



**MARY**  
KEPT ALL  
THESE THINGS.

— LUKE 2:19 —

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

## ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY’S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

JANUARY 1, 2026

- SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD -

### Contact Us

#### Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor

Cell 406.946.2195 or Rectory 406.654.1446

Deacon Tom DePuydt

deacontom@saintmarysmalta.org or 406.674.7060

Administrative Assistant (Macie Hould) office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 2pm at RE Center

[office@saintmarysmalta.org](mailto:office@saintmarysmalta.org) or (406) 654-1311

Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

**Confession** – Friday’s 9-10am, Saturday’s 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

**Adoration** – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

#### MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm    Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Daily Mass (Monday thru Friday) – Malta 8:30am

## Homily by Fr. Felix:

*The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (A).  
Numbers 6:22–27, Galatians 4:4–7, Luke 2:16–21*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, On this first day of the New Year, the Church places before us Mary, the Mother of God, not merely to honor her, but to help us understand the profound mystery of God's love unfolding in time. As the year begins, God does not give us a plan, a calendar, or predictions—but a Mother and a Child.

In the First Reading from the Book of Numbers, we hear the ancient priestly blessing: “The Lord bless you and keep you... The Lord let his face shine upon you and give you peace.” This blessing reveals the deepest desire of God, to turn His face toward His people and fill them with peace. Today, this blessing finds its fulfillment in Mary. In her womb, God's face shines upon humanity. Through her Son, Jesus, the blessing is no longer just spoken, it becomes flesh. Mary becomes the living place where God's blessing touches the earth.

The Second Reading from Galatians brings us to the heart of today's feast: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman.” This short phrase contains an immense truth. God truly entered human history, and He did so through Mary. She is not simply the mother of Jesus' human nature; she is rightly called Mother of God, because the one she bore is fully God and fully human. Through her “yes,” we are no longer slaves but sons and daughters, able to cry out, “Abba, Father.” Mary's motherhood opens the door to our divine adoption.

In the Gospel, the shepherds hurry to Bethlehem and find Mary, Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. While the shepherds speak of what they have seen, Mary does something very different, “She treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Mary teaches us how to begin a new year: not with noise or fear, but with contemplation. She listens, reflects, and trusts, even when she does not fully understand. Her silence is full of faith; her heart is open to God's mysterious ways.

Finally, we hear that the child is named Jesus, meaning “God saves.” This name proclaims the mission of the Son and the faith of the Mother. Mary does not claim the child for herself; she offers Him to the world. At the beginning of the year, she invites us to do the same, to entrust our lives, our families, and our future to her Son.

Dear friends, as we step into this new year, the Church reminds us that peace does not come from human strength but from God's blessing; freedom comes not from independence but from divine sonship; and hope comes from welcoming Christ as Mary did. May Mary, the Mother of God, teach us to carry Christ into the year ahead, to ponder God's work in our hearts, and to live as true children of the Father.

May the Lord bless us and keep us, may He let His face shine upon us, and through Mary's intercession, may He grant us peace. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

We are in the process of updating our **volunteer information in the Ministry Scheduler program**. If you are on the list to serve a ministry, please email [office@saintmarysmalta.org](mailto:office@saintmarysmalta.org) with any dates you do not want to be scheduled &/or any mass requests you have (Sunday only or Saturday only, ect.) We appreciate your continued service to the church with grateful hearts.

*– It's not too late to be added to the ministry list! If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to the office or contact Macie Hould or Anne Boothe*

**If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, ect.) in our Parish, please contact Fr. Felix so he may grant his permission.**

Week of December 28th, 2025 Donations: Malta \$7646, Saco- no count this week, Dodson- \$455

## Mary, the Holy Mother of God

This solemnity is a rather recent addition to the cycle of seasons, Sundays, and feasts in our liturgical year. We have Pope Paul VI to thank for the 1974 enshrining of the devotion to Mary into our calendar on January 1<sup>ST</sup> . It is also a day in our calendar as a World Day for Peace.

### Let us pray.....

God of heaven and earth,

You came to us and took our earthly flesh through the gift of Mary's yes. She is our Mother in faith, as she is your earthly mother. We are thankful beyond our ability to thank you for the gift of her Son as our brother and savior. Through her self-giving, we have been reconciled to you. Bless us as we begin this New Year and endow us with the desire and ability to create a world of peace.

We ask all this, through the intercession of Mary to you, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

**Please pray for** –Chuck Nurville, David Cochran, Dawn Goodheart Jones, the family of Skyla Sisco, Debbie and Joe Nicholson, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Adalyn McCollom, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

**For the repose of the souls of** – Skyla Sisco, Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

**Starting Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>:**

**Saco mass time will remain @ 8:30am**

**Dodson mass time will remain @ 12:30pm;**

*\*\*This change is ONLY for the month of JANUARY, then the seasonal rotation will be continued for these churches as they wish. We will update with more information as we move forward. Thank you for your patience as we work through the schedule changes.*

**Mass Intentions** - to schedule an intention,  
please fill out an envelope at the back of the church.

Each intention is \$10.

Saturday 12.27.25	For Sue Morrow & the Morrow family r/b The Cummings
Sunday 12.28.25 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco 12:30 Dodson	- For Anthony C.- for better health r/b a friend - For the marginalized r/b Lana Fortin - For the faithful in our Parish
Monday 12.29.25	Repose of Leah Neumiller r/b Mears Family
Tuesday 12.30.25	Repose of Marge Howell r/b The Howells
Wednesday 12.31.25	For my family living and dead r/b Lana Fortin
<b>Thursday 1.1.25</b>	<b>Holy Day of Obligation: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - For the faithful in our Parish</b>
Friday 1.2.25	For all the LaFond & Cumming families r/b The Cummings
Saturday 1.3.25	For the souls in purgatory r/b Lana Fortin
Sunday 1.4.25	For the faithful in our Parish

**Daily Readings for the Week of  
December 28th:**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
<b>Monday:</b>	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
<b>Tuesday:</b>	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
<b>Thursday:</b>	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
<b>Friday:</b>	1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
<b>Saturday:</b>	1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**Finance Council members include:**

**Mike Ereaux** 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C),  
[7mfe7195@itstriangle.com](mailto:7mfe7195@itstriangle.com)  
**Deb Sjostrom** 406-654-1451, [sjostrom@itstriangle.com](mailto:sjostrom@itstriangle.com).  
**Lance Hould** 406-539-5772, [lanceh\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:lanceh_99@hotmail.com)  
**Scott King** 406-654-7302, [sbking1959@gmail.com](mailto:sbking1959@gmail.com)  
**Heathyr Knowles** 805-264-7350, [hjknowles@msn.com](mailto:hjknowles@msn.com)  
**Shyla Sunford** 406-399-1484, [shylasunford@gmail.com](mailto:shylasunford@gmail.com) (Saco)  
**Bonnie Lankford** 406-390-2276, [Bonnie4339@hotmail.com](mailto:Bonnie4339@hotmail.com) (Dodson)

*Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.*

**Parish Council members include:**

**Alora Snider**— 406-399-1675, [alora\\_lynn\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com)  
**Shawn Bleth**— 406-654-7303, [shawn.bleth@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.bleth@gmail.com)  
**Nancy Ereaux**—406-658-2613  
**Jeff Van Heel**—406-266-1133  
**Joy DePuydt**—406-674-5560, [joyful@itstriangle.com](mailto:joyful@itstriangle.com) (Saco)  
**Leona Kienenberger**—406-383-4459,  
[leona\\_kienenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com) (Dodson)



