

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

IGLESIA CATÓLICA DE SANTA MARÍA

1291 E. MADISON AVE

ATHENS, TN 37303

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—JANUARY 5, 2020

My dear parishioners,

Peace! On the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, 7 October, 2019, Pope Francis established the feast of Our Lady of Loreto, to be observed each year on the 10th of December. At the same time Pope Francis proclaimed a Laetanan Jubilee Holy Year to run from 8 December, 2019 through 10 December, 2020. There are fifty-one invocations in the *Litany of Loreto*. The following is a reflection on the second invocation: **Holy Mother of God, pray for us.**

Saint Mary is the Mother of God (Latin: *Mater Dei*; Greek: *Theotokos*). This is the solemn teaching of the third ecumenical council of the Church which was held in Ephesus (22 June-31 July, 431). Jesus Christ is both true God and true man. While He received His human nature from Our Lady, His divine person is eternal. Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, is not the Mother of the Father or of the Holy Spirit, only of the Eternal Son made man. The ancient doctrine *perichoresis* as explained by Maximus the Confessor (+662) and Saint Gregory of Nazianzus (+390) and Saint John of Damascus (+749) explicates how what happens according to the humanity of Christ (His death, His resurrection and ascension) is also true of His divinity. Because Jesus is God and Jesus was born of Mary, she is the Mother of God.

The heretical Bishop of Constantinople Nestorius would only admit that Mary is Mother of Christ or Mother of Jesus but not Mother of God. Saints throughout the ages have honored Saint Mary as Mother of God, among them Saint Ignatius of Antioch (+107), Saint Cyril of Alexandria (+), Saint Thomas Aquinas (+1274), Saint Bernard (+1153), Saint Bonaventure (+1274). Specifically, in the *Summa Theologiae* III Q. 35, A.4, Saint Thomas Aquinas addresses Mary as the Mother of God, citing Saint Cyril who was in turn cited by the Council of Ephesus: "If anyone confess not that the Emmanuel is truly God, and that for this reason the Holy Virgin is the Mother of God, since she begot of her flesh the Word of God made flesh, let him be anathema." (The expression *anathema sit* or *let him be accursed* is taken from Saint Paul's letter to the 1 Corinthians 16:22; Galatians 1:8). Pope Saint Gregory the Great (+604) established seven processions imploring God's mercy to converge on the Basilica of Saint Mary Major which commemorates Mary as Mother of God. Pope Saint Paul VI (1978) in his letter *Marialis Cultus*, 5, (2 February, 1974), established a liturgical feast celebrating Mary, Mother of God on 1 January each year. Of course, Christmas (25 December) also celebrates Mary's divine motherhood.

That Saint Mary is the Mother of God is the foundation of all Mariology. The latter dogmas concerning the Blessed Virgin Mary all presuppose her divine maternity, that she is the Mother of God. Let us fly to her patronage, heeding her command, to do whatever her Son would have us do.

Father John Arthur Orr

Pastor: Rev. Dr. John Arthur Orr
 Deacon: Rev. Mr. Erasmo Hernandez
 Parish Office: 423 745-4277 Fax: 423-745-9706 Email: stmaryathensn@att.net Website: www.stmaryathensn.org
 PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday– Thursday 8am-4:30pm Friday 8:00–11am

Rectory: 423-745-0904

WEEK DAY DAILY MASS: 9am plus Wednesday at 6pm. HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION MASS TIMES 9AM AND 7PM
 Saturday: First Saturday of month 9am; Vigil Mass 5pm If Holy Day is on a Wednesday Mass will be at 6PM
 Sunday: Mass 8am Latin, 10:00am English and 1pm Spanish
 CONFESSION: Saturday 4:00-4:45pm Sunday 9-9:45am, 12-12:45pm

Stewardship/Collection

December 28/29, 2019	
Offertory (Envelopes/Check-Cash)	\$ 1,773.00
Loose Offering	\$ 607.55
Christmas Offering—Parish (1/2 of Collection)	\$ 218.00
Holy Day Solemnity of Mary	\$ 50.00
On Line Giving—Offertory	\$
Christmas Flowers	\$917.00
Mass/Coffee/Candles/Rmbr/Rent/Flowers/etc.	\$ 151.66
TOTAL	\$ 2,632.21
Building Fund - December total to date—\$ 19,117.03	\$ 675.00
In Memory of Joan Sokoll	\$ 4,800.00

Second collections will be collected after Communion

DECEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

12/08—Retired Religious	\$574.00	\$
12/12—Catholic Charities Immigrant Services	\$88.00	\$
12/25—1/2 Christmas Collection to DOK	\$218.00	\$ 50.00
12/29— Good Samaritan—Coordinated Charities	\$56.00	\$ 664.00
Good Sam. Trust—Ultra Sound Donations—Full Circle	\$	\$
Deficit Reduction—As of July 2019	\$ 25,327.04	\$ 2,775.00
DEFICIT REDUCTION ENVELOPES (GOLD) AVAILABE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH		
HOME CAMPAIGN (\$72,387.53) For the month of: Oct. 2019—	\$881.00	
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT—		
November 30, 2019 is posted in Message Center		
If you would like to receive collection envelopes please call the office.		

Daily Mass Readings January 5—12, 2020

-Method for Prayerfully Reading the Scriptures
 (Lectio Divina) 1. Read 2. Reflect (meditate) 3. Respond (pray) 4. Rest (contemplate)

Monday, Jan. 6—1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
 Tuesday, Jan. 7—1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44
 Wednesday, Jan. 8—1 Jn 4:11-18// Mk 6:45-52
 Thursday, Jan. 9—1 Jn 4:19-5:4//Lk 4:14-22
 Friday, Jan. 10—1 Jn 5:5-13/Jn 5:12-16
 Saturday, Jan. 11—1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30
 Sunday, Jan 12—Is 42:1-4, 6-7//Acts 10:34-31/Mt 3:13-17(21)

READINGS - YEAR A - Order of the Mass begins in section with the gray edges #140
 01/05/2020—Epiphany of the Lord—# 878
 01/12/2020—Baptism of the Lord—# 879

This Week in our Parish

Sunday— January 5, 2020

Donut Sunday

Children's Liturgy

11:15 CCD—CCD Building

Monday—January 6, 2020

Tuesday—January 7, 2020

7PM—Women's Night of Recollection

Wednesday—January 8, 2020

6:45—RCIA

6:45 Youth Ministry—High School

Thursday—January 9, 2020

7PM—Knight of Columbus—PFLC

7pm—Hispanic Prayer Group—Church

Friday—January 10, 2020

First Friday Adoration

Saturday—January 11, 2020

Team 2 cleans

Sunday—January 12, 2020

Children's Liturgy

11:15 CCD—CCD Building

CANDLE DONATIONS—We are asking for a donation of \$3.00 per candle to help defray the cost of the candles and Blue Globes

SAVE THE DATE:

January 18th—12 noon—Veterans Park to Pray Rosary with Cindy Morales to end Abortion.

ATTENDANCE—

December 28/29, 2019—Total—352

5pm—81//8am(Latin)49//10am-125//1pm(Spanish) -97

December Average Attendance—481

5pm—80 8am—41 10am—166 1pm—98



ALTAR FLOWERS—Are in memory of Thelma Purviance from Jack O'Donnell.

PRAYER CHAIN—Call Carol Webb at 744-7378 to be placed on the prayer chain, or if you would like to help prayer chain.

Mass Intentions

January 4—12, 2020

January 4—Saturday 9AM and 5PM

Christine P. Smythe from Stephen and Toni Pacitti
St. Mary Parish

January 5 - Sunday 8am Latin//10am English//1pm Spanish

Anastasia Juneau from Andre Juneau
+Joe Endress from Anne Danowski
The Deacons of our Diocese

January 6 — Monday 9AM

+Adele Fricke

January 7 —Tuesday 9AM

Stephanie Grove

January 8 - Wednesday 9AM and 6PM

+ James and Corrine Swanson the Von Peters Family
St. Mary Parish

January 9—Thursday 9AM

+Will Schoonover from Darlene Schoonover

January 10 — Friday 9AM

+Joseph DeLisle

January 11— 5PM

+Scott and Betty Gabbard

January 12 - Sunday 8am Latin//10am English//1pm Spanish

St. Mary Parish
+Joan Sokoll

Call the office to have a Mass Scheduled. Donation of \$5.00.

Ladies for Charity (Food Pantry). Thank you Parishioners for your continued generosity of donating food for our Food Pantry. Food needs for January are Canned corn, green beans, and large boxes of cereal and saltine crackers.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2019

BUDGET CATEGORY	FY 2020 BUDGET	EXPENDITURES THROUGH 11/30/2019	% EXPENDED
PASTORAL-ADMIN/GENERAL	\$191,991	\$ 80,125	42%
LITURGY	22,400	7,979	36%
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	13,675	6,013	44%
MINISTRY OF YOUTH	7,573	1,461	19%
MINISTRY FAMILY/PARISH LIFE	2,505	131	5%
PARISH COUNCIL-GENERAL	320	215	67%
PLANT/PARISH OPER & MAINT	71,980	39,946	55%
TOTALS	\$310,444	\$ 135,870	44%

CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
MONTHLY REV. NOV. 2019 \$ 20,395	REV. JULY 2019 - NOV. 2019 \$ 109,167
MONTHLY EXP. NOV. 2019 22,058	EXP. JULY 2019 - NOV. 2019 135,870
OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (\$ 1,663)	OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT) (\$26,703)

SUMMARY:

CURRENT FY 2020 DEFICIT	(\$ 26,703)
CARRY OVER DEFICIT PRIOR YEARS	(\$ 30,583)
FALL FESTIVAL FUNDS AS OF 11/30/2019	\$ 19,050
ST. MARY CHURCH ACCUMULATED DEFICIT	(\$ 38,236)

PARISH FAMILY LIFE CENTER DEBT:

ORIGINAL NOTE (12/1/2012)	\$625,000
NOTE BALANCE AS OF (11/30/2019)	\$120,496

PARISH FAMILY LIFE CENTER UPDATE—To schedule use/rental of the Parish Family Life Center please contact Kay Prevatt at 423-453-2049. This includes all parish activities as well. You must still contact Sue Granger for use/rental of the Youth Room.

HELP NEEDED - Parish Family Life Center, is in need of people for the following position in the PFLC— clean up and set up, alcohol servers (must be licensed), liaison. These are paid positions. You must meet all qualifications to work in the United States, for the positions. For more information call or stop by the office.

NEW TO OUR PARISH—If you are new to our parish see one of our ushers for a **BLUE PARISH CENSUS FORM**. They are also located on the Narthex Table or the slots in back of the church on the left as you leave. Also let the office know if you would like envelopes. **TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION (CHANGES) FILL OUT THE YELLOW COPY ONLY**

2020 Boxed Envelopes are available in the office, if you would like to receive them. Call the office

ON LINE GIVING - Visit our website at www.stmaryathenstn.org to become a part of our "ON LINE GIVING," available to our parish.

High School Seniors and College Students ST. MARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

St. Mary's will begin its sixth year of awarding college scholarships. **Applications and all required submissions will be accepted from January 1st to March 31st of 2020.** Applications (along with the rules) can be picked up at the church office. This scholarship program is open to any incoming college freshman or returning college student from Meigs, McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties. A total of \$40,000 will be awarded in 2020 with a maximum per student of \$20,000. The Committee will review test scores, GPAs, essays, recommendation letters and overall need to arrive at their award decisions. The Committee's decisions will be final. MISSION STATEMENT St. Mary Catholic Church in Athens, Tennessee believes a successful college or technical education can lead to better employment prospects and can be life changing in scope. The St. Mary Catholic Church Education Scholarship Program provides funding to qualified individuals for secondary education to achieve these life benefits. The students and families who will benefit from this scholarship will in turn help other needy and vulnerable students and families. All paper work must be completed and returned by March 31, 2020 or post-marked by the 31st. Application also available at our St. Mary web site, www.stmaryathenstn.org. Funding for this program is provided through a private donation specifically for this program.

This is a correction on my part—I inadvertently left out the first part.

My dear parishioners,

Peace! On the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, 7 October, 2019, Pope Francis established the feast of Our Lady of Loreto, to be observed each year on the 10th of December. At the same time Pope Francis proclaimed a Lauretan Jubilee Holy Year to run from 8 December, 2019 through 10 December, 2020. There are fifty-one invocations in the *Litany of Loreto*. The following is a reflection on the first invocation: **Holy Mary, pray for us.**

Holy Moses interceded on behalf of God's people in prayer (cf. Numbers 14:11-19). Saint Peter asked the prayer of God's people (cf. Acts 8:24). Saint Paul may be alluding to prayer for one another when, inspired by God, he asks us to "bear one another's burdens" (cf. Galatians 6:2). Saint James asks that we "pray for each other" (cf. James 5:16). In the *Litany* we ask Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to pray for us. Surely the prayers of Saint Mary, who is forever "the handmaid of the Lord" (cf. Luke 1:38) are at least as powerful with God as those of Moses (who killed a man: cf. Exodus 2:12-13), Peter (who denied Christ: cf. Matthew 26:69-75; John 18:27) and Paul (who persecuted the Church: cf. Acts 8:3; Galatians 1:13, 23).

There are over six-hundred verses in Sacred Scripture with more than six-hundred and fifty references to "holy." The Sabbath day is "holy" (cf. Exodus 20:8). People, places and vesture are to be holy (cf. Exodus 22:31; 26:33; 28:2, 4). The Name of God is holy (1 Chronicles 16:10). There are "holy vessels" and "holy things" (cf. 1 Chronicles 26:20,26). But there is "none holy as the Lord is" holy (cf. 1 Samuel 2:2)

Saint Mary the Virgin is holy because she is "full of grace" (cf. Luke 1:28). Our Lady's outward service of the Lord required that she be set apart, consecrated, no less than the priests and Levites (cf. Exodus 29:1; Leviticus 8:12, 30). Our Lady, Saint Mary, was set apart unto the Lord is another way that she is holy (cf. Luke 1:34; Numbers 6:5). Besides ceremonial holiness there is also an ethical and spiritual holiness which Our Lady enjoys. The Holy God who has made us in His image calls us to be holy, rejecting sin, Satan and the glamor of evil. Holy Mary not only sought to reflect the holiness of God but does indeed (cf. Leviticus 19:2). Saint Mary is holy as the temple of the Lord for the first nine months of the Incarnation (cf. Psalm 15:1-). Saint Mary is holy because of her humility (cf. Isaiah 57:4; Luke 1:48). Saint Mary is holy because of the mercy she showed to the young couple at the Marriage in Cana and the intimate knowledge of God which she has (cf. Hosea 6:6; John 2:1-5). If Saint Mary the Virgin were not holy, why would Sacred Scripture say of her that "all generations will call" her blessed (cf. Luke 1:48)? Mary prays for us!

Father John Arthur Orr

Stewardship/Collection

Christmas December 24/25, 2019	
Offertory (Envelopes/Check-Cash)	\$
Loose Offering	\$
Christmas Offering—Parish (1/2 of Collection)	\$1407.03 \$ 1,189.03
Christmas Flowers	\$987.00 \$ 70.00
Mass/Coffee/Candles/Rmbr/Rent/Flowers/etc.	\$
TOTAL	\$ 1,259.03

Building Fund - December total to date—\$ 19,342.03 \$ 225.00

Second collections will be collected after Communion

DECEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS	
12/25—1/2 Christmas Collection to DOK	\$1,407.02 \$ 1,189.02
12/29— Good Samaritan—Coordinated Charities	\$56.00 \$ 55.00
Deficit Reduction—As of July 2019	\$ 25,327.04 \$ 645.00

Did you know? TN Right to Life is currently airing "Pro -Life Birthdays" ad in the Knoxville media market. It will air 281 times on 4 Knox media markets. Support for TN Right to Life helps projects like these spread the news that all "Life is precious." Please consider your most generous gift at tnrld.org or call 615-298-5433. Tell them you are from St. Mary's Athens.