

NEW TO OUR PARISH—If you are new to our parish see one of our ushers for a **PARISH REGISTRATION FORM (Green)**—They are also located in the Narthex in the slots in back of the church on the left as you leave. Also let the office know if you would like envelopes. You may put it in with the collection or drop it off at the office. **TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION (CHANGES) FILL OUT THE PARISH REGISTRATION FORM AND LET ME KNOW IT IS A “UPDATE” ON YOUR FAMILY. Place with the collection or drop it off at the office.**

PRAYER CHAIN—Call/Text Paulette Croteau at 423-333-8674, or the office to be placed on the prayer chain, or if you would like to help with the prayer chain. Keep in your prayers Quinto Burchi, Carolee Gladish, Danny Stoughton, and all of the known and unknown, all of our sick family and friends, our unborn children and our Homebound. Please call the office if you would like to put someone on the prayer chain and/or in the bulletin. They will remain on the bulletin part of prayer chain for three months or if you request they be removed. They never come off the prayer chain. If you or a family member needs a Pastoral visit or anointing call the office or see Father Orr.



Ladies for Charity – If you have a food need contact Barb Bever at 423-745-9788. The needs of our food pantry are greater due to the current economic conditions. Requested food products are Cream of Chicken and Cream of Mushroom soups, spaghetti sauce and egg noodles. Thank you for your generosity through food and monetary donations which help our parishioners in need.



Reminder: Parents, please escort your young children to the restrooms and on church property, at all times. I am reminding all parents/guardians/parishioners. Please keep a watch out for your children at all times, never leave them unattended inside or outside alone

UPCOMING PARISH HAPPENINGS—

- Friday’s during Lent—Stations of the Cross at 6pm.
- March 10—JMJ7 Concert March 10th at 7PM FREE in the PFLC donation accepted. Join in the Sounds of Music
- March 11—Time Change.—Enjoy the longer evenings
- March 16— Knight of Columbus Sponsored outside cleaning. FOR ALL OF US AS A PARISH TO HELP
- March 18—Lenten Penance Service 7-9PM- Get Clean for Easter
- March—22—Knights of Columbus Fish Fry—Good time to enjoy the company/fellowship.
- March—22-23—Youth Lenten Retreat in the PFLC

Are you interested in have a Parish Wide Yard Sale. To benefit our Parish? We would like to know of your interest and willingness to get involved. If interested talk to Lou Dionne.

If you have the time and would like to help clean the Church at your convenience we could surely use your time and talents. Call the office. We appreciate all the help we can get in taking care of our Church and Parish Family Life Center.

High School Seniors and College Students— ST. MARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM—

St. Mary’s will begin its tenth year of awarding college scholarships. Applications and all required submissions will be accepted from January 1st to March 31st of 2024. Applications (along with the rules) can be picked up at the church office or the back of the Church. This scholarship program is open to any incoming college freshman or returning college student from Meigs, McMinn, Monroe and Polk counties. 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, 2024 or postmarked by the 31st. Funding for this program is provided through a private donation specifically for this program.

RACHEL’S VINYARD—is a free and confidential weekend retreat affected by abortion. We understand that this is a extremely difficult step to take. Rachel’s Vineyard provides a tried and true journey that over 100,000 women and men have traveled. You can be confident that there are wonderful people in Rachel’s Vineyard who are ready and eager to gently accompany you on your journey. You are not alone. A new chapter of your life awaits you. Take courage, God is calling you towards peace, love, hope and freedom. Our next retreat is scheduled for May 3-5, 2024 at the Christ Prince of Peace Retreat Center in Benton, TN. If you would like more information, please contact Sandi Davidson at sandi@ccetn.org or 865-776-4510.

Mass Intentions

February 24— March 3, 2024

- February 24—Saturday 5PM
+Susan Stockton from Priscille Stuckey
- February 25—8AM//10AM//1PM
+Victoria Marie Orr from Ron and Lorene Steffes
+Archie and Manny Pena form Yolanda Beasley
St. Mary Parish
- February 26—Monday 9AM
+Wayne Byers from Maria Byers
- February 27— Tuesday 9AM
+Riley Exum from Debbie Exum
- February 28— Wednesday 9AM and 6PM
+Gloria Mette from Bob and Ann Julian
+Emilio Torres form Hugh and Connie Reed
- February 29—Thursday 8AM—Early Mass
Healing for Amelia Chamblee from Maria Byers
- March 1—Friday 9AM
+Rosendo Pedraza from Hugh and Connie Reed
- March 2—Saturday 9AM and 5PM
+Archie and Mary Pena from Yolanda Beasley
St. Mary Parish
- March 3—8AM//10AM//1PM
Conversion of Families from Mary Shurina
Victoria Marie Orr from Hugh and Connie Reed
+Por Todas Las Almas from Juan Medina

WEEKDAY’S - AFTER MORNING MASS YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY FOR THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AND THE ROSARY

Mass Donation is \$5.00 per Mass. Due at the time of the request.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 2023
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

BUDGET CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES THRU 12/31//2023	% EXPENDED
PASTORAL-AMIN/GENERAL	\$ 188,974	\$ 92,633	49%
LITURGY	21,249	11,890	56%
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	14,588	4,881	33%
MINISTRY OF YOUTH	7,546	2,271	30%
MINISTRY FAMILY/PARISH	2,900	656	23%
PARISH COUNCIL-GENERAL	320	251	78%
PLANT/PARISH OPER. & MAINT.	91,130	60,037	66%
TOTALS	\$ 326,807	\$172,619	53%

CURRENT MONTH	YEAR TO DATE
MONTHLY REV. DEC 2023 \$ 39,770	REV. JULY 2023–DEC 2023 \$ 172,029
MONTHLY EXP. DEC 2023 \$ 23,819	EXP. JULY 2023–DEC 2023 \$ 172,619
OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT)\$ 15,951	OPER. SURPLUS (DEFICIT) \$ (590)

SUMMARY:
CURRENT FY 2024 SURPLUS (DEFICIT) \$ (590)
CARRY OVER DEFICIT PRIOR YEAR \$ (19,418)
FALL FESTIVAL FUNDS AS OF DEC. 2023 \$ -0-

(All Figures Rounded)
“Thank you for your stewardship generosity”

Hail, Holy Queen

*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy!
Our Life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears.
Turn then most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us ; and after this,
our exile show unto the blessed fruit of they womb Jesus;
O clement, O loving,
O sweet virgin Mary.*

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worth of the promises of Christ.

FEBRUARY 2024—SECOND COLLECTIONS—

February 24/25, 2024—Good Samaritan 1/2 goes support the needs of the Good Faith Clinic.
RICE BOWLS—Are in the Narthex to put your Lenten sacrifices in. WE ARE CALLED Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family’s CRS Rice Bowl from NARTHEX TODAY. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

SAVE THE DATE—MARCH 10 – Join us here at St. Mary on March 10 at 7pm in the Parish Life Center for a concert featuring MJM7. MJM7 is a Catholic family band comprised of Michael James Mette and his children: Charity (16), and Cecilia (15) and MJ (13). The Mette’s gifts of music, joy, & family life offer the boldness and innocence of youth with the wisdom and depth of lived experiences. The events fall somewhere between a rock concert and a parish mission, with vibrant lights, powerful music, faith sharing, and an invitation to prayer. The music is uplifting without being preachy, creating an environment that is engaging without being confrontational. The concert empowers all ages to pray more fully and worship more freely. Bring a friend! You won’t want to miss this unique event. The concert is free, donations are accepted. For more information seek out Sue Granger or Deacon Al. Here is a link to a promotional video for this Catholic Family Band. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fj59M6bdTE>

My dear parishioners,

Peace! Among the sixteen documents of the Second Vatican council (1962-1965) is the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et spes*. In an earlier project published as *Dogmatic Questions and Answers for the Year of Faith* (Charlestown, SC: Createspace, 2012) the three constitutions on the Church, on Divine Revelation and on the Sacred Liturgy (*Lumen Gentium*, *Dei Verbum*, and *Sacrosanctum Concilium* respectively) were considered. The following questions and answers have been drawn up in anticipation of the 60th anniversary of *Gaudium et spes* in 2025.

461. What are the five reasons why the basic equality of men must receive increasingly greater recognition (GS, 29)?

All human beings possess a rational soul

All human beings are created in God's likeness

All human beings have the same nature and origin

All human beings have been redeemed by Christ

All human beings enjoy the same divine calling and destiny

462. What three differences between men do the Council Fathers recognize in GS, 29.2?

Not all human beings are of the same physical power

Not all human beings are of the same intellectual resources

Not all human beings are of the same moral resources

God bless you!

Father John Arthur Orr



We believe in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and in continuing the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy by providing healthcare to the poor and medically underserved in the rural areas of East Tennessee. Call 865-212-5570, to schedule an appointment. They are here at St Mary Catholic Church every 3rd Thursday, from 10AM-2PM.

The Good Faith Clinic—is primary health care for residents of McMinn and Meigs counties, ages 18 to 65 who do not have any form of medical insurance, including TennCare. The clinic will be open on two Thursday each month. The clinic is at 14 Congress Parkway S, here in Athens. Phone 423-745-8185.

CONTACTS FOR:

CCD Director— **Debbie Forsythe**— 865-297-6350 or at debforsthe@rocketmail.com along with Deacon Al Forsythe (Volunteer) **Youth Ministries**—**Sue Granger**—423-506-7836 **RCIA**—**Jack Cox** - 423-836-2979 **Hispanic Ministry**—**Alicia Mora**—423-368-5310 **Baptism Preparation**—**Paulette Croteau** at 423-333-8674. Parish Family Life Center (PFLC) - Call the Office to schedule all use/rental of the PFLC by parish groups and the public.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Homeschool Support Group is an East TN group that supports Catholic homeschooling in the Knoxville Diocese. We are a diocesan registered multi-parish group of volunteers. We ARE NOT a co-op and do not follow a set curriculum. We are here to remind each other why we do what we do, celebrate the liturgical year together and offer opportunities for enrichment and socialization. To receive email updates and invites, please register your family (for free) to the OLOPH Knoxville Homeschool Group. <https://olophknoxville.wixsite.com/olophknoxville>. Additionally, each parish volunteer will communicate separately about other local opportunities for socialization & support. The contact for St. Mary's - Athens is the Overdorf family. Jared, Heather & their daughters can be reached at heatheroverdorf@protonmail.com, or 630.240.0459.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

IGLESIA CATÓLICA DE SANTA MARÍA

1291 E. MADISON AVE

ATHENS, TN 37303

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT— FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Pastor: Rev. Dr. John Arthur Orr

Rectory: 423-745-0904

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Al Forsythe—865-806-1343

Parish Office: 423 745-4277 Fax: 423-745-9706

Email: stmaryathenstn@att.net

Website: www.stmaryathens.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday– Thursday 7:30AM—5:00PM

CONFESSION—After daily Mass—Saturday 4:00-4:45pm Sunday 7:30-7:45am/9:30-9:45am/12:30-12:45pm

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

Stewardship/Collection

February 17/18, 2024

Offertory (Envelopes/Check-Cash-On Line)	\$ 3,142.00
Offertory Loose collection	\$ 909.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 1,143.00
Easter Flowers \$40.00	\$ 20.00
Mass/Coffee/Candles/Rmbr/Rent/Flowers/etc.	\$ 259.24
TOTAL	\$ 5,473.24

FEBRUARY SECOND COLLECTIONS

Building—Maintenance Fund \$ 560.00	\$ 255.00
Columbarium Fund Donations \$ 6,850.00 As of 10/23	\$ 1,000.00
2/14—Black and Indian Missions \$ 333.00	\$ 313.00
02/18—Church in Central and Eastern Europe \$ 375.00	\$ 355.00
01/28—Good Samaritan—1/2 to Good Faith Clinic \$180.00	\$ 10.00
Ladies for Charity \$100.00	\$ 100.00
Computer Donation's— \$ 820.00	\$ 720.00
Deficit Reduction—As of February 18, 2024 - \$43,851.91	\$ 2,321.00

To donate online go to www.stmaryathenstn.org. Click on the DONATE TAB AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE IT WILL TAKE YOU TO THE VANCO SITE. FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS. Thank you

December 31, 2023 — Finance Report is located in the message board

Daily Mass Readings Beginning – February 25-March 2, 2024

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

Sunday, February 25—Gn 22:1-2. 9a, 10-13, 15-18// Rom 8:31b-34//Mk 9:2-10

Monday, February 26— Dn 9:4b-10//Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday, February 27—Is 1:10, 16-20//Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday, February 28—Jer 18:18-20//Mt 20:17-28

Thursday, February 29—Jer 17:5-10//Lk 16:19-31

Friday, March 1—Gen 37:3-4,12-13a, 17b-28a// Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday, March 2—Mi 7:14-15, 18-20//Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Mass begins in the front of the Journey Songs, book with the gray edge pages.

Today's readings begin with— “Year B” # 887

This Week in our Parish

Sunday, February 25, 2024

11:15— CCD

Monday February 26, 2024

Tuesday February 27, 2024

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6AM— 5:45 ADDORATION

6:45PM—RCIA

6:45—Youth Ministry

Thursday, February 29, 2024

8AM—Life Line Screening in the PFLC

Friday, March 1, 2024

First Friday Adoration till 12pm

10AM-Noon—Home School Group meets in the Youth Room

6PM—Stations of the Cross

Team One Cleans

Saturday, March 2, 2024

9AM—First Saturday Mass

Sunday March 3, 2024

11:15— CCD

CANDLE DONATIONS—We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 per candle to help defray the cost of the candles and Blue Globes

ATTENDANCE—

February 17-18, 2024

5pm—86//8am—81//10am—140//1pm—114—Total 421

January —2024 WEEKLY AVG - 442

5pm—63//8am—85//10am—145//1pm—149

Altar Flowers



No flowers during lent. Exception is Laetare Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Please sign up to have flowers in our Church for a loved one, a Blessing or just because. The donation is \$50.00 or more if you would like more. More than one family can sign up at the same time.