

Our Lady of Lourdes Monthly Calendar

DECEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:15P Baptismal Prep 7P Lector Prep 7P	2 Bible Study 7:00P Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308 Zumba 6:15P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	3 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Love is Our Mission 7P Just Faith 7P Choir Rehearsal 7:00P	4 YAG Meeting 7:30P	5 SVDP Meeting 9A Lector Prep 10:30A Dance by Kenya 1:30P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
6 2 nd Sunday of Advent RCIA 9:30A Women's Council Meeting 10A Sunday School 10:30A Teen Ministry 10:30A Parenting Class 10:30A Social Action 11:30A Simon's Call 12N St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A Dancer's Benefit 3:00P	7 Adult Faith Formation 6P Zumba 7:15P	8 Feast of Immaculate Conception Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:15P	9 Bible Study 7:00P Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308 Zumba 6:15P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	10 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 7:15P Choir Rehearsal 7:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	11	12 SVDP Meeting 9A Pastoral Care Meeting 10A Erasmism 11A New Members Meet & Greet 3P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist Alternative Gift Fair
13 3 rd Sunday of Advent Alternative Gift Fair RCIA 9:30A Sunday School 10:30A Teen Ministry 10:30A Parenting Class 10:30A KPCIA Meeting 1:30P Jr. Division Meeting 1:30P St. Vincent De Paul 11:45A	14 Zumba 7:15P Pastoral Council 7P	15 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:15P	16 Bible Study 7:00P Starbucks 650 Ponce De Leon Ave Atlanta GA. 30308 Zumba 6:15P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	17 Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Just Faith 7P Zumba Class 7:15P Choir Rehearsal 7:00P AGLD Rehearsal 7P	18 <i>Men's Ministry Movie Night for Edgewood 7:30P</i>	19 AG Youth Dance Class 10A Advent Penance 2:00PM Dance by Kenya 1:30P ASBS Meeting 3:30P Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist Bookstore & Belgents
20 4 th Sunday of Advent RCIA 9:30A Sunday School 10:30A Teen Ministry 10:30A Parenting Class 10:30A Lay Dominicans 2P Haiti Committee 12N Bookstore & Belgents	21 Stephen's Ministry 6:30P Zumba 7:15P Taize Prayer Group 8:00PM	22 1 st Day of Winter Lourdes Lunch 11:30A Zumba Class 6:15P	23 Church Office Closes at 12Noon	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 4PM ~ Family Mass 7PM ~ Children's Mass 12Midnight Mass @ Ebenezer Sanctuary Caroling starts at 11:30P	25 Christmas Day 10:00AM Eucharist Church Office Closed	26 Rosary 4:30PM 5:00PM Eucharist
27 No Sunday School The Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary & Joseph Life Issues 12N	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 New Years Eve Church Office Closed Watchnight 11:00PM	1 New Years Day Church Office Closed	

Save the Dates

Christmas Eve, December 24 ~ 4PM ~ Family Mass
Christmas Eve, December 24 ~ 7PM ~ Children's Mass
Christmas Eve, December 24 ~ 12Midnight Mass @ Ebenezer Sanctuary; Caroling starts at 11:30P
Christmas Day, December 25, 10AM Eucharist

Life Notes

JUNK MAIL

Thanks in part to radio personality Michael Baisden, a 98-year-old woman named Mary Tony has become an Internet celebrity. On his website, Baisden featured a short video on the daily life of the elderly Pennsylvania resident, highlighted by her weekday trips to the local senior center for games and camaraderie with friends.

The video became a sensation because it so touchingly captures the challenges of advancing age, particularly the struggle with loneliness. Living by herself without family nearby, Tony has found a novel way to keep busy. "You know what I do? Don't laugh," she says. "I get junk mail, I strip it. And after I strip it, I cut it up small, put it in a bag and put it for garbage." She adds, "I have to do something; otherwise, I'd go nuts."

HOLIDAY BLUES

While her advanced age sets her apart, Tony's living situation is not unusual today. According to a 2012 study by the Department of Health and Human Services, 46 percent of non-institutionalized women over the age of 75 live alone – and the percentage increases with age. The Christmas season is especially hard for those who associate the holidays with happier times earlier in their lives, perhaps with loved ones who are deceased. Catching the holiday blues, together with colder winter weather, causes some seniors to avoid activities with other people, further isolating and depressing them.

OUR THROWAWAY CULTURE

In the prayer book he uses daily, Pope Francis keeps a letter composed for his ordination by the grandmother who helped raise him. It reminds the pope that the elderly are "a storehouse of wisdom forged by experience." But even though "life has been lengthened" by advancements in medicine, he reflects, "society has not become more open to life." Instead, in a "society organized around efficiency," we are tempted to ignore those who move slowly. "There is something vile in this addiction to the throwaway culture," he insists. "It's awful to see the elderly discarded . . . It's a sin!"

PASTORAL CARE

Pope Francis strongly encourages Catholics to counteract society's indifference to the elderly and homebound. Here at Lourdes we do that in an organized way through our 10-member Pastoral Care Team. In response to requests to our clergy or church office, team members visit and pray with the sick and shut-in, including elderly members who can no longer attend services regularly. These short visits, around 15 in a typical week, supplement our individual visits to the homebound in our own families or in our wider church family . . . if we don't put those visits off or forget them altogether.

A call or visit can make a world of difference to those who are elderly or shut-in. At the close of the video about Mary Tony, workers from her senior center stop by to chat with her and help her with a few chores. It is her first company in a long time. "I love you all for coming," Tony tearfully tells them. "It's made my day, and I'll never forget it."

The video "Junk Mail" is available at <http://www.michaelbaisdennow.com/junk-mail-old-woman/>