 noon 1:15pm
Friday, January 15	Rosary Eucharistic Adoration Reconciliation Mass	10:45am 11:00am 11:00am 12:00 noon
Saturday, January 16	Mass	4:00pm
Sunday, January 17	<i>Knights of Columbus Sunday</i> Choir Rosary Mass Faith Formation classes Mass Youth Meeting	8:20-8:50am 8:30-8:45am 9:00am 11:30am 12:30-2:00pm

