

St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

All are invited to attend:

Father "D's" Welcome Back Dinner

~ followed by a visit from Santa Claus

Saturday, December 19th

around 5:00 pm

following mass

Please bring a covered dish to share as we welcome Father D back from the Philippines. Event will be followed by a visit from Santa. Please encourage all the parents to bring their children.
(* FREE Photo with Santa)



Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18

Blessed Advent!

Remember last week where we read about this crazy man John "crying out in the desert"? Well, this week we read about what the people of his time wondered about him. They all asked him "What should we do?"

The crowds were asking, the tax collectors were asking, the soldiers were asking. And he answers each of them according to the temptation of their particular state in life. To the crowds he says, share of your abundance. To the tax collectors he says, stop taking more money for yourselves. Only collect from the people what is proscribed. To the soldiers he says, stop extorting money.

And so, what must we do to prepare? I ask myself if I am sharing from even the little that I think I have. Do I charge more than a fair price for my work? If I lend money to anyone, do I expect too much more in return?

I challenge myself this week, and I challenge you, to take some time and think about how we are preparing for the coming birth of Christ, in history, in today's world, and in the future when he will come to bring all of creation back to the Father.

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 grandparents:
May they be protected, respected, and cherished;

We pray to the Lord:

Readings for the Week



Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a
Ps 25:4-9
Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday:

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25
Ps 85:9-14
Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10
Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17
Mt 1:1-17

Friday:

Jer 23:5-8
Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1:18-25

Saturday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a
Ps 71:3-6, 16-17
Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday:

Mi 5:1-4a
Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45



Offertory (for the week of November 29th) \$2,428.00

Mass Intentions:

Requested for:

Requested By:

Dec. 12	Saturday	Matthew McNulty †	McNulty/Ordyna/Spillane families
Dec. 13	Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Dec. 16	Wednesday		
Dec. 17	Thursday	Mark Cole †	Stein Family
Dec. 18	Friday		
Dec. 19	Saturday		
Dec. 20	Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Dec. 20	Sunday	Matt Brown	Stark Family



Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship:
"Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none.
The man who has food should do the same."

Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, December 19, 4:00 PM

Lectors: Tom O'Bryon
Extraordinary Ministers:
LaDonna O'Bryon and Tod Stark
Altar Servers: Any Available
Ushers: Tom Matelski and Ron Sicina

**The Flowers on the Altar
this weekend**

were generously donated in
Honor of the
Patterson Family



Sunday, December 20, 9:00 AM

Lector: Bill Hunter
Extraordinary Ministers: John Lueken, James Watson,
Bill Myles, Carlton Turner, **Adam Marlowe
Altar Servers: Ken White and Jim Lally
Crucifer: Mike Palka **Thurifer:** Chris Hotchkiss
Gift Bearers: Marc Zieg and Bill Dimsdale
Ushers: Mark Hofmann and Dennis Ordyna
Greeters: John and Janice Lueken

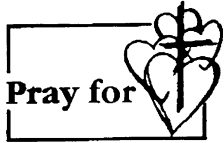
Sunday, December 20, 11:30 AM

Lector: Lorette Edwards
Extraordinary Ministers: Any Available
Altar Servers:
Andrew Chapko and Miranda Salinas
Crucifer: Adrianna Chapko
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, Ron Sicina, Bill Nelson, Darlene Vela-Lewis, 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

Pope Francis has begun this Jubilee Year of Mercy because, as he has stated, mercy is "the beating heart of the Gospel." He states that the purpose of the year is to "reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the Kingdom of God is already present in our midst!" This is a profound statement because he is saying that mercy is for all humanity, not just those who are Christ's disciples, and we are not a people waiting for a coming kingdom, for the kingdom of God is already in our midst.

When John the Baptist was speaking to his followers he spoke about showing mercy to others by giving away your second coat and not collecting more from others than what they owe you. But how much greater that mercy needs to be now that we live in a world redeemed by the power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection! Certainly, the principles of stewardship can assist us in truly being fruitful in this jubilee year.

As good everyday stewards, we should not only see the second coat as something we should give away, but indeed the first coat is not truly ours either. For it would not exist except for the generosity of our God. Since we are only stewards of all we have instead of owners, our ability to be generous greatly increases. We then begin to see that we have many tools at our disposal to offer mercy to those in need. This year we have the chance to really put into practice that which we claim to be true. As mature disciples we are to answer God's call regardless of the cost. During this jubilee year may we now more than ever offer ourselves freely to do his will.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © 2015 Liturgical Publications Inc

Every month Pope Francis announces his monthly prayer intentions, and requests that we include the intentions in our personal prayers. For the month of December please remember these:



Experiencing God's mercy. That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Families. That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

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 turnerduffy@hotmail.com

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	L	N	A	P	X	H	M	J	S	Z	O	C	V	K	Q	D	R	T	F	I	B	E	W	Y	G

1. 10-7-4-18-23 _____
2. 19-18-23-23 _____
3. 26-12-12-17 _____
4. 26-21-14-23 _____
5. 13-7-21-2-17-18-23-3 _____
6. 20-12-12-17 _____
7. 20-18-1-21-19 _____
8. 13-12-4-19-10 _____

John answered, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Luke 3:10-18

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



GOOD	SHARE	TREE	FOOD
FRUIT	GIVE	COATS	CHILDREN

Third Sunday of Advent

"I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals." So said John the Baptist in reference to Jesus. Tax collectors, soldiers, and countless other people gathered to hear John preach. There was an excitement in the air as they were all "filled with expectation." For generations upon generations they had been waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah--the Christ. And now, John the Baptist had appeared with such a striking message and such a powerful presence that "all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ."

But he wasn't. John's mission was to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. In the process, however, people began to think that John was the main attraction. He set the record straight though, when he emphasized that "one mightier than I is coming." And then he made the remark about not being worthy to do even the most humble act of service--loosening sandal straps--for the Lord.

Imagine what the people must have been thinking. They all found John to be such a remarkable man, and yet he declared that he wasn't worthy? If this great prophet was so humble, how much more should they humble themselves in preparation for the coming of the Messiah? And shouldn't we do the same? As we meditate upon the coming of Christ this Advent season, we would do well to make our approach towards Christmas with humble hearts. What have we done to deserve this incredible gift of a Savior? Are we worthy of his incarnation and his saving death? The fact is that nothing we could ever do would possibly earn our redemption. May we be humble enough to acknowledge that our salvation is the greatest gift we could ever receive.

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> <i>*Holy Day of Obligation (HDO)</i>



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

Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of Dec. 14 - Dec. 20

Monday, December 14	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	7:00pm
Tuesday, December 15		
Wednesday, December 16	Novena Mass	6:15pm 6:30pm
Thursday, December 17	Reconciliation Rosary Mass Prayer Group	11:00am 11:35am 12:00 noon 1:15pm
Friday, December 18	Rosary Eucharistic Adoration Reconciliation Mass	10:45am 11:00am 11:00am 12:00 noon
Saturday, December 19	Mass	4:00pm
Sunday, December 20	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Choir Rosary Mass Women's Guild Mtg. following Mass Mass	8:20-8:50am 8:30-8:45am 9:00am 11:30am

