



*Two Parishes,  
One Family*



**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor:**  
The Very Rev.  
Stephen Vrazel

**Deacon:**  
Mark Thompson

**School Principal:**  
Corinne Cuffle

**Pastoral Assistant:**  
Laurel Wallace

**Dir. of Development:**  
Marcelle Naman

**Volunteer Coordinator:**  
Millie Dixon

**Parish Bookkeeper:**  
Anna Summersell

**Music Director:**  
Dr. Collin Lowery

**Dir. of Religious Ed.:**  
Steve Dolan, Jr.

**Bulletin & Website  
Coordinator:**  
Lindsey Binion

**RECONCILIATION:**

5:00-6:00pm Tues. and Thurs. or by appt.

**MASS TIMES – HOLY DAYS:**

Vigil–5:30pm; 6:00am, 8:15am (school year)  
and 5:30pm

**ADORATION:**

6:30am-4:00pm Fridays in the Chapel

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Open M–F 8:00AM–3:00PM  
106 Providence St. | Mobile, AL 36604  
251-432-8678

**SCHOOL OFFICE:**

Open M–F 8:00AM–3:00PM  
107 N. Lafayette St. | Mobile, AL 36604  
251-433-9904

[www.stmarymobile.org](http://www.stmarymobile.org)

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor:**  
The Very Rev.  
Stephen Vrazel

**Deacon:**  
Douglas McEnery

**Organists:**  
Richard Jones,  
MaryAnne Cieutat

**Secretary:**  
Lynn Anderson

**RECONCILIATION:**

3:30-3:55 pm Saturday and by appt.

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Open M, W, F 9:00AM–12:00PM  
1260 Elmira St. | Mobile, AL 36604  
251-432-3505  
office@stjoanofarc.net  
[www.stjoanofarcmobile.com](http://www.stjoanofarcmobile.com)

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Week of 12/04/2–12/10/23  
Offertory: \$1,711.00  
On-Line: \$245.00  
Retired Religious: \$225.00

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**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

**Week of 12/04/23–12/10/23**

Sunday 12/10/23: \$2,881.22  
Mailed in: \$1,210.45  
Online: \$5,018.88  
Christmas Flowers: \$505.00  
**Total: \$9,615.55**

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

Retired Religious – Dec. 10 – \$337.22



To visit our online donation page,  
open your smart phone's camera  
and aim it at the coded square.  
Touch the link that pops up on  
your phone.

**December 24, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas**

**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

|  | DAY     | DATE   | WHERE      | WHEN     | INTENTIONS                      |
|--|---------|--------|------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| <b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> | Sat.,   | Dec 23 | St. Joan   | 4:00pm   | Elizabeth Ferniany Peadon (D)   |
|  |         |        | St. Mary's | 5:30pm   |                                 |
|  | Sun.,   | Dec 24 | St. Mary's | 6:00am   |                                 |
|  |         |        | St. Joan   | 8:30am   | Muriel Blanchette (D)           |
| <b>CHRISTMAS MASSES</b>                |         |        | St. Mary's | 9:30am   |                                 |
|  | Sun.,   | Dec 24 | St. Mary's | 4:00pm   |                                 |
|  |         |        | St. Joan   | 4:00pm   | Parishioners of St. Joan of Arc |
|  |         |        | St. Mary's | 6:00pm   |                                 |
|  |         |        | St. Mary's | Midnight |                                 |
|  | Mon.,   | Dec 25 | St. Joan   | 9:00am   | Deacon Doug McEnery (L)         |
|  | Tues.,  | Dec 19 | St. Mary's | 6:00am   |                                 |
|  | Wed.,   | Dec 20 | St. Mary's | 6:00am   |                                 |
|  | Thurs., | Dec 21 | St. Mary's | 9:00am   | David Herrin (d)                |
|  | Fri.,   | Dec 22 | St. Mary's | 6:00am   |                                 |



## PLEASE PRAY FOR *the Sick*

Christy Blackmon,  
Hoagy

Kearns, Janet Pierre, Kathy Wall, Ann Schillings, Karen Clark Andrews, Michael Newburn, Milton Days, Betty Spotswood, Frances Arata, Betsy McAleer, Daniel Lawrence, George Finkbohner, Anne Hall, Laura Cummings, Felice Lomangino, Philip Tapia, Preston Griffith, Karen Johnson, Sandra Edwards, Mary Lou Noletto, Sandi Clark, Guillermo Herrera, Marsena Walsh, Douglas Laird, Bill Klein, Idella Lang, Claire Morrow, Richard Harrington, Carolyn Harrington, Jim Fibbe, Mary Davis Rutledge, Sr. Mary Agnes Nagle, Doris Reed, Westey and Kathleen Hurst, Susan Thornton, Carolyn Simmons, Virgil Graham, Joe Kenny, Kate Myers, Sr. Elizabeth Ann Cannon, Wendy Maken, Jean Rathle, Sharon Laird, Elizabeth Vannees, John Johnson, Louise McPherson, Jackson Johnson, Carol Rathle, Angela Nagle, Judy Daly, Denise Smith, Geri Barnett, Adele Kearns, Viola Henderson, Eva Haustein, James LeGrone, Coach Phillips Murphy

### PRAYER GROUP

#### WOMEN'S ROSARY GROUP

The WOSM Rosary Group meets twice each month in the Chapel, on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at 8:30am This group is led by Alexis Talbott. The next meeting is **Sat., January 6.**

## NOTE: UPCOMING HOLIDAY MASS CHANGES

### MASSES FOR 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This year is an unusual situation in that Christmas Eve is also on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. Though many of you may be planning to attend Mass on Christmas Eve, please note that that **will not** fulfill your 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent obligation; you should plan on attending both liturgies! For your convenience, we've added an additional Vigil Mass at St. Mary's for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 23:

4:00PM Vigil Mass – St. Joan of Arc  
5:30PM Vigil Mass – St. Mary's

**IN ADDITION,** there will be

**NO 11:30AM Mass** at St. Mary's for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent! Please plan to attend either the 6:00AM Mass, the 9:00AM Mass, or either of the Vigil Masses mentioned above.

### NOW HIRING

#### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

is seeking a full-time caregiver for the children ranging in ages from 6 weeks to 2 years. Please contact our principal, Corinne Cuffle, at ccuffle@stmarymobile.org for more information.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** at the 9:30AM Sunday Mass welcomes children ages 3-8. They'll be led to the chapel for the Liturgy of the Word, to return to their pews after bringing up the gifts at the Offertory.

**CCD CLASSES** meet on Sundays from 10:30–11:20 in the St. Mary's School building. Please contact Steve Dolan at sdolan@stmarymobile.org for inquiries.

#### ST. MARY CONFIRMATION CLASS

meets next on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 7:00PM in the Sisters of Mercy Building.

**RCIA CLASSES** meet on Thursdays from 7PM–8PM in the Sisters of Mercy Building for any adults interested in learning more about or joining the Catholic faith. Please contact the parish office at (251) 432-8678 for more information.

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

meets in the Youth Building at 111 N. Lafayette St. at 12:30 to play games and eat pizza together. At 1:30, the girls and boys separate for their own focus groups, led by Elizabeth Rafferty and Fr. Vrazel.

## DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS AT ST. MARY'S

#### THE CHRISTMAS MASS

**INSTRUMENTALISTS** were donated in honor of Leslie Steven Chase & Brenda LeGrone

The flowers at the following statues were donated in honor of:

**SACRED HEART** – Art Crooker

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL** – The Habeeb Family (Living & Deceased), Jim Patterson

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES** – Ross & Betty Drake, Denis Reilly, Sr., Ellen Reilly, Ellen L. Johnson, and the Reilly Family

**ST. ANTHONY** – Zoghby-Aoun Families Living & Deceased, Baaklini-Germani Families Living & Deceased

**INFANT OF PRAGUE** – John & Bena Boucher, The Habeeb Family (Living & Deceased)

#### OTHER DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF (NO SPECIFIC SHRINE/INSTRUMENT):

- The Lomangino & Wendrich Families
- Carlos S. Henderson, Sylvia A. Beverly, Freddie Beverly, Pearlina Beverly, Joyce M. Lucious, Leola Simmons, Sgt. Carl A. Simmons
- Henri Amin Rathle, M.D.
- The Dodson Family
- The Diamond Family
- In memory of Patricia Piper
- In honor of Madelyn & Isabel Piper
- In memory of Paul & Alice Gray
- In memory of Ralph & Janet Champion
- In memory of Mary Louise & Buddy Collier
- In memory of Julia & Sam Zogbhy
- In memory of Anne & Bill Wishon
- In memory of Geraldine England
- In memory of Robert Davis
- In memory of William "Bill" Dixon
- In honor of Alfred & Geraldine England

#### GENERAL DONATIONS GIVEN BY:

- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph R. Guy, Jr.
- Frank Conwell
- Mrs. Sandra Demming
- Mr. & Mrs. Greg Divin
- Miss Mignon Kilday

Thank you to all of our generous donors for making our church and music so beautiful for Christmas Mass!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Dec 23</b>                  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Vigil Masses</b>      |
| 4:00pm                         | St. Joan of Arc  |
| 5:30pm                         | St. Mary's   |
| <b>Dec 24</b>                  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Masses</b>            |
| 6:00am                         | St. Mary's   |
| 8:30am                         | St. Joan of Arc  |
| 9:30am                         | St. Mary's   |
| NO 11:30AM MASS AT ST. MARY'S  |  |
| <b>Dec 24</b>                  | <b>Christmas Eve Masses</b>                              |
| 4:00pm                         | St. Joan of Arc  |
| 4:00pm                         | St. Mary's   |
| 6:00pm                         | St. Mary's   |
| Midnight                       | St. Mary's   |
| <b>Dec. 25</b>                 | <b>Christmas Day Mass</b>                                |
| 9:00am                         | St. Joan of Arc  |
| NO MASS AT ST. MARY'S          |  |
| <b>Dec. 31</b>                 | <b>New Year's Eve Holy Hour</b>                          |
| 11:00pm                        | St. Mary's Church to Midnight                            |
| <b>Jan. 1</b>                  | <b>Feast of Mary, Mother of God: New Year's Day Mass</b> |
| 9 a.m.                         | St. Mary's   |
| <b>Jan. 24</b>                 | <b>Marriage Night</b>                                    |
| 6:00pm                         | SOM Building   |
| <b>Feb. 7</b>                  | <b>50+ Valentine's Luncheon</b>                          |
| 12:00pm                        | SOM Building   |
| <b>Feb. 13</b>                 | <b>Ash Wednesday</b>                                     |
| Ashes distributed at:          |  |
| 6:00am, 8:10am                 | Mass   |
| 5:30pm                         | (Vespers—not a Mass)                                     |
| <b>Mar. 18</b>                 | <b>Marriage Night</b>                                    |
| 6:00pm                         | SOM Building   |
| <b>Mar. 19</b>                 | <b>St. Joseph's Altar &amp;</b>                          |
| 5:30pm                         | Pasta Dinner, school gym                                 |
| <b>Sun. Mar 24</b>             | <b>Palm Sunday</b>                                       |
| 6:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am MAsses |  |
| <b>Thurs. Mar 28</b>           | <b>Holy Thursday</b>                                     |
| 7:00pm                         | Mass of the Lord's Supper                                |
| <b>Fri. Mar 29</b>             | <b>Good Friday</b>                                       |
| 3:00pm                         | Passion Liturgy  |
| 3:00pm                         | Stations of the Cross                                    |
| 7:00pm                         | Tenebrae   |
| <b>Sat. Mar 30</b>             | <b>Holy Saturday</b>                                     |
| 9:00am                         | Tenebrae   |
| 3:00pm                         | Confessions  |
| 8:00pm                         | Easter Vigil   |
| <b>Sun. Mar 31</b>             | <b>Easter Sunday!</b>                                    |
| 6:00am, 9:30am, 11:30am Masses |  |
| 10:30am                        | Easter Egg Hunt  |
| <b>April 21–27</b>             | <b>Steak Out Weekend!</b>                                |
| Apr. 21                        | Spring Swing, 12:00pm                                    |
| April 25                       | Mix & Mingle, 6:30pm                                     |
| April 27                       | Love Like Lillis Walk, 8:00am                            |
| April 27                       | Kids' PlayDay, 9:00am                                    |
| April 27                       | Steak Out, 6:00pm  |

## December 17, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

(©LPI)

Life is troubling. Who among us has not struggled with anxiety and difficulties, sometimes massive ones? I certainly have, as have many of my loved ones. If we do, does this mean that we don't trust the Lord or just need to toughen up?

I don't think so. How encouraging for us anxious and troubled souls to hear Luke describe the Blessed Mother Mary in these words, **"But she was greatly troubled at what was said."** An archangel has visited her. An inconceivable promise has been made to her. Her life has become wildly unpredictable, perhaps more so than any person before or since. The first point for us: the Lord is with her precisely when she is troubled.

Her anxiousness and God's presence are not mutually exclusive. Christianity is not about a trance-like robotic indifference. It's about the presence of divine love. Even in — especially in — troubled circumstances.

Our troubled soul can become our greatest treasure. What seems so troubling at first to Mary becomes the best possible thing, Jesus, the Savior and Lord, is now her son. All the difficulties and troubles remain, and yet her movement into the fullness of God is accelerated. What is troubling you right now? This scripture invites us now, this week, to hear the Lord's messenger say to us what he said to Mary, **"Do not be afraid! You have found favor with God."**

— *Father John Muir*



### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The flowers were donated in memory of:

- Knight Family
- Gulley Family
- Withers Family
- Overmeyer Family
- Rivers Family
- Allen Family
- Williams Family
- Beauvais Family
- Sierke Family
- Walpole Family
- Stadther Family
- Ellie & Joe Brown
- Art Kersten Jr
- Henry Parham
- Phillip & Millie Midgette
- Walter & Dorothy Radka
- Art & Peggy Kersten
- Debbie Winberg Fleming
- Alicia Winberg Hill
- Odie Winberg Soper
- Francis Rose Murdock Dunning
- Esther Chopersh Winberg
- Cora Blanchette
- Muriel Blanchette
- Mary McGuinness
- and in honor of Betsy & Cooper Brown, and Ginger Fonde'.
- Malone Family
- Lee Family
- Menton Family
- Wells Family
- Lewis Family
- Crockett Family
- Tuthill Family
- Watson Family
- Kersten Family
- McCarron Family
- Spence Family
- Jerry Radka
- Edward Olsen
- Rosado Ortiz

### SUNDAY BRUNCH SOCIAL

We will not have a brunch social Christmas Eve Sunday or New Year's Eve Sunday but invite everyone to join us after the holidays following the 8:30 Sunday Mass. Thank you to all who prepare this wonderful social—please contact the office or Helena Smith if you would like to be put on a brunch team.

### ST. STEPHEN SOCIAL

Please join us in the Hall of Angels on Tuesday, December 26 th at 6:00pm for a celebration of St. Stephen's Feast Day (Fr. Vrazel's name saint). A pasta meal will be provided but we welcome your side dishes, appetizers and desserts. Check your email for sign up or contact Helena Smith.

### CHURCH DECORATIONS

Thank you to all of the parishioners who came together to decorate the Church this year – it is especially beautiful and we appreciate you all! Special thanks to BJ Robertson, Lynn Anderson, and Mary Jane Blanchette for preparing the decorations ahead of time.