

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Jubilee

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

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Second Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:1-6

Blessed Advent to you all!

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.

Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

John enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others.

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 all members of the Church:
 May our witness that every life is worth living help others to encounter
 the outstretched hands of God's mercy;
 We pray to the Lord:

**Readings for
 the Week**



Monday:

Is 35:1-10
 Ps 85:9-14
 Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20
 Ps 98:1-4
 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12
 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31
 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10
 Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20
 Ps 145:1, 9-13
 Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Is 48:17-19
 Ps 1:1-4, 6
 Mt 11:16-19

Saturday:

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab
 Jdt 13:18-19
 Lk 1:39-47

Next Sunday:

Zep 3:14-18a
 Is 12:2-6
 Phil 4:4-7

Offertory (for the week of November 16th) \$4,001.00
 Offertory (for the week of November 22nd) \$1,909.00
 Catholic Campaign for Human Development \$ 342.00



<u>Mass Intentions:</u>	<u>Requested for:</u>	<u>Requested By:</u>
Dec. 5 Saturday	Agnes Myles †	
Dec. 6 Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Dec. 8 Tuesday	Living and Deceased Family and Friends of the Morris family	
Dec. 8 Tuesday	Our Parishioners	
Dec. 9 Wednesday		
Dec. 10 Thursday		
Dec. 11 Friday	Living and Deceased Family and Friends of the Morris family	
Dec. 12 Saturday	Matthew McNulty † McNulty/Ordyna/Spillane families	
Dec. 13 Sunday	Our Parishioners	

Second Sunday of Advent

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!"



Saturday, December 12, 4:00 PM

Lectors: Tod Stark
Extraordinary Ministers: Kathy Abood and Rich McPhee
Altar Servers: Any Available
Ushers: Tom Matelski and Ron Sicina

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

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



Sunday, December 13, 9:00 AM

Lector: Rachael Weaver
Extraordinary Ministers: Bob Lipscomb, Teresa Miller, Eva White, Rita Zinner, and **John Lueken
Altar Servers: Lorette Edwards and Melina Patterson
Gift Bearers: Grace Glidewell and Kaylee Pappa
Ushers: Andrew Chapko and J.R. Salinas
Greeters: Grace Glidewell and Kaylee Pappa

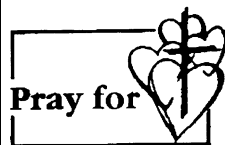
Crucifer: Cody Brimberry

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, 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

Even though some people seem to live graced lives with little struggle, the truth is we all have struggles in life. Financial problems, health issues, emotions of fear and inadequacy, and even twists of fate are part of the human condition. The fact is that we are imperfect beings living in an imperfect world.

But there is the One that came into the world to fill the valleys and lower the mountains. He makes winding roads straight and rough roads smooth again. In fact, he makes new again that which was created at the beginning of time but then fell into disarray due to our sin. He is Jesus, and he not only makes all things new, he provides glimpses of perfection in our imperfect world.

With all that we have been given as gift, the greatest gift was the Incarnation, God made man. Through the birth of a baby, our reality was altered in this world forever, and a hope for life eternal with our God was possible. And now, we are called to spend our days as co-creators with God, cultivating all that has been given to us so the good work begun in us may be drawn near to completion. Paul's words to the Philippians is for all good stewards: "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." We are imperfect beings in an imperfect world, but the One who makes all things perfect is doing great things in us.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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The tree is in place 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 13th after which all of the gifts should be returned so that on December 17th they can be distributed to the families. God Bless



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

Fanfare for a King

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

As it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."



VOICE	ROUGH	FORGIVE	PREACHING	STRAIGHT
JORDAN	VALLEY	DESERT	REPENT	SINS
PREPARE	CROOKED	SMOOTH	BAPTISM	CALLING

Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Today's Gospel reading references an ancient text from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. There, a prophecy was made that John the Baptist would fulfill many years later; John is the "voice of one crying out in the desert." And the message that John's voice proclaimed, in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, was a message of repentance.

The passage from Isaiah gives us some clues into what this repentance is supposed to do. It is meant to change us into people who can properly welcome the Lord when he comes. Using the poetic image of a path, the text describes the kind of path that is suitable for the Lord. He shouldn't have to navigate valleys, scale mountains, wind around twists and turns on the road, or traverse rough, difficult terrain. Instead, he should be able to move easily on smooth ground. Residents preparing to welcome an honored guest ought to do what they can to make the journey pleasant. The analogy relates to our souls.

As we prepare to welcome the Lord this Advent season, we should make the "path" of our souls level, straight, and smooth. We should "fill" the valleys of laziness or despair with diligence and joy. The mountains of pride and greed should be made low with humility and generosity. The winding roads of dishonesty and manipulation "shall be made straight" with commitment to the truth. And the rough ways of our selfishness and stubbornness should be made smooth through charity and docility to the Holy Spirit. When we live our faith with sincerity and devotion, our souls are transformed. This Advent, may our souls become a pleasant path for Christ.

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Saturday, December 12th)

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Elizabeth uttered these words to Mary in recognition of her great faith. Indeed, what profound faith it must have taken for Mary to believe the words of the Angel Gabriel! The miracle that took place in Mary's body when the Christ was conceived in her would have been easy enough to believe once the pregnancy was starting to show. But before that concrete "evidence" was present, what a tremendous thing it was to be asked to accept. That Mary could conceive in her womb through the power of the Holy Spirit--outside of all human and scientific explanation--only a person of extraordinary faith could accept such a thing.

Perhaps this is why Mary chose to speak to St. Juan Diego. He too was a person of extraordinary faith. Like her, he was asked to accept something that defied human and scientific explanation when he listened to this lady from heaven up on the hill of Tepeyac. And like Mary, this simple peasant man chose to believe. He didn't dismiss his vision as a hallucination or the result of mental illness. Instead, he took Mary at her word and did what she asked him to do, even when other people thought he was delusional or dishonest.

In our day and age, just being Christian often takes an act of extraordinary faith. So many people have become skeptical of anything that can't be proven by science, that accepting Christ's divinity can be a challenge. When we are tempted to question or doubt the truths of faith, may we turn to the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, models of faith.

Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of Dec. 7 - Dec. 13

Monday, December 7

Tuesday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Mass 12:00 noon
 Mass 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 9

Novena 6:15pm
 Mass 6:30pm

Thursday, December 10

Reconciliation 11:00am
 Rosary 11:35am
 Mass 12:00 noon
 Prayer Group 1:15pm

Friday, December 11

Eucharistic Adoration 11:00am
 Reconciliation 11:00am
 Rosary 11:35am
 Mass 12:00 noon
 Women's Guild Social (Soup and Movie) 6:00pm

Saturday, December 12

Reconciliation 3:00-3:45pm
 Mass 4:00pm
 Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent
 Choir 8:20-8:50am
 Rosary 8:30-8:45am
 Mass 9:00am
 Anointing of the Sick
 Faith Formation 10:20-11:20am