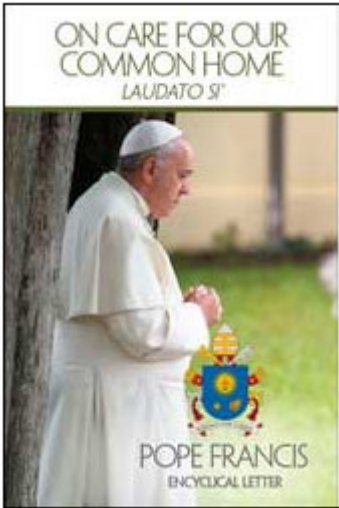


## St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church



### “Praise be to you, my Lord.”

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord.” These are the words that open Pope Francis’ encyclical on ecology and care for God’s creation. These words, quoting St. Francis of Assisi’s beautiful canticle, remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

Pope Francis addresses *Laudato Si’* to “every person on the planet,” for we all share a common home—the earth. He focuses on a number of important themes.

- A Moral and Spiritual Challenge. The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion—to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.

- Care for God’s Creation. God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation. Protecting human dignity is strongly linked to care for creation.

- We are All Connected. We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.
- Impact on the Poor. People in poverty have contributed least to climate change, yet they are disproportionately impacted by it. As a result of excessive use of natural resource by wealthy nations, those who are poor experience pollution, lack of access to clean water, hunger, and more.
- Called to Solidarity. We are one human family and have a shared responsibility for others and for creation. Wealthy countries have a responsibility to reduce consumption of non-renewal resources and should help poorer nations develop in sustainable ways.
- Technological and economic development must serve human beings and enhance human dignity, instead of creating an economy of exclusion, so that all people have access to what is needed for authentic human development.
- Supporting Life, Protecting Creation. Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, or victims of human trafficking.
- A Time to Act. Pope Francis calls for a change in lifestyle and consumption. We can make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.
- Hope and Joy. “Injustice is not invincible” (no. 74) and we act knowing that we seek to live out God’s vision of renewed relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

### How You Can Respond

Each of us are called to take concrete steps – from reducing consumption to working for political change – to better care for creation. Here are some ideas.

1. Become more aware of our connectedness. Care for one another and creation includes understanding that “everything is connected” (no. 91) and that the economy, politics, community involvement, and technology all affect the future of the planet and humankind. How can we become more aware of our connectedness?
2. Changes to lifestyle and consumption habits can make a big difference. For example, get a re-usable water bottle, take shorter showers, walk, bike or take public transportation instead of driving, recycle, compost food waste, and buy energy efficient appliances.
3. Make changes institutionally at your parish, school, or workplace. For example, start recycling and composting, use washable dinnerware in cafeterias, share electronically instead of printing, do an energy audit, and install solar panels.
4. Support local efforts to solve environmental problems. Community groups around the country are working to make city, county, and state-wide changes that can make a big difference. Find out what is going on locally and get involved.
5. Contact your members of Congress to share Pope Francis’ message and urge action to address climate change. Sign up for action alerts with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at <http://cqcengage.com/catholicbishops/jphd>.

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**Intercessions for Life**

For married couples:  
that fervent love for God  
may continue to build and strengthen their marriage;

We pray to the Lord:



**Readings for the Week**

Monday:  
Rv 21:9b-14  
Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday:  
1 Thes 2:1-8  
Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday:  
1 Thes 2:9-13  
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday:  
1 Thes 3:7-13  
Mt 24:42-51

Friday:  
1 Thes 4:1-8  
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday:  
1 Thes 4:9-11  
Mk 6:17-29

Sunday:  
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8  
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Offertory

\$ 4,169.00

<b><u>Mass Intentions:</u></b>	<b><u>Requested for:</u></b>	<b><u>Requested By:</u></b>
Aug. 22 Saturday	Kristopher Stark †	Stark Family
Aug. 23 Sunday	Our Parishioners	
Aug. 26 Wednesday		
Aug. 27 Thursday		
Aug. 28 Friday		
Aug. 29 Saturday	Bobby Myles †	
Aug. 30 Sunday	Our Parishioners	

It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed.

\* Deut. 31:8  
(NABRE © 2010 CCD. Used with permission.)



**Saturday, August 29, 5:00 PM**

**Lectors:** Michael Jackson

**Extraordinary Ministers:** Rita Zinner and Rich McPhee

**Altar Servers:** Any Available

**Ushers:** Howard Messing and Tom Matelski

**Sunday, August 30, 9:00 AM**

**Lector:** Craig Breyne

**Extraordinary Ministers:** Dennis Ordyna, Justin Jewell, Emily Marlowe, Teresa Miller, and \*\* Bill Hunter

**Altar Servers:** Lorette Edwards and Miranda Salina

**Crucifer:** Cody Brimberry

**Gift Bearers:** John and Janice Lueken

**Ushers:** Tim Chapko and Carlton Turner

**Greeters:** John and Janice Lueken

**The Flowers on the Altar this weekend**

were generously donated in



Loving Memory of  
Kristopher Stark †

**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, Vivian Hutton, Tammy Hotchkiss, Robert Dube, Frank Fross, Gary Bennett, Tripp Kelly, and Ron Sicina.



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.

Our 2014 tournament was a great success.

## SAVE THE DATE October 21st 2015

Place: Hickory Hills, Jackson

Sign-in time: 7:30 AM

Tee Off time: 9:00 AM

Free Range Balls til Tee Off

We'll all have a great time and saves lives too. Please Thank the Representatives for their Pro-Life stance, when you see them.

If you have any questions please contact

Mike Patterson

[770-294-0612](tel:770-294-0612)



Holy Spirit College is offering two classes for people who are seeking to delve deeper into Catholic teaching.

1. *Introduction to Catholic Spirituality* explores the monastic spirituality of the Greek fathers and the various spiritual traditions of the Western religious orders. The class is offered on Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in Malta Hall of Holy Spirit College with Fr. Josh Allen, STL. Classes begin August 24th.

2. *Bioethics* offers a review of Catholic teachings on the ethics of medical care, including reproductive and end of life health care. The class will be held eight Saturday mornings, from 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. at St. Jude the Apostle Church with Fr. Paul Burke, JCL. Classes begin August 29th.

For more information, contact Kim Schulman at [kschulman@holyspiritcollege.org](mailto:kschulman@holyspiritcollege.org) or visit the College's website: [www.holyspiritcollege.org](http://www.holyspiritcollege.org).

### 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 "What's So Amazing About Grace?" Author: Philip Yancy. For more information please call the facilitator LaDonna O'Bryon at (706)468-8905 or Rita Zinner at (770)775-1888.



### 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.

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

#### SAFE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

**1-888-437-0764 (24 hours a day) or  
404-888-7804**

**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](mailto:stmarysinjackson@bellsouth.net).

Thank you.



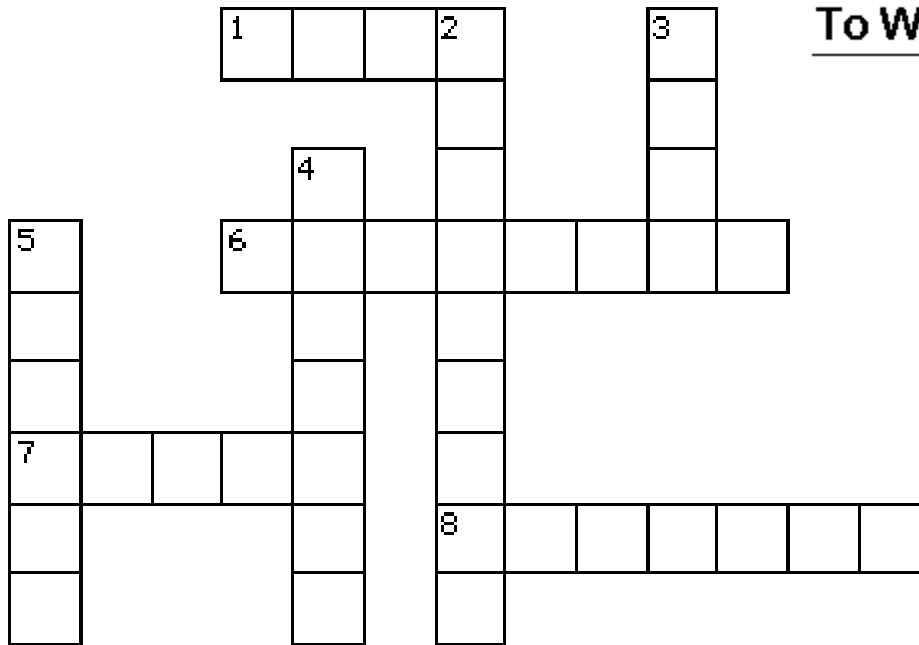
# St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church

## To Whom Shall We Go?



Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 6:60-69



### ACROSS

1. Difficult to understand, accomplish, or finish
6. Sharing knowledge with others
7. To go away from; depart; abandon or forsake
8. Continuing forever

### DOWN

2. The original followers of Jesus
3. To reverse directions
4. To accept as true or real
5. To come after; to go behind someone

FOLLOW	LEAVE	TURN	ETERNAL
TEACHING	DISCIPLES	HARD	BELIEVE

## Twentieth-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

"As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." These departing disciples followed Jesus to a point, but when they encountered a teaching they didn't like, they decided to leave. That was their free choice. And Jesus respected their freedom by letting them go. Then, he turned to the Twelve Apostles and asked, "Do you also want to leave?" Thankfully for us and the entire history of Christianity, Peter replied, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

We have the same choice to make. Will we follow Jesus no matter what, or will we abandon our faith in him if his ways become too uncomfortable? Our decision, too, makes an impact on history. What we choose--how we live our lives, how we witness to the world around us, how we minister to our friends and neighbors, and how we raise our children--all makes a difference. If our faith only goes as far as our comfort zone, then our witness will be a weak one. But if we stand firm, aligning ourselves with Christ even when being Christian means being unpopular or countercultural, then we will make a difference. We won't just be swept along in a stream of indifferent, lukewarm people who are more interested in maintaining the status quo than in living a life that bears witness to the truth.

In today's Old Testament reading, Joshua speaks about choices to the Jewish people. He urges them, and us, "Decide today whom you will serve." And then, he courageously declares, "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." May we have the courage of Joshua to make the right decision and stay faithful to the Lord.

continued from front page...



Prayer

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you!

Amen.

Excerpted from "A Christian prayer in union with creation," in Laudato Si', no. 246

For More Information

- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage on Environment and Environmental Justice ([www.usccb.org/environment](http://www.usccb.org/environment))
- Catholic Climate Covenant ([www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org))
- WeAreSaltAndLight.org

**Upcoming events here at St. Mary, Mother of God for the week of Aug. 24 - Aug. 30**

Monday, August 24	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	7:00pm
Tuesday, August 25		
Wednesday, August 26	Novena	6:15pm
	Communion Service	6:30pm
Thursday, August 27	Rosary	11:35am
	Communion Service	12:00 noon
	Prayer Group	1:15pm
Friday, August 28	Rosary	11:35am
	Communion Service	12:00 noon
Saturday, August 29	Mass	5:00pm
Sunday, August 30	Choir	8:20-8:50am
	Rosary	8:30-8:45am
	Mass	9:00am
	Faith Formation Classes	10:20-11:20am

