

Misas la próxima semana con Padre Laroche, OP



Padre Victor Laroche, OP, invitado por nuestro párroco Padre Paco, estará con nosotros la próxima fin de semana para celebrar las misas en inglés y español. Padre

Victor es nativo de Haití, es un capellán de hospital en St. Louis, Missouri. Como portavoz de "Food For The Poor", (Comida Para Los Pobres -) él visita parroquias católicas de EE. UU. mensualmente.

Casi 95% de las donaciones a Food For the Poor benéfica internacional de 35 años ayuda a las familias pobres hambrientas directamente en Haití y otros 16 países del Caribe y de América Latina, sacando a la gente de la pobreza y construyendo comunidades sostenibles.

Padre Victor ofrecerá más detalles sobre los folletos de FFP (inglés / español) disponibles en las bancas. Después de la misa, responderá a preguntas y recogerá sobres con solicitudes de oración, promesas o donaciones. Gracias por su generosidad.

Food for the Poor: www.foodforthe poor.org

Celebrar la Navidad en Familia

Además del pesebre de Navidad y el "Árbol de Navidad", hay otros elementos que nos pueden ayudar a profundizar en el misterio de la Navidad-Encarnación.



LAS LUCES nos recuerdan que el Señor Jesús es la luz del mundo que ilumina nuestras vidas, sacándonos de las tinieblas del pecado y guiándonos en nuestro peregrinar hacia la Casa del Padre.

LA ESTRELLA. Al igual que en Belén cuando una estrella se detuvo sobre el lugar donde estaba el niño Jesús, con María, su Madre, causando este hecho una gran alegría a los Sabios de Oriente (Mt 2, 9-10), una estrella corona hoy nuestro árbol recordándonos que el acontecimiento del nacimiento de Jesús es el motivo de nuestra felicidad y gozo.

LOS REGALOS, colocados a los pies del árbol simbolizan aquellos regalos con los que los Sabios de Oriente adoraron al Niño Dios. Asimismo, tanto amó Dios Padre al mundo que le entregó (le regaló) a su único Hijo para que todo el que crea en Él tenga la vida eterna.

La Misa Por El Año Nuevo

Horario de MISAS

La próxima fin de semana, el horario de las misas es normal. Pero el lunes, 1 de enero y el primer día del año nuevo, hay una misa bilingüe y es a las 9:30. Esta Misa es de la Solemnidad de María. Padre Clif Marquis, quien fue el párroco aquí años atrás va a celebrar esta misa bilingüe.



¿Cuándo las próximas pláticas pre-Bautismales? Para el sacramento de bautismo de su niño/a, se requiere que los padres sean miembros registrados de nuestra parroquia.

Además, que asistan en una clase pre-bautismal y los padrinos también. Es necesario a llamar los coordinadores de las pláticas, Juan y Angélica Alejo, (229-591-9846) para comunicar su interés en tener bautizado su hijo/a. Se debe traer una copia del acto de nacimiento de su hijo (a) al clase pre-bautismal.

CORESPONSIBILIDAD: 24 de Diciembre, 4to. de Adviento



En la primera lectura, Dios promete al Rey David que su hogar y su reino durarán para siempre. Es a través del "Sí" de

María – "Yo soy la sierva del señor. Que sea tal como tú lo has dicho" – que la promesa se cumple.

CORESPONSIBILIDAD: 25 de Diciembre, Navidad

Los pastores que escucharon la buena nueva de los ángeles en esa primera noche de Navidad, y luego se apresuraron para encontrar al niño Salvador, seguramente fueron cambiados por esa experiencia.

¿Cómo ha cambiado mi vida Su venida?



St. Mary Catholic Church

332 S. Lee St., Americus, GA 31709

Telephone: (229) 924-3495

Pastor: Father Fran Gillespie SJ ("Padre Paco")

email: fgillespie@diosav.org

Bookkeeper: stmaryamericus@gmail.com

Parish Web Page: www.stmaryamericus.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

December 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve



"Then the angel said to her, do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and...of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1)

Nuestra Misión: Nosotros, los feligreses de la Iglesia Católica Santa María en Americus, Georgia, compartimos nuestra diversidad mientras abarcando nuestro Bautismo común adorando a Dios, celebrando la Eucaristía, honrando María, difundiendo la Palabra, y sirviendo a los demás.

Mission: We, the parishioners of St. Mary Catholic Church in Americus, Georgia, share our diversity while embracing our common Baptism by worshiping God, celebrating the Eucharist, honoring Mary, spreading the Word, and serving others.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Clases de Preparación Bautismal - Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para registrarse por las pláticas pre-bautismales a menos un mes antes del Bautismo.

Clases de Preparación de Matrimonio - Las parejas necesitan comunicarse con el Padre por lo menos seis meses antes de la fecha de la boda.

Sacramento de la Unción de un Enfermo - Si alguien está enfermo, llame el párroco para recibir este sacramento (favor, no esperar al último momento).

Confesión/Reconciliación - Sábado 4:00 pm a 4:30 pm o llame el párroco por una cita particular.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptismal Preparation Class - Contact the pastor by phone /email to register for a pre-Baptism class at least a month ahead of a Baptismal date.

Marriage Preparation - Contact the pastor at least 6 months before expected wedding date.

Sacramento of the Anointing of the Sick - Those quite ill, hospitalized, or facing surgery who wish the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the pastor sooner rather than later.

Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm or call Fr. Fran for an appointment.

HORARIO DE LAS MISAS

Sábado: 5:30 PM (Inglés)

Domingo: 9:30 (Inglés); 11:30 (Español)

Martes a Viernes a las 12:00 (inglés) en la capilla

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday: 5:30 pm - English

Sunday: 9:30 (English); 11:30 (Spanish)

Tuesday thru Friday, 12 Noon, in chapel (English)

Diocesan Office for Protection of Children & Youth (912-201-4074); toll free hotline is (888) 357-5330

OUR CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS SEASON

commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ begins with the vigil Mass Sunday evening. For our Catholic Church Christmas is observed not just a single day but comprises an extended liturgical season of joy and celebration. It involves many symbols and traditions and biblical persons, special music, prayers by the priest from the Sacramentary and special readings proclaimed by the lectors from the Lectionary. Christmas is for us a season lasting 12 days and ends with the Sunday celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. The secular world, by contrast, commercializes the season starting after Halloween and ending it on Christmas Day, December 25th.

Christmas Season (White)

- Christmas Day (December 25)
- Symbol: The Nativity or "Belen"
- Octave of Christmas
 - (8 days, Dec 25 – Jan 1)
- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 - (January 1)
- Ends on Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord



Stewardship Thoughts for 4th Sunday of Advent

Our parish and neighboring community offer opportunities for using our time and talents in God's service. And programs such as Food For the Poor that the priest who will preside at our Masses next week represents, facilitate our almsgiving to hungry communities perhaps will never actually visit.

For Christmas Eve and Christmas Day



As we ponder the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity becoming incarnate of the Virgin Mary by the power of God to save us, we ask ourselves

where might I be called to lower myself to come to the assistance of my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus by using my resources.

Visiting Priest Presiding Next Weekend



FOOD FOR THE POOR

At the invitation of our pastor Fr. Gillespie, Fr. Victor Laroche, OP will preside at the Masses next weekend. Fr. Victor is a native of Haiti and currently is a hospital chaplain in St. Louis, Missouri. He also assists Food For The Poor (FFP) as a

speaker visiting parishes throughout the United States. About 95% of the donations for Food For the Poor, a 35 year-old international charity, directly help hungry poor families 16 Latin American countries as well as Haiti. FFO also helps to lift people out of poverty and build sustainable communities.

At the usual three Masses next weekend, Father Victor will provide more details about the FFP brochures (English / Spanish) available in the pews. After Mass, he will answer questions and collect envelopes with prayer requests, pledges or donations.

Thank you for your generosity. For more information please visit www.foodforthepoor.org,

Have you gone to the web page below yet? www.livingtheeucharist.org



Bishop, Gregory Hartmayer has directed all parishes of our diocese to participate in a 3 year program called "Living the Eucharist" (LTE). LTE is a spir-

itual renewal program providing us with opportunities to grow in our faith through learning more about the Eucharist, participating more actively in Sunday Mass, and living the Eucharist each day as disciples of Jesus. It involves small group of parishioners sharing together and will begin in a few months. It is important that parishioners educate themselves little by little about LTE by going to the above web page. The Coordinator of LTE for our parish's English speaking segment is Lynn Ingles, who is also the Chair of our Pastoral Council. She is available to answer your questions about LTE and can be reached at lynn.ingle@mga.edu.

Shalom & Christmas Welcome To All



"Shalom": A Jewish greeting Mary and Joseph would have used to greet shepherds, relatives, visitors, magi, strangers.

A warm welcome to all who come to celebrate our Christmas Masses.

We welcome the stranger, the traveler, the guest, students home from college.

We welcome armed forces personnel home on leave. We welcome those who moved away but rejoin us over these Christmas holidays.

We welcome all who have been inactive in their Catholic faith (and pray they find inspiration to revive it).

We welcome our own faith-filled parishioners.

May our Christmas liturgies and gatherings gladden your hearts and forge deepen bonds to Jesus.

Welcome and Christmas Shalom to all.

Shalom means well-being, wholeness, and a reality where everything exists in total harmony with everything else

Pope Francis on Mary's "Yes"




"Mary first conceived Jesus in faith and then in the flesh, when she said "yes" to the message God gave her through the angel. What does this mean? It means that God did not want to become

man by bypassing our freedom; he wanted to pass through Mary's free assent, through her "yes". He asked her: "Are you prepared to do this?" And she replied: "Yes".



Do we think that Jesus' incarnation is simply a past event which has nothing to do with us personally? Believing in Jesus means giving him our flesh with the humility and courage of Mary, so that he can continue to dwell in our midst. It means giving him our hands, to caress the little ones and the poor; our feet, to go forth and meet our brothers and sisters; our arms, to hold up the weak and to work in the Lord's vineyard, our minds, to think and act in the light of the Gospel; and especially to offer our hearts to love and to make choices in accordance with God's will. All this happens thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit. And in this way we become instruments in God's hands, so that Jesus can act in the world through us."

Pray with the Pope  **Pope's Prayer Intentions for January, 2018**
As part of the Apostleship of Prayer and in union with our Pope, please remember the following intention this month.

Religious Minorities in Asia: That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom. .

Weekend	Offertory	Budget/Presupuesto	Surplus/(+Sobre) Deficit/(—Falta)	2nd Collection
December 3	\$ 3,479	\$ 2,925	\$ 554	
December 10	2,413	512		Retirm't: (Nuns, Brs., Priests) \$997
December 12				Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass \$449
December 17	2,348	\$ 2,925	577	
December 24				Catholic School Savan. Dioces \$