



*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**

12/2-3/23  
Offertory: \$3,347.00



Scan this QR code to give online!

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Totals for week of 12/4–10/23  
will be posted in next week's  
bulletin.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

Retired Religious – Dec. 10



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 17, 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent**

**MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS**

DAY	DATE	WHERE	WHEN	INTENTIONS
Sat.,	Dec 16	St. Joan	4:00pm	Ellen Marston & Family (I)
Sun.,	Dec 17	St. Mary's	6:00am	Kilday Family (I & d)
		St. Joan	8:30am	Kossik Family (I & d)
		St. Mary's	9:30am	Parishioners of St. Mary's
		St. Mary's	11:30am	Miranda Hodgic (d)
Mon.,	Dec 18	NO MASS		
Tues.,	Dec 19	St. Mary's	6:00am	Gwen Herrin (d)
Wed.,	Dec 20	St. Mary's	6:00am	Maya Ozakur (I)
Thurs.,	Dec 21	St. Mary's	9:00am	Deacon John Cretaro (d)
Fri.,	Dec 22	St. Mary's	6:00am	Una Lou Ozakur (I)



## 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

### 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](mailto:ccuffle@stmarymobile.org) for more information.

### PRAYER GROUPS

#### 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.**

#### A Message from the ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to the parishioners of St. Mary and St. Joan of Arc!! We are so very grateful and blessed for the support of over \$19,074 you provided in our mission of service to the poor. Your donations of food, financial support, and prayers enable us to offer hope and assistance to those in need in our parish and community. Our conference is made up of an all volunteer membership, dedicated to ensuring the resources are managed properly, while providing respect, confidentiality and compassion to those we serve.

## 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.

**CDD CLASSES** meet on Sundays from 10:30-11:20 in the St. Mary's School building. Please contact Steve Dolan at [sdolan@stmarymobile.org](mailto:sdolan@stmarymobile.org) for inquiries.

**ST. MARY CONFIRMATION CLASS** meets next on Wednesday, Jan. 3, at 7:00PM in the Sisters of Mercy Building.

### 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.

During the past 12 months our SVdP conference:

- Assisted over 664 people in support with utilities, food, furniture, clothing, rental assistance, gas vouchers, transportation assistance, etc. for those in need in our parish boundaries.
- Provided over 200 people with food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas; thanks to the generosity of the children at St. Mary's School and parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Joan of Arc for their donation of non-perishable goods.
- Participated in the Friends of the Poor Walk to help the poor in our community.

**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.

### WAYS TO GIVE

#### STELLA MARIS CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

St. Mary's will be collecting items for Christmas Bags for the Seafarers stationed offshore. This is a powerful way to minister to those who cannot leave their ships for Christmas! Items needed: Hats and scarves in dark colors, work socks, work gloves, mini sewing kits, pens and writing paper, nail clippers, razors and shaving cream, chapstick, shampoo, combs, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, playing cards, hand lotion, hard or boxed candy, gum, cough drops. **FULL-SIZE FOR TOILETRIES PLEASE!** You'll see the collection box in the foyer on the Old Shell road side of the church.

### WAYS TO SERVE

#### CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMMITTEE!

We need someone to spearhead the decorating of the church for Christmas. if you can help in this way, please contact Laurel Wallace in the parish office.

Thanks to our parish family for their generosity on the fifth Sundays of the month as well as the SVdP poor boxes located in the church, private donations and parish fund raiser, St. Joseph's Altar. These funds assist our brothers and sisters in need.

We invite you to learn more about Vincentian life by attending our meetings held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Sisters of Mercy Building at 5:00 p.m.

Grow spiritually while serving the poor, join the Society. For further information, please contact Mary Ann Craig, President at 251-591-7950 or [ma-craig@comcast.net](mailto:ma-craig@comcast.net). Thank you and God Bless!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 23 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Vigil Masses**  
4:00pm St. Joan of Arc  
5:30pm St. Mary's
- 
- Dec 24 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Masses**  
6:00am St. Mary's  
8:30am St. Joan of Arc  
9:30am St. Mary's  
**NO 11:30AM MASS AT ST. MARY'S**
- 
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Masses**  
4:00pm St. Joan of Arc  
4:00pm St. Mary's  
6:00pm St. Mary's  
Midnight St. Mary's
- 
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass**  
9:00am St. Joan of Arc  
No Mass at St. Mary's
- 
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Holy Hour**  
11:00pm St. Mary's Church to Midnight
- 
- Jan. 1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God: New Year's Day Mass**  
9 a.m. St. Mary's
- 
- Jan. 24 Marriage Night**  
6:00pm SOM Building
- 
- Feb. 7 50+ Valentine's Luncheon**  
12:00pm SOM Building
- 
- Feb. 13 Ash Wednesday**  
Schedule TBA
- 
- Mar. 18 Marriage Night**  
6:00pm SOM Building
- 
- Mar. 19 St. Joseph's Altar & Pasta Dinner, school gym**  
5:30pm

## ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

APPLICATIONS FOR THE MCGILL-TOOLEN FOUNDATION ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOLARSHIP ARE NOW OPEN

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND ONLINE APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT [WWW.MCGILL-TOOLEN.ORG](http://WWW.MCGILL-TOOLEN.ORG). DEADLINE TO APPLY IS DECEMBER 31, 2023

CONTACT JENNA WOOD AT 251-445-2939 OR VIA EMAIL AT [WOODJ@MCGILL-TOOLEN.ORG](mailto:WOODJ@MCGILL-TOOLEN.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION

## December 17, 2023 | Third Sunday of Advent

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

(©LPI)

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: **"There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives. John the Baptist stands for the entirety

of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— Father John Muir



### SUNDAY BRUNCH SOCIAL

All are welcome to join us for brunch in the Hall of Angels following the Sunday Mass. **We will not serve brunch next Sunday, Christmas Eve.** If you are interested in joining the rotation, please call Helena Smith or the office. Schedule:

12/17 Gayle Conner, Ann Olsen, Cynthia Parham, Michele Otto

### FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

We are now accepting donations for Christmas Memorial Flower. This is a wonderful way to remember your loved ones. Thank you for helping to make the Church beautiful during the Christmas Season! Envelopes are available in the vestibule.

### STEWARDSHIP/TIME & TALENT

Thank you to those parishioners who have turned in their commitment forms. It is important that we get this information from everyone in order to make plans for 2024. Forms are located in the vestibule or on our website.

### TITHING ENVELOPES

2024 Envelopes are located on back side pew. We appreciate those who use the envelopes as it streamlines bookkeeping. Please call the office if you do not find your envelopes.

### DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 17th following the brunch. We would be grateful for any help with this.