

## Weekly Highlights

## Welcome This Week

## St. Mary Star of the Sea

extends a warm welcome to our new parishioners. We hope that they will come to find peace and joy as they become active members of our worship community

## Parish Membership

We joyfully welcome new members to our parish community. Please register in the Parish Office or online at our website:

[stmarystarofthesea.org](http://stmarystarofthesea.org)

... Please also let us know if you plan to move from the parish.

## New Email

## Address for Photos

If you would like to send us photos of parish events for the parish website, please send them to:  
[smsosphotos@gmail.com](mailto:smsosphotos@gmail.com)

## Sacrament of the Sick

Contact the Parish Office at  
979-233-5271

## Stewardship Report

Collection for December 9: \$  
4,592.95

For the week of December 9 short  
by: \$2,776.05

Second collection for Retired Religious: \$1,571.19

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: \$211.00

Your faithful stewardship helps us meet our needs.

**Every man shall give  
as he is able, according to  
the blessing of the LORD  
your God which  
He has given you.**

## WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Monday, December 17

7 p.m. La Posada Parish Hall

## Tuesday, December 18

9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary (English) Heaven's Way #3

6 p.m. Peace Rosary Church

6:30 p.m. English Mass Church

7 p.m. La Posada Parish Hall

8 p.m. AA Meeting RE Building

## Wednesday, December 19

5:30 p.m. CCE PreK-5th Heaven's Way

5:30 p.m. La Posada Parish Hall

## Thursday, December 20

9-6 p.m. Adoration Church

10 a.m. La Posada Parish Hall

10:30-1:30 Senior Day

5:30-6 p.m. Sacrament of Penance Church

6:15 p.m. Spanish Mass Church

8 p.m. AA Meeting RE Building

## Friday, December 21

8:30 a.m. English Mass Church

3 p.m. Divine Mercy Church

7 p.m. La Posada Parish Hall

## Saturday, December 22

9:15 a.m. Legion of Mary (Spanish) Heaven's Way #3

4-5 p.m. Sacrament of Penance Church

5:30 p.m. English Mass Church

7 p.m. La Posada Reyes' Home

7 p.m. Neo-Cat Mass Heaven's Way

## Sunday, December 23

9 a.m. English Mass Church

11 a.m. Spanish Mass Church

4:30p.m. YMA Class and attend Mass Parish Hall

5 p.m. Youth Mass Church

6p.m. La Posada Parish Hall



## From Our Pastor



This Sunday we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday which invites us to be full of joy because Jesus is near. We'll light the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath; representing John the Baptist who "cried out with joy and gladness at the coming of the holy One among us" (Is 12:6). In the second reading, Saint Paul invites the Christians of Greece (and us) to: "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near*" (Phil 4:4). The first Christian communities knew the reason for their rejoicing. They were filled with joy, because Jesus was among them.

Jesus's New Law was the great discovery of the first Christian communities. Their joy was not motivated by external nor even spiritual forces. Christian joy was the result of loving one another and all others. They longed for Jesus's Second Coming and were mindful of the Final Judgement. Like Saint Paul, they boasted: "I became weak with the weak...a Jew with the Jew...a Greek with the Greek...I made myself all things to all people" (1 Cor 9:19-23).

This constantly being turned toward their neighbors led them to experience the joy of the Trinity. They followed Jesus's invitation to deny their self, by living their neighbor, and they experienced the Paschal Mystery of Death and Resurrection. They loved their friends and they loved their enemies. What distinguished the first Christians from others? Was it vast knowledge, years of study, miracles, gifted speech, or mystical ecstasies? No, it was mutual love: A Roman historian writes: "Look! See how they love one another! Each of them is ready to die for the other."

Christian joy was a very new kind of joy. It wasn't being in a good mood, not the joy of being alive, not the joy of a job well done, not the transparent joy of a pure heart... Christian joy was Jesus's own joy, because Jesus has "his" joy just as he has "his" peace. Christian joy was found in this communion with God and neighbor that wasn't merely an article of the faith, but a lived experience among young and old.

This communion among them was celebrated in beautiful liturgies and hymns that had real meaning. The mysteries turned out not to be so impenetrable after all. The presence of Jesus among them made them grasp and understand the mysteries of the faith. It gave them the joy of the Truth, and, armed only with Love and Truth, they soon won over the world around them.

They discovered another source of Christian joy – suffering. The first Christians sang as they went to martyrdom. Loving suffering can be a psychological disorder, but discovering the suffering face of Jesus, and transforming our suffering into love, is pure joy.

Fr. Jesse Garcia

## Pastoral Staff

**Pastor/ Párroco**

Fr. Jesse Garcia

979-233-5271 Ext 308

pastor@stmarystarofthesea.org

**Deacon/Diacono Felipe Garza**

979-233-5271 Ext 305

dcnfgarza@gmail.com

**Deacon/Diacono Wally Shaw**

979-233-5271

wallace.shaw@outlook.com

**Office Manager/Bookkeeper/  
Gerente de la Oficina/  
Contadora**

Tina Robledo

979-233-5271 Ext 307

manager@stmarystarofthesea.org

**Preparación bautismal Prep. /  
Coordinadorea de la formación  
catequética,**

Blanca Bustos / English

Cande y Noe Castro / Spanish

979-233-5271

**Catechesis Coordinator /  
Coordinador de catequesis**

Bill Hartnett

979-233-5271

billhartnett57@gmail.com

**RCIA / RICA**

Marilyn Saccomanno

979-233-5271 Ext 301

religioused@stmarystarofthesea.org

**Liturgy Coordinator/  
Coordinador de la Liturgia**

Deacon Felipe Garza

979-233-5271 Ext 305

dcnfgarza@gmail.com

## De Parte de Nuestro Párroco



Este domingo celebramos el *domingo de Gaudete* que nos invita a estar llenos de gozo porque Jesús está cerca. Encenderemos la vela de color rosa en la corona de Adviento; representando a Juan el Bautista que “*¡Grita de contento y de alegría... porque grande es, en medio de ti, el Santo de Israel!*” (Is 12:6). En la segunda lectura, San Pablo dice a los cristianos de Grecia (y a nosotros): “*Alégrese siempre en el Señor. Vuelvo a insistir, alégrese... El Señor está cerca*” (Fil 4:4). Las primeras comunidades cristianas conocían la razón de su regocijo. Estaban llenos de gozo, porque Jesús estaba entre ellos.

La nueva ley de Jesús fue el gran descubrimiento de las primeras comunidades cristianas. Su gozo no fue motivado por fuerzas externas ni siquiera espirituales. La alegría cristiana fue el resultado de amarse unos a otros y a todos los demás. Anhelaban la segunda venida de Jesús y eran conscientes del juicio final. Como San Pablo, se alardeaban: “*me volví débil con los débiles... un judío con el judío... un griego con el griego... Me hice todas las cosas a todas las personas*” (1 Cor 9:19-23).

Este estar constantemente orientados hacia los demás los llevó a experimentar la alegría de la Trinidad. Siguieron la invitación de Jesús a negarse a sí mismos, de *vivir el prójimo*, y así experimentaron el misterio Pascual de la muerte y la resurrección. Amaban a sus amigos y amaban a sus enemigos. ¿Qué distinguía a los primeros cristianos de los demás? ¿Era acaso un vasto conocimiento, años de estudio, milagros, discursos dotados o éxtasis místicas? No, era el amor mutuo. Un historiador romano escribió: “*¡Mira! ¡Vean cómo se aman los unos a los otros! Cada uno de ellos está dispuesto a morir por el otro*”.

La alegría cristiana era un tipo de gozo muy nuevo. No era estar de buen humor, ni la alegría de estar vivo, ni la alegría de un trabajo bien hecho, y tampoco era la alegría transparente de un corazón puro... La alegría cristiana era la misma alegría de Jesús, porque Jesús tiene “*su*” gozo tal como él tiene “*su*” paz. La alegría cristiana fue encontrada en esta comunión con Dios y el prójimo que no era meramente un artículo de la fe, sino una experiencia vivida entre los jóvenes y los ancianos.

Esta comunión entre ellos se celebró en hermosas liturgias e himnos que tenían un significado real. Los misterios resultaron no ser tan impenetrables después de todo. La presencia de Jesús entre ellos los hizo comprender y entender los misterios de la fe. Les dio la alegría de la verdad, y, armados sólo con el amor y la verdad, pronto atrajeron el mundo que les rodeaba.

Descubrieron otra fuente de gozo cristiano – el sufrimiento. Los primeros cristianos cantaban mientras iban al martirio. Amar el sufrimiento puede ser un desorden psicológico, pero descubrir el rostro sufriendo de Jesús, y transformar nuestro sufrimiento en amor, es alegría pura.

Padre Jesse Garcia

## Personal Parroquial

**Secretary/Secretaria**

Mónica P. Caraballo  
secretary@stmarystarofthesea.org  
979-233-5271 Ext 302

**Emergency Email Address and phone number**

St. Mary's has an email address and telephone number in case of imminent death and a Priest is requested:  
Call: 832-429-4877  
marystaremergency@gmail.com

**Correo Electrónico o numero de teléfono para Emergencias**

Santa Maria tiene el correo electrónico y el teléfono en caso de que alguien este en peligro de muerte y requiera de un sacerdote:

Llame al: 832-429-4877  
marystaremergency@gmail.com

**Baptism Classes in Spanish and English**

**Baptismos en Español** favor de pasar a la oficina de la parroquia a registrarse y para mayor información.

**English Baptism** please stop by the parish office to register and for more information.

**Quinceañeras**

Requires preparation at least 1 year in advance, must attend CCE/Youth Ministry classes, mass regularly, and preparing for confirmation. Please contact

Cynthia Morales at 979-201-0416  
Email: osita8256@gmail.com

**Altar Duty for December 16-31:**  
Dolly Hernandez & Helen Lawrence

**Sponsor of December Altar Wine**

In Loving Memory of  
†Ignacio & Lucy Cabrera  
by Valentine Moreno



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Catholic Education  
for Over 30 Years**

*Instilling Knowledge,  
Inspiring Faith*

**PreK/Kindergarten Round-Up  
Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

**Beginning at 8:30am let your child  
shadow a PreK 3, PreK 4, or Kindergarten  
class while you tour the school.  
Please RSVP to [kwilson@olqpschool.org](mailto:kwilson@olqpschool.org).**

**Penance Services -  
All begin at 7:00 p.m.**

- Lake Jackson, St. Michael the Archangel -Dec.17
- Angleton, Most Holy Trinity - December 19
- West Columbia, St. John the Apostle -Dec.20



**Altar Society** will have a work day on Sunday, Dec. 23rd at 6:30 p.m. (after the La Posada) to prepare the church for the Christmas season. Many hands will make the church beautiful.

**“Stars of the Sea”** (50 years and older)

**SENIOR DAY** Gathering will be on December 20th, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 10:30 to 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for La Posada, fellowship, Christmas Bingo, and some good food (Pot Luck Luncheon). Come and join us. Always room for one more!



**Christmas Mass Schedule**

December 24, Christmas Eve  
6:00 p.m. Children’s Mass  
8:00 p.m. Spanish Mass  
December 25, Christmas Day  
10:00 a.m. English Mass



**Special Thanks** to Blanca Buras for the donation of the Christmas Altar Wine.

**CCE Calendar of Events**

**Pre-K through 5th grades**

December 19 - Christmas Party  
December 26 & January 3, 2019 - No Class

**YMA 6th through 12th grades**

December 16 - Class 4:30 then 5p.m. Mass  
December 23 & 30 - No YMA Class

**High School Confirmation**

January 20, 2019

Please make your Advent prayerful by participating in the **“La Posada Novena”**. It will begin on December 16th at 6p.m. in the Parish Hall. It will run through December 24th. The schedule is on the vestibule bulletin board.



**Altar Server Schedule December 22-23**

- 5:30p.m. Saturday-Robert McSwain, Matthew Castillo
- 9:00a.m. Sunday-Richard Moreno Jr.(Acolyte), Robert McSwain, Matthew Castillo
- 11a.m. Sunday- Michael Gonzales
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday-Chris Thompson(Acolyte)



**Lectors and EMHC Schedule December 22-23 - Please volunteer where necessary**

- 5:30p.m. Saturday  
Lector 1 Jimmy Mikes Lector 2 Johanna Blanchard Cup Mary Rodriguez Cup 2 Yolanda Solis Cup 3 Johanna Blanchard
- 9:00a.m. Sunday  
Lector 1 Arthur Moreno Lector 2 Cup 1 Valentine Moreno Cup 2 Tina Robledo Cup 3
- 11a.m. Sunday  
Lector 1 Ana Luisa Ochoa Lector 2 Elena Lara Cup 1 Margarita Garcia Cup 2 Ana Luisa Ochoa Cup 3 Maria Cardenas
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday  
Lector 1 Samantha Schroll Lector 2 Erica Ayala Cup 1 Yolanda Garcia Cup 2 Bill Hartnet Cup 3





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**PreK/Kindergarten Round-Up  
Tuesday, January 29, 2019**

**Beginning at 8:30am let your child shadow a PreK 3, PreK 4, or Kindergarten class while you tour the school. Please RSVP to [kwilson@olqpschool.org](mailto:kwilson@olqpschool.org).**



La sociedad del altar tendrá un día de trabajo el domingo, 23 de diciembre a las 6:30 p.m. (después de la Posada) para preparar la iglesia para la Navidad. Muchas manos ayudarán a que la iglesia sea hermosa.

**Servicios penitenciaros-todos empiezan a las 7:00 p.m.**



- Lake Jackson, St. Michael the Archangel -Dec. 17
- Angleton, Most Holy Trinity - December 19
- West Columbia, St. John the Apostle -Dec. 20

"Estrellas del mar" la reunión será el 20 de diciembre, de 10:30a.m. hasta 1:00 p.m. en el salón parroquial para la Posada, compañerismo, bingo navideño, y comida deliciosa. Ven y Únete a nosotros. ¡ Siempre hay sitio para uno más!



**Calendario de Misas navideñas**

- 24 de diciembre, Nochebuena  
6:00 p.m. Misa de los niños  
8:00 p.m. Misa en español
- 25 de diciembre, día de Navidad  
10:00 a.m. Misa en ingle



Agradecimiento especial a Blanca Buras por la donación del vino del altar para Navidad.



Por favor, haga su Adviento en oración participando en "la Posada ". Comenzará el 16 de diciembre a las 6p.m. en el salón parroquial. Continuará hasta el 24 de diciembre.

**Calendario de eventos de CCE**

**Pre-K through 5th grades**

- December 19 - Christmas Party
- December 26 & January 3, 2019 - No Class

**YMA 6th through 12th grades**

- December 16 - Class 4:30 then 5p.m. Mass
- December 23 & 30 - No YMA Class

**High School Confirmation**

January 20, 2019

**Programación de monaguillos el 22-23 de diciembre**

- 5:30p.m. Saturday-Robert McSwain, Matthew Castillo
- 9:00a.m. Sunday-Richard Moreno (Acolyte), Robert McSwain, Matthew Castillo
- 11a.m. Sunday- Michael Gonzales
- 5:00 p.m. Sunday-Chris Thompson (Acolyte)



**Programa de lectores y EMHC el 22-23 de diciembre-**

**Por favor ofrézcase voluntario cuando sea necesario**

- 5:30p.m. Sábado  
Lector 1 Jimmy Mikes Lector 2 Johanna Blanchard Cup Mary Rodriguez Cup 2 Yolanda Solis Cup 3 Johanna Blanchard
- 9:00a.m. Domingo  
Lector 1 Arthur Moreno Lector 2 Cup 1 Valentine Moreno Cup 2 Tina Robledo Cup 3
- 11a.m. Domingo  
Lector 1 Ana Luisa Ochoa Lector 2 Elena Lara Cup 1 Margarita Garcia Cup 2 Ana Luisa Ochoa Cup 3 Maria Cardenas
- 5:00 p.m. Domingo  
Lector 1 Samantha Schroll Lector 2 Erica Ayala Cup 1 Yolanda Garcia Cup 2 Bill Hartnet Cup 3

## MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

### Saturday, December 15 / Sabado 15 de Diciembre

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

5:30 p.m. †Augustin Mendoza by Augustin & Rosa Mendoza

### Sunday, December 16 / Domingo 16 de Diciembre

*The Third Sunday of Advent*

Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

9 a.m. For St. Mary's Parishioners

11 a.m. † Robert Montiel by Family  
Bendiciones por el cumpleaños de Bailey de parte de su abuelos

5 p.m. †Joe Thompson by James & Marilyn Saccomanno

### Monday, December 17 / Lunes 17 de Diciembre

*Monday of the Third Week of Advent*

Gn 49:2, 8-10; PS 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

### Tuesday, December 18 / Martes 18 de Diciembre

*Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent*

Jer 23:5-8; PS 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

6:30 p.m. †Fermin Mendoza by Ramona & Family

### Wednesday, December 19 / Miércoles 19 de Diciembre

*Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent*

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

6:30a.m. †Anita Salazar Mendoza by Augustin & Rosa Mendoza

### Thursday, December 20 / Jueves 20 de Diciembre

*Thursday of the Third Week of Advent*

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

12 p.m. †Jorge Luis Olguin by Santana Olguin

### Friday, December 21 / Viernes 21 de Diciembre

*Friday of the Third Week of Advent*

Sg 2:8-14; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

8:30a.m. †Rev.Father Joachim Tran Trong Kim by Yen Khang Van  
†Bennie & Ester Olguin by Santana Olguin

### PRAY FOR THEM/RUEGA POR ELLOS:

**Please note an individual who's name appears on the list will be published for two weeks. For an extension, please call Parish Office.**

Mary Ann Silbas, Ernie Damian, Pete Kruppa, Yolanda Solis, Gina Vela,  
Mary Anne Lopez and Lupita Robledo

**At all Masses, please pray for holy marriages and families  
and most especially for vocations to the priesthood,  
religious life, and diaconate.**

## Ministries/ Ministerios

### Altar & Rosary Society

#### Sociedad del Altar y Rosario

Dollie Hernandez (979) 665-9635

### Knights of Columbus

#### Caballeros de Colón

Pete Gutierrez (979) 248-7824

### Legion of Mary

#### Legion de Maria

Marilyn Saccomanno (979) 233-1726

Carolina Luna (979) 233-7185

### Ushers / Greeters

#### Acomodadores

Pete Gutierrez (979) 248-7824

### Christian Family Movement

#### Movimiento Familiar Cristiano

Jesus y Lucy Salazar (979) 709-1174

### Guadalupana Society

#### Sociedad Guadalupana

Michael Gonzales (979) 265-6630

### Almas Misioneras

#### Missionary Souls

Jose Coronado (979) 201-1164

Maria Oliva (979) 201-6253

### Lectors / Lectores

Troy Menendez (979) 233-5271

### St.Vincent de Paul

#### San Vicente de Paul

(979) 730-9935

### Work of Mary (Focolare

#### Movement) Obra de Maria (Movimiento de los Focolares)

Bill Hartnett (979) 233-5271

### Neo-catechumen Way

#### Camino Neo-catecumenal

Lorenzo Gomez 979-709-2175

### Sponsor of the Week

#### Juliet's Boutique Event Decorations & Planning

Julietta C. Contreras

979-900-6423