

Fr. Henry Thang M. Pham

PASTOR

frhenryofstmary@gmail.com

(706) 886 -2819 ext – 2

Sacramental Emergency

770 - 561- 3918

Mr. Peter Odenbach

RCIA Director

peter@waveeater.com

407-630-2692

Mrs. Jessica Burger

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

(904) 219-1129

Quyền Hà

VIETNAMESE CONNECTION

(918) 808 -2575

Ayen Camilli

PARISH SECRETARY

Monday to Thursday

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

(706) 886-2819

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:30 AM (English)

12 PM (Tiếng Việt)

Tue, Thur, Saturday: 9:00 AM

Mon, Wed, **1st Friday:** 6:00 PM

HOLY HOUR / HOLY ROSARY

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

7:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Monday; Wednesday; **1st Friday:**

4:00 PM - 5:45 PM

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Sunday: 8:00 AM

RECONCILIATION

Monday - Thursday: After Mass

Saturday: 9:45 AM;

6:00 PM (after Mass)

Or: by appointment



St Mary Catholic Church

Our time is now

Let's grow together

231 Rothell Rd Ext. Toccoa Ga 30577

Email: stmarystoccoa@gmail.com

Office: (706) 886-2819

Website: www.stmarystoccoa.org

Second Sunday of Advent

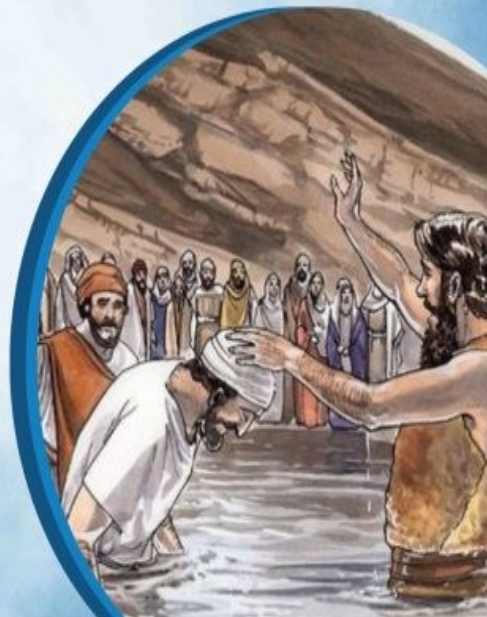
12/10/2023

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ

the Son of God

(Mark 1:1)

Chúa Nhật 2 Mùa Vọng B



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

From outer space, the United States must seem peculiarly aglow these nights: we have strung lights on every tree within reach. Sometimes, even tieltacks and earrings twinkle with "microlights." Clearly, something is afoot: there is a deep-down yearning for the world to change. Yet, John the Baptist would probably be unplugging most of these lights if he had the chance. In today's Gospel he turns people away from his baptism of repentance. "Give some evidence that you mean to reform!" he cries.

What meaning do our holiday lights convey for you? In the deep and dark countryside, a single candle glowing in a window can be seen for miles. It signals welcome and readiness; it is a beacon guiding strangers to the door, a token of a warm hearth, a loving embrace, a sign that those who have placed the candle are awake and waiting. This year, set the timers aside, and each night as you light the candles in your windows, pray: "May Christ find an eager welcome here. May this household be filled with the light of his word." One candle at a time, our faith community can reclaim the meaning of the lights of Advent hope.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS: - First reading: Is 40:1-5, 9-11;

- Second reading: 2 Pt 3:8-14;

- Psalm: 85

- Mk 1:1-8

Mass Intentions 12/9-16/ 2023

SAT: 12/09 (Vigil) 5:00 PM	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Janice Smith (L) <i>Ken and Jan Dover</i>
SUN: 12/10 8:30 AM	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Elaine Helgeland (D) <i>Ladies Guild</i>
	12:00 PM Cầu cho các linh hồn <i>By GD Nguyễn Văn Toàn</i>
MON: 12/11 6:00 PM	Saint Damasus I, Pope Tạ ơn Chúa <i>Fr. Henry</i>
TUE: 12/12 9:00 AM	USA: Our Lady of Guadalupe Max Biester (D) <i>Helen Biester</i>
WED: 12/13 6:00 PM	Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr Maria Nguyễn Thị Thái <i>Fr. Henry</i>
THUR: 12/14 9:00 AM	Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church Martin Ngô Công Chính <i>Fr. Henry</i>
FRI: 12/15	Advent Weekday
SAT: 12/16 9:00 AM	Advent Weekday Steven Peay (L) <i>Nancy Williamson</i>
	5:00 PM Mrs. June Webb (D) <i>Morgan & Concrete Company</i>
SUN: 12/17 8:30 AM	SUN 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Cầu cho ông bà tổ tiên và các linh hồn <i>AC Đức và Duyên</i>
	12:00 PM To To - Happy Birthday <i>Mrs. Pauline Le</i>

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention on 12/2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre

of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Cầu Cho Người Khuyết Tật

Chúng ta hãy cầu nguyện cho những người khuyết tật được xã hội quan tâm cách đặc biệt, và được các tổ chức giáo dục cung cấp những chương trình hòa nhập nhằm tăng cường sự tham gia tích cực của họ.

HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE



Please keep the following people in your prayers

Joe Franzmathes, Laura Barnett, June Webb, Sharon Cook, Eddie Hallford, Jay McAtee, John Craton, Melissa Grigg, James Meyn, Dan Dwyer, Calvin Isbell, Jerry Powell, Kim Kellams, Danny Carter, Joachim Phạm M.Tường, Tim McGlone Sr., Timothy McGlone Jr., Robert McGlone, Christen Cook, Lindsey McDonald, Rebecca Gonzalez, Joy Powell, Nancy Barbour, Mr Joaquin Fejeran & NH—Madeline Mary Singer, Connie Tirico, Tammy Tweedy, Nancy Sterling, Geneva Alexander, Alie Smith, Mr. Dundee Andrew, Anne Kuter and for all others not mentioned here.



If you want to submit an individual for Prayer Intentions, please contact Mrs. Ayen Camilli at: (706) - 886-2819 ext - 1 or Mrs. Gerrie Chalk at: 706 - 963-0050 for a loved one who is sick. Our home-bound Ministers are please to bring you the Holy Communion and Weekly Bulletin.

Updating for the Building

"Our contractor, Dundee Andrews, is recovering from his heart attack and is making favorable progress. Although he has not been cleared to drive yet, his wife is driving him to check on his current projects. He still expects to begin our project in January. Please keep him in your prayers to have a full recovery. Should you have any questions please contact: Dave Slezickey at: 706 - 779 - 1833

Please continue to pray, to support for our Building Project



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday:	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

Meditation: (Mk 1,1-8)

**“The baptism of repentance
and purification in the Holy Spirit”**

Called to hear and obey the Word of God

John broke the prophetic silence of the previous centuries when he began to speak the word of God to the people of Israel. His message was similar to the message of the Old Testament prophets who chided the people of God for their unfaithfulness and who tried to awaken true repentance in them. Among a people unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency, and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive Christ when he came. Are you eager to hear God’s word and to be changed by it through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was more than a prophet (Luke 7:26). John was the voice of the Consoler who is coming (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:1-3). He completed the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14). What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, now came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God’s Anointed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the “divine likeness”, prefiguring what would be achieved with and in the Lord Jesus.

**Let the Holy Spirit purify
and transform your mind and heart**

John’s baptism was for repentance – turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God’s word. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God’s kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). The Lord Jesus comes to baptize each one of us in his Holy Spirit so that we may walk in his truth and holiness and radiate the joy of the Gospel to all we meet. God’s word has power to change and transform our lives so that we may be lights that point others to Jesus Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Christ. Do you point others to Jesus Christ in the way you live, speak, and treat others?

“Lord, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your Gospel and to point others to Jesus Christ.”

(Tác giả: Don Schwager Nguồn: www.dailyscripture.net)

CHÚA NHẬT II MÙA VỌNG - NĂM B

Suy Niệm: (Mc 1,1-8)

“Phép rửa thống hối và thanh tẩy trong Chúa Thánh Thần”.

Được gọi để lắng nghe và vâng giữ lời Chúa

Gioan đã phá vỡ sự im lặng có tính tiên tri của hàng thế kỷ trước, khi ông bắt đầu nói lời Chúa cho dân Israel. Sứ điệp của ông cũng tương tự sứ điệp của các ngôn sứ trong Cựu ước, những người đã lên tiếng khiển trách dân Thiên Chúa về sự bất trung của họ, và cố gắng khơi dậy lòng thống hối chân thật trong họ. Giữa những người không hề quan tâm tới những gì của Thiên Chúa, công việc của ông là đánh thức sự chú ý của họ, quấy rối tính tự mãn của họ, và khơi dậy trong họ thiện chí để nhận ra và tiếp nhận Đức Kitô khi Người đến. Bạn có chỉ cho người khác biết Đức Kitô trong cách bạn sống, việc làm, và lời nói không?

Tại sao Chúa Giêsu nói rằng Gioan tẩy giả còn hơn hẳn một ngôn sứ (Lc 7,26). Gioan là tiếng nói của Đấng an ủi sẽ đến (Ga 1,23; Is 40,1-3). Ông đã hoàn tất quá trình của các ngôn sứ, bắt đầu từ Êlia (Mt 11,13-14). Những gì các tiên tri đã hết sức tìm kiếm, và các thiên thần khao khát nhìn thấy, giờ đây đã đi đến chỗ hoàn thành khi Gioan dọn đường cho Đấng Mêsia sắp đến, người Con được xức dầu của Thiên Chúa, Đức Giêsu Kitô. Với Gioan tẩy giả, Chúa Thánh Thần bắt đầu phục hồi cho con người hình ảnh “giống Thiên Chúa”, tiên báo trước những gì phải được thành tựu với và trong Chúa Giêsu.

**Hãy để Chúa Thánh Thần thanh tẩy
và biến đổi lòng trí bạn**

Phép thanh tẩy của Gioan dành cho sự thống hối – từ bỏ tội lỗi và bước đi trên con đường sự sống mới, dựa theo lời Thiên Chúa. Phép rửa của chúng ta bằng nước và Thần Khí trong Đức Giêsu Kitô đem lại sự sống mới và bước vào vương quốc Thiên Chúa như những người con của Người (Ga 3,5). Chúa Giêsu đến để thánh tẩy mỗi người chúng ta trong Thánh Thần của Người để chúng ta có thể bước đi trong sự thật và sự thánh thiện của Người và chiếu tỏa niềm vui Tin mừng cho những ai chúng ta gặp gỡ. Lời Chúa có quyền năng thay đổi và thánh hóa cuộc đời chúng ta, để chúng ta có thể trở thành ánh sáng chỉ cho người khác biết Đức Giêsu Kitô. Giống như Gioan tẩy giả, chúng ta cũng được kêu gọi làm chứng tá cho ánh sáng và chân lý của Đức Kitô. Bạn có chỉ cho người khác biết Đức Giêsu Kitô trong cách bạn sống, lời nói, và việc làm không?

Lạy Chúa, xin cho ánh sáng của Chúa cháy bùng lên trong lòng con, để con có thể nhận biết niềm vui và tự do của vương quốc Chúa. Xin đổ tràn đầy Thánh Thần Chúa trên con và ban sức mạnh để con làm chứng cho chân lý của Tin mừng và chỉ cho người khác biết Đức Giêsu Kitô.

December 12th
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



In the winter of 1531, a poor, 57-year-old Aztec Indian living five miles outside of Mexico City encountered a miraculous happening on his way to morning Mass. First he heard strange music coming from Tepeyac Hill, and then he heard a woman's voice calling his name. Juan Diego climbed the hill and encountered a young woman, appearing to be of his own people in physical appearance and dress. The woman identified herself as the Virgin Mary, and told Juan Diego to ask the bishop of Mexico City to build a church on the hill to assist in the conversion of the nation and be a source of consolation to the people.

Juan Diego obeyed the request, but the bishop was skeptical regarding the message, even though he perceived that Juan was a humble, and well meaning Catholic. Juan reported the bishop's doubt to Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, and she asked him to return to the bishop once again, bearing the same message. The bishop once again heard the story, and told Juan Diego to ask Our Lady for a sign that it was indeed herself that wished for the church to be built.

When he returned to the hill, Mary gave Juan Diego such a sign. Miraculously, roses appeared on the hill in the middle of winter, and Juan gathered them in his tilma, or cloak. Our Lady arranged the roses in his tilma with her own hands, and Juan returned to the bishop's presence. When Juan released the tilma, allowing the flowers to fall to the floor, it was revealed that a miraculous image of Our Lady had imprinted itself on his tilma (see above).

The bishop immediately fell to his knees, and came to believe in Juan Diego's message. A church was built on the spot of the apparition, as Mary had requested, and 8 million people converted to Catholicism in a short period of time upon hearing of or viewing the miraculous image of Our Lady.

The tilma of Juan Diego has been the subject of much modern research. The tilma, woven out of coarse cactus fiber, should have disintegrated after 20 years, but although over 500 years have passed the tilma is still in perfect condition. The pupils of Mary in the picture reflect the Indians and clergy present at the time of the first revelation of the image. No paint was used, and chemical analysis has not been able to identify the color imprint. Additionally, studies have revealed that the stars on Mary's mantle match exactly what a Mexican would have seen in the sky in December of 1531.

ADVENT PARISH RETREAT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2023

5:00 PM at Church

"Dear members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, join us for an enriching Advent day of recollection on the essence of hope tailored for our community. As we gather in the embrace of St. Mary's, let's explore how hope intertwines with our shared faith, fortifying our connection to the divine and to one another. Come, let us celebrate the Advent season together with a renewed sense of hope, love, and unity within the walls of St. Mary's".

"Dear St. Mary's Catholic Church family, meet Fr. Praveen Turaka OFM Cap, a beacon of compassion and hope. Hailing from India, Fr. Praveen has been a devoted presence in the Archdiocese of Atlanta since 2020, tirelessly serving the homeless in Atlanta through the Capuchin food truck. His commitment shines through as he, alongside his Brother Friars, provides over 100 hot meals every Monday and Thursday in downtown Atlanta. Ordained as a priest in 2014, Fr. Praveen brings a wealth of experience and spiritual insight. Join us in embracing his presence for a special Advent day of recollection, as we explore the transformative power of hope together."

Confession



Parish Penance Service
English/Vietnamese

6:30 PM

The Second Sunday of Advent

"As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.



"And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behavior in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

"Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ." — Benedict XVI

Offertory/Contribution Weekend December 02 & 03 2023

Weekly Budget	\$ 3,100.00
Offertory	\$ 8,092.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,209.27
Retirement Fund Religious Ed.	\$ 177.00

The counters for this week are:

Toddy, Jack Marcinick & Bill Mercure

Next week, second collection is for

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you for your generosity!



**Gaudete Sunday
Celebration
Sunday Dec. 17, 1:30 pm
Parish Hall**

There is a **sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please indicate what type of item you will be bringing so we can avoid duplication!** The Parish will provide the main dish. Also let us know the number attending! Thank you.

St. Mary's PSR Activities on December 2023

1/ The Christmas Card Contest winners have been chosen and recognized, cards are printed and available for purchase, in the Narthex, 12 cards, 3 of each design, for \$20.

2/ Fundraiser, selling items from the Monastery of the Holy Spirit is completed. **The youth raised almost \$900.** It would be fantastic to be able to accept credit card or online payments next time. Many thanks to Stephanie Cortellino and members of the ladies guild for picking up and delivering the items, and Ayen Camilli for organizing the paperwork and securing payment.

3/ **The youth will be hosting a Parent's Night Out for our children on Saturday, Dec. 16th in the parish hall, from 5pm-9pm. Parents can drop their children and we will provide playtime, crafts, snacks, dinner and watch "The Star." This will provide our youth with volunteer hours and our parents with time to shop, wrap presents, or just rest!**

4/ **Religious Education students and families will be decorating the church on Dec. 24th after the 8:30 mass.**

We will have our Nativity Play on Sunday, Dec. 24th at 6pm. It is open to all children of the parish for non-speaking roles. A few of our youth will be doing the reading.

We are planning to take the Youth Group On Feb. 10th, to attend Winter Jam at the Gas South Arena, this is an exciting Christian Concert and revival experience. Cost is \$10 per person.

The Confirmation Class will participate in a Life Teen Retreat at Covecrest, Feb. 23-25, 2024. Currently, we are registered for 6 students and 2 adults for a cost of \$1,302.80. We are in need of an adult male chaperone who is Virtus certified.

We would appreciate anyone who would like to step up and lead a Children's Ministry and/or support Youth Activities. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you - Jessica

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION ON DECEMBER 2023 9:30 AM —11:30 AM

Class	Date	Breakfast schedule
PSR	12/ 03	Knights of Columbus
PSR	12/10	Vietnamese
PSR	12/17	Ladies Guild
No Classes	12/24 & 12/31	No Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus

Joseph M. Malik Council 9975

Grand Knight Mike Staley:

770-241-8544 (Cell)

Email: mikestaley914@gmail.com



A Catholic Men's organization whose principles are charity, unity and fraternity: all activities that the council involves itself in are based upon these tenets. We work closely with our Pastor and members are involved in a wide range of church functions in support of the parish family.

- * Members are required to be practicing Catholics and a Minimum of eighteen years old.
- * Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month @6PM in
- * The Parish Social Hall.
- * Monthly parish breakfast is sponsored on the first or second Sunday after the morning Mass.

For more info please visit: www.kofc.org

St. Mary's Ladies



The Ladies of St. Mary serve to provide a community of fellowship and growth in faith, reaching out to serve and support our pastor, parish families and the community. We serve God through a commitment and uniting our members through prayer, work and service.

Meet: 2nd Wednesday of the month

- 10 AM: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov
- 7pm: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec

Co-Presidents: - Donna: (678) - 851 - 7170
- Stephanie: (404) - 353 - 0475



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