

# St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

1st Sunday of Advent  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Blessed first Sunday in Advent to each of you!

Advent and Lent are the two penitential seasons of the church year. However, Advent is a season in anticipation of the birth of Christ in time. Now, what is meant by "the birth of Christ in time"? Our four Sundays of Advent are not just Sundays in preparation for the birth of a child destined to become the Savior of the nations, but the birth of a child every day in the hearts of every Christian and the future return of the second coming in time where everything will be taken back by our God.

In today's Gospel, for some this reading might strike fear into their hearts: "...perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright." Even today, we hear about doomsday sayers professing the end of the world on a particular date. To be sure, the end of the world will come! However, we truly do not know the time. Only God knows when God will call everything to return to him.

In the final lines of today's Gospel we are told to "be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent."

This first Sunday in the season of Advent is a time for us to joyfully await the coming of Christ for the first time, at birth; for the second time, into our everyday lives; and looking forward to the last time when he will come to take all of creation back to his Father.



It is getting close to that wonderful time of year again...the Giving Tree will be in place the weekend of November 15th so don't miss out on getting your ornament to help one of the children in need in the community.

The Giving Tree will remain until December 6th after which all of the gifts should be returned so that on December 17th they can be distributed to the families. God Bless

## **GRACE Scholars' deadline is December 15th**

Attention Donors! Please submit your 2016 tax credit pre-registrations by December 15th. You can either pre-register online at the GRACE Scholars' home page or use the paper form. Your contribution will help deserving children and youth enjoy the blessings of a Christ-centered Catholic education.

For more information, contact:

GRACE Scholars  
gracescholars@gracescholars.org

404.920.7900  
www.gracescholars.org



**Mission Statement** - The mission of GRACE Scholars, Inc. is to provide children from families with financial need throughout the State of Georgia with greater opportunities to secure a quality PK-12 Catholic education.

**Goal** - Our goal is to afford qualifying families a quality education while providing donors with an opportunity to use their tax dollars towards Catholic school scholarships.

## **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 caregivers:  
 May Christ give them strength and fill them with the joy of His love;  
 We pray to the Lord:



Offertory \$4,001.00  
 (for the week of November 15th)

<b><u>Mass Intentions:</u></b>	<b><u>Requested for:</u></b>	<b><u>Requested By:</u></b>
Nov. 28 Saturday	Raymond McPhee †	McPhee Family
Nov. 29 Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Dec. 2 Wednesday	Pat Ryan †	Emily Ryan
Dec. 3 Thursday		
Dec. 4 Friday	Hugh and Marcella Glidewell †	
Dec. 5 Saturday	Agnes Myles †	
Dec. 6 Sunday	Our Parishioners	

**First Sunday of Advent**

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.



**Saturday, December 5, 4:00 PM**

**Lectors:** Billy Glidewell  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Eva White and La Donna O’Byron  
**Altar Servers:** Any Available  
**Ushers:** Tom Matelski and Ron Sicina

**Sunday, December 6, 9:00 AM**

**Lector:** Craig Breyne  
**Extraordinary Ministers:** Kathy Abood, Mike Palka, James Watson, Margarita Moreno and \*\*Bill Myles  
**Altar Servers:** Chloe Patterson and Adriana Chapko **Crucifer:** Evan Miller  
**Gift Bearers:** Jim and Dottie Lally  
**Ushers:** Jerry Holland and Dennis Ordyna  
**Greeters:** Jim and Dottie Lally

**Monday:**  
 Rom 10:9-18  
 Ps 19:8-11  
 Mt 4:18-22

**Readings for the Week**



**Tuesday:**  
 Is 11:1-10  
 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17  
 Lk 10:21-24

**Wednesday:**  
 Is 25:6-10a  
 Ps 23:1-6  
 Mt 15:29-37

**Thursday:**  
 Is 26:1-6  
 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27  
 Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Friday:**  
 Is 29:17-24  
 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14  
 Mt 9:27-31

**Saturday:**  
 Is 30:19-21, 23-26  
 Ps 147:1-6  
 Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Next Sunday:**  
 Bar 5:1-9  
 Ps 126:1-6  
 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11

**Observances for the Week of November 29, 2015**

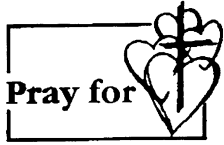
Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent  
 Monday: Andrew, Apostle  
 Tuesday:  
 Wednesday:  
 Thursday: Francis Xavier, Priest  
 Friday: John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
 Saturday:  
 Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent

**Liturgical Schedule**

# 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, Ron Sicina, Bill Nelson, Darlene Vela-Lewis, Mark Cole, the Natad family, Mickie Hofmann, and Steven Mitchell.



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**

Over the years, my children have participated in cotillion programs. These experiences teach young people about manners, social skills, and formal dance. Some think these programs only exist for wealthy or upper-class people.

I am neither one of those. I am just a parent who thinks manners still matter, that being social is a useful skill that can be learned, and that a little culture goes a long way. I can't say my children loved everything about the experience, but they did grow in appreciation of how you should treat other people. I would like to think somewhere down the road they will find themselves in a situation and will call on what they learned to succeed.

Cotillion, school, team sports, and youth ministry are all ways we prepare our kids to enter a world where Jesus Christ is seen as a foreigner and how we live with one another is not a top concern. We teach them that they must always be ready to stand up for what's right or defend their faith or values. They must continue to cultivate those small seeds we plant in them in order to grow and bear good fruit, for their lives are gifts and the time they have been given is precious.

Good stewardship is not always about that which we can quantify or see. Who we are as people is often about that which we offer as gesture to others. It may be a kind word, a witness to the power of God, or an offer for a dance. But we must always be ready to give of ourselves graciously for we never know when the call will come.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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The Knights of Columbus in Georgia have raised and donated annually over \$125,000 to Special Olympics programs at State and local Community levels for people with intellectual and physical disabilities.



**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



**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 "A Divine Mercy" Author: Sheldon Vanauken. 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)**

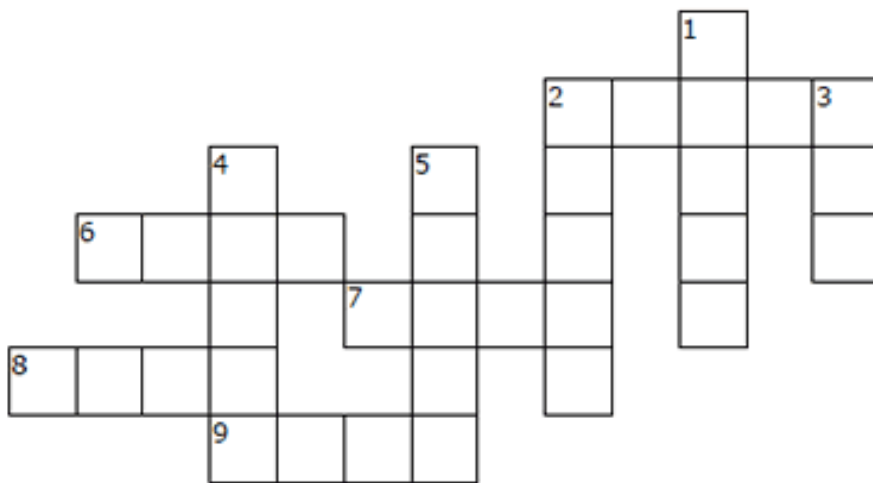
**PATH:** If you need help in healing from an abortion. Brochures can be found in the Armoire. Please call Mary Ann McNeil at 404-896-6521.

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

2. Twinkling points of light in the sky at night
6. To make a request to God
7. The large heavenly body visible in the night sky
8. To raise from a lower to a higher position
9. The part of the body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose, mouth

### DOWN

1. To observe very carefully
2. To rise to an upright position on your feet
3. The earth's source of heat and light
4. The planet on which we live
5. Large, white, fluffy things floating in the sky

SUN  
MOON

HEAD  
STAND

LIFT  
EARTH

CLOUD  
STARS

WATCH  
PRAY

### First Sunday of Advent

"But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand." Jesus instructs his disciples to take this posture of confidence in the midst of a terribly disturbing situation. Describing his second coming, Jesus says that on seeing this event unfold, "People will die of fright." And yet the disciples are supposed to be pillars of strength. While others cower in fear, the Lord's followers are somehow immune, with heads raised high. Why?

Well, presumably, because those who follow Christ--those who earn the distinction of being disciples--have nothing to fear. On the contrary, when they have to "stand before the Son of Man," it will be a happy occasion. But here's the catch: "disciple" is more than an empty title. If we want to be counted among this confident crew, there are a few things for us to do. Today's Gospel spells out these tasks, which are all perfect things to pursue during Advent.

First, we have to make sure that our "hearts do not become drowsy." We are called to stay awake in a spiritual sense, not allowing "carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life" to numb us. We need to avoid whatever might reduce our ability to recognize and relate to Jesus, because we don't want his appearance to catch us "by surprise like a trap." Advent is an ideal time to examine our lives to determine what activities, priorities, or pastimes might be putting our hearts to sleep. Secondly, we need to pray. We need to ask Jesus himself for "the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." We can't do it alone. But with Christ's help, we can be true, fearless disciples.

During Eucharistic Adoration, we "watch and wait", we remain "silent" in God's Presence and open ourselves to His Graces which flow from the Eucharist ... By worshipping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be! Like a magnet, The Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us. In its fullest essence ... Eucharistic Adoration is "God and Man reaching out for each other, at the same time!" Can you commit to one hour per week to be in the "presence of God"?

On the First Friday of each month the schedule is Rosary 10:15am, Reconciliation 11:00am, Eucharistic 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, Eucharistic Adoration 11:00, followed by Mass at noon.



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

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

**Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of Nov. 30 - Dec. 6**

Monday, November 30

Tuesday, December 1

Wednesday, December 2	Novena	6:15pm
	Mass	6:30pm

Thursday, December 3	Reconciliation	11:00am
	Rosary	11:35am
	Mass	12:00 noon
	Prayer Group	1:15pm

Friday, December 4	Rosary	10:15am
	Reconciliation	11:00am
	Eucharistic Adoration	10:30-11:45pm
	Mass	12:00 noon

Saturday, December 5	Mass	4:00pm
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Sunday, December 6	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	
	Choir	8:20-8:50am
	Rosary	8:30-8:45am
	Mass	9:00am
	Knights of Columbus Breakfast	
	Faith Formation	