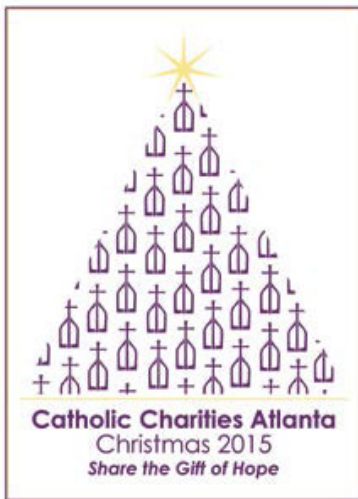


# St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

## The Holiday Mass Schedule

12/24/15	Thursday	4:00 pm 12:00 Midnight	<i>Christmas Children's Mass</i> <i>Christmas Mass Vigil Mass</i>
12/25/15	Friday	10:00am	<i>Christmas Day Mass</i>
12/26/15	Saturday	4:00 pm	<i>Vigil of the Feast of the Holy Family</i>
12/27/14	Sunday	9:00 am	<i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>
1/1/16	Thursday	5:00pm	<i>Feast of Mary, Mother of God</i> *Holy Day of Obligation



The Christmas Eve and Christmas Day second collection will benefit Catholic Charities Atlanta, a 62 year legacy in Georgia of charity for our most needy brothers and sisters and a mission inspired by our Catholic faith. Many of the 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, are alone and frightened. Catholic Charities Atlanta staff help to identify their problems and provide them with the resources to put them on the path to independence.

Catholic Charities services are aimed at empowering people to utilize their strengths and resources to meet their individual and family needs. Please give generously where it truly counts. Please support Catholic Charities to provide help and create hope for individuals and families facing challenges in our community, struggling on the margins of society, and living in poverty.

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Luke 1:39-45

Blessed Advent!

Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus.

The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!



### **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 married couples who long to welcome a child into their family:  
May the coming of the Christ Child bring hope and peace;

We pray to the Lord:



Offertory (for the week of December 6th) \$5,789.00

**Readings for the Week****Monday:**

Sg 2:8-14 or  
Zep 3:14-18a  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21  
Lk 1:39-45

**Tuesday:**

1 Sm 1:24-28  
1 Sm 2:1, 4-8  
Lk 1:46-56

**Wednesday:**

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24  
Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14  
Lk 1:57-66

**Thursday:****Morning:**

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29  
Lk 1:67-79

**Friday:****Vigil:**

Is 62:1-5  
Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25  
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

**Night:**

Is 9:1-6  
Ps 96:1-3, 11-13  
Ti 2:11-14  
Lk 2:1-14

**Dawn:**

Is 62:11-12  
Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12  
Ti 3:4-7  
Lk 2:15-20

**Day:**

Is 52:7-10  
Ps 98:1-6  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Saturday:**

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17  
Mt 10:17-22

**Next Sunday:**

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28 or  
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14  
Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10  
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24 or  
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17  
Lk 2:41-52

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

Dec. 19	Saturday	Ruth Matelski Hargrave †	Tom Matelski
Dec. 20	Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Dec. 20	Sunday	Matt Brown	Stark Family
Dec. 23	Wednesday		
Dec. 24	Thursday		
Dec. 24	Thursday		
Dec. 25	Friday		
Dec. 26	Saturday	Phillis Myles †	
Dec. 27	Sunday	Our Parishioners	

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

**Saturday, December 26, 4:00 PM**

**Lectors:** Michael Jackson

**Extraordinary Ministers:**

Tod Stark and Rich McPhee

**Altar Servers:** Any Available

**Ushers:** Tom Matelski and Ron Sicina

**Liturgical Schedule****Sunday, December 27, 9:00 AM**

**Lector:** LaDonna O'Bryon

**Extraordinary Ministers:** Tammy Hotchkiss, Teresa Miller, Margarita Moreno, Rita Zinner, \*\*Eva White

**Altar Servers:** KC Edwards and Evan Miller

**Crucifer:** Kaylee Pappa

**Gift Bearers:** Cindy Glidewell and Rita Zinner

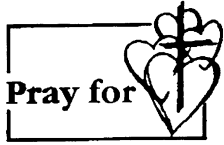
**Ushers:** Tim Chapko and Mike Palka

**Greeters:** Eric and Tori Sunstrom

# 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, Steven Mitchell, and Bill Bush.



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

This Advent you may be waiting for even more than just the celebration of Jesus' birth and his promised second coming. You may be waiting for a job offer, or a college acceptance letter, or a good word from your doctor, or even the birth of your own child. Life is filled with periods of waiting. Sometimes we wait with more grace than at other times. But with all waiting there needs to be hope for true fulfillment of our anticipation.

Elizabeth said to Mary during her visit to the house of Zechariah, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." She was speaking of the promise of God's child in Mary's womb and how Mary was able to accept God's plan and see it through. Mary was waiting for something and it was already coming to fruition inside of her womb.

God has made promises to us as well. Jesus said in Luke 12:24, "Notice the ravens: they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouse nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!" We wait for things but we must never worry. Perhaps at times when our waiting is over we find that what we waited for was not to our liking after all. But we are not in control of these things and God will provide just like he does for the ravens. God has promised to do great things in you and if you hold firm you will find that which you seek. You are blessed in your belief that what he has spoken to you is already being fulfilled, even as you wait.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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### 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



### The Christmas Story

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

ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
CAMELS  
CATTLE  
DONKEY  
EAST  
GIFTS  
MANGER  
MARY  
MYRRH  
SHEEP  
SHEPHERDS  
STAR  
WISE MEN  
  
GOLD  
HOLY SPIRIT  
EMMANUEL  
INCENSE  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste." What was the rush? Why did Mary go so quickly to visit her cousins Elizabeth and Zechariah? It's hard to know exactly what her purpose was, but one thing is clear: Mary and Elizabeth shared a special connection. Perhaps Mary was anxious to be in the company of someone who could understand her unusual situation.

At this point, Mary was newly pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. The verses preceding today's reading tell us about the appearance of the Angel Gabriel and Mary's willingness to become the mother of the Messiah. Now, this child was already growing within her womb, but the whole thing was an incredible secret. Who would believe her? In whom could Mary confide the unbelievable events that had taken place? We know that at some point later, Joseph had a vision in a dream that allowed him to understand. But before that dream came, he was planning to part ways with Mary. It must have been during that difficult time that Mary went to see Elizabeth. And what joy that upon her arrival, Elizabeth immediately understood. "Blessed is the fruit of your womb," Elizabeth cried out. The same Holy Spirit who conceived Jesus in Mary's womb enlightened Elizabeth at this moment. What a consolation this must have been to Mary.

This story reminds us of the importance of our own fellowship in the faith. Sharing our spiritual journey with other believers who are receptive to the Holy Spirit is meant to be a source of encouragement and strength. We are not supposed to be in this alone. As we worship and celebrate together with our faith community, may we share with each other the real joy of this sacred season.

## Nativity of the Lord

"And we saw his glory." Never before or since, in the entire course of human history, have men and women been able to gaze upon the face of God. But for a brief moment in time, God "became flesh and made his dwelling among us." This is the remarkable event we celebrate today.

At that first Christmas some two thousand years ago, the glory of God was revealed through the face of a child. As a tiny, helpless creature, completely dependent upon his mother to sustain him, this humble little baby came into the world. Yet this infant was "the only Son, God, who is at the Father's side." Why is it that the eternal majesty of the triune God should choose to appear in such a simple way? How does this humility reveal what St. Paul calls today, "the refulgence of [God's] glory, the very imprint of his being"?

Today we celebrate a holy day that is unlike any other. Indeed we celebrate a BELIEF that is unlike any other when we proclaim, as Christians, that God became man and walked in our midst. No other major world religion makes such an astonishing claim. And with this comes our unique understanding of the humble nature of God. We believe in a God whose glory is not the glory of the world. His majesty is not like that of earthly kings and rulers. Rather, we believe in a Heavenly Father who loves his little children enough to live among them. This Father takes joy in the joy of his children. Jesus once remarked that just as we desire to give good gifts to our children, "how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (Mt 7:11). This Christmas, may we remember that the greatest gift is Christ himself.



### Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of Dec. 21 - Dec. 27

Monday, December 21

Tuesday, December 22

Wednesday, December 23	Novena Mass	6:15pm 6:30pm
Thursday, December 24	Mass (Children's Mass) Mass	4:00pm 12:00 midnight
Friday, December 25	<i>Nativity of the Lord</i> Mass	10:00am
Saturday, December 26	Reconciliation Mass	3:00-3:45pm 4:00pm
Sunday, December 27	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph</i> Choir Rosary Mass	8:20-8:50am 8:30-8:45am 9:00am

