

Welcome to St. Mary, Mother of Mercy Catholic Church

1143 West Macclenny Avenue, Macclenny Florida 32063-4459

Mass Schedules:

Daily Mass.....Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday @ 5:30 PM

Thursday @ 9 AM

Saturday Mass 5 PM

Sunday Mass 10 AM

Reconciliation 45 minutes before each weekend Mass and by request or appointment before each weekday Mass

Holy Days of Obligation Please refer to our Church Bulletin

Church Staff

Pastor..... Father Richard Rasch, O de M

Deacon Deacon Ken Cochran

Parish Secretary..... Mrs. Bonnie Palleschi

Sacristan..... Ms. Anna Bolduc

Maintenance Mr. Jim Palleschi

Director of Religious Education..... Mrs. Julie Johnson

How to Reach Us:

Parish Office..... 1 (904) 259-2959

Parish Email stmarychurchmacclenny@gmail.com

Father Richard Rasch 1 (216) 701-0606 or richardsrasch@gmail.com

Deacon Ken Cochran..... 1 (904) 570-7765 or kenc1914@comcast.net

Finance Council

The Finance Council is an advisory committee organized to provide support and advice to the Pastor in overseeing and maintaining the financial resources of our Parish.

Parish Council

The St. Mary Mother of Mercy Parish Council is an advisory committee organized to provide support and advice to the Pastor in all issues relating to the pastoral ministry in the parish. It serves as an open forum of discussion for the Pastor, representatives of various parish organizations, and other parishioners appointed to the Council.

Communications

Parish Bulletin: the parish bulletin is the weekly publication and the primary way to announce important events and activities of the parish. Submissions for inclusion into the bulletin are due by Thursday to Johnna Whitford before the week of publication. Johnna can be reached at johnnawhitmor@gmail.com

Parish Website: Our parish website, www.stmarymacclenny.org is another source of information about our parish. Here you can find the Mass schedule; information about the Sacraments; Faith formation; parish ministries; an event calendar, bulletins and much more.

Parish App: this app is for IOS and Android devices. It puts news and information at your fingertips. It offers faith-building resources and features, such as the Daily Mass readings, Confession helps, prayer time reminders; submit prayer requests and much more – all in the palm of your hand.

Importance of Parish Registration

We encourage all who worship regularly at St. Mary, Mother of Mercy Catholic Church to register with us as your Church of record. Registration allows us to communicate with you, helps us to serve you, and is required for the celebration of certain Sacraments.

The Sacraments of the Church

For information about the Church Sacraments, please contact the Parish Office at (904)259-2959.

Funerals at St. Mary Mother of Mercy

The loss of a loved one is a difficult time for family and friends. For assistance in planning a proper Vigil, Funeral, and Committal (Burial), please contact the Parish Office at 904-259-2959, Bonnie Palleschi at 904-570-7765 or Father Richard Rasch at 216-701-0606.

In addition, our Women of Faith are available to provide a memorial reception following the funeral. Please contact Debbie Griffin at 904-860-9708 or Carol Tharpe at 904-753-2679.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound

We have several parishioners that assist our Priest and Deacon by distributing Holy Communion to parishioners who are homebound or in hospitals and nursing homes. Please call the Parish Office at 904-259-2959, Bonnie Palleschi at 904-570-7765 or Father Richard Rasch at 216-701-0606 if you have a loved one who is in need of this Sacrament.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Are you considering, or have questions about, becoming a Catholic? Do you want to know more about your faith? Are you thinking of inviting a friend or relative to consider becoming Catholic? RCIA is for any adult who is not baptized, any adult who was baptized in another Christian tradition, or any baptized Catholic who never received their First Communion. RCIA prepares these adults for full communion with the Catholic Church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation or RCIA prepares those who wish to become Catholics for Baptism and reception into the Catholic Church. It is also a great way for Catholics to learn more about their Faith at an adult level. For more information, contact Peg DeCurtins by email at pegdecurtins@nefcom.net

Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC)

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is also the norm for the initiation of children of catechetical ages (usually seven (7) or above.) The RCIA process has been adapted to meet the needs of children and youth. In the diocese of St. Augustine, RCIC is a two (2) year process. If you have a child that wants to become Catholic, please contact our Director of Religious Education, Julie Johnson for more details and to register. Julie can be reached at (904) 710-6246 or by email at julescjohnson@gmail.com

Ministries and Social Services

The Food Pantry:

Our Food Pantry is available to help those families in need of food. If you need assistance, please contact: Steve Gentile at (904) 259-6033 or Rick Deboe at (904) 259-8789 or rdeboe@yahoo.com

Holy Name Society

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Name of God and Jesus (Holy Name Society) is a parish based men's group that promotes reverence for the Sacred Name of Jesus Christ and provides assistance to the pastor as needed. For more information, please contact Richard Dolan at 1 (904) 237-6922 or by email at chiefdolan@hotmail.com

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are the world's largest fraternal service organization founded in 1882. Their founding principles are works of charity for God's people and the Church. In the parish, they help the pastor according to the needs of the parishioners. For more information, please contact Richard Dolan at 1 (904) 237-6922 or by email at chiefdolan@hotmail.com

Women of Faith

The Women of Faith ministry is a parish based organization promoting the spiritual and sacred well-being of its members and seeks to contribute to the common good of the parish.

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) or Youth Ministry

CYO fosters the development of teenagers in social, emotional and spiritual growth to be formed into mature young adults. For more information, please contact cruzgenyoly@gmail.com

St. Mary Mother of Mercy Gift Shop

The Gift Shop welcomes you to stop by after Mass. The Gift Shop is located just to the left of the Narthex as you enter the Church and offers religious articles and spiritual reading selections at very reasonable prices. We are your source for Catholic gifts and inspirational reading. Special orders are available upon request. Checks and cash are accepted. No credit cards please. For more information, please contact Linda Willey at willey@nefcom.net

Church Etiquette

In order to make our Eucharistic reverent, preserve the sacred character of our Liturgies, and make all who gather with us comfortable, these are some gentle reminders of Church etiquette.

Conversation: out of respect for the Liturgy and those who wish to engage in private prayer before or after the Mass, please maintain a reverent silence in the main body (Nave) of the Church. Conversation should be limited to the Narthex. The Crying Room (Chapel) is the proper place to bring children who are crying or upset.

Communication Devices: Kindly remember to silence (or set to vibrate) all cell phones and pagers before entering the Church.

Arriving on Time: We respectfully ask that you make every effort to be on time for Mass. If for some reason you arrive after the Gospel has been proclaimed, please refrain from receiving Holy Communion that day.

Leaving Mass before the Final Blessing: Please understand that the time immediately after Holy Communion provides each of us with an opportunity to offer thanks for the gift that we have received. The Final Blessing is an important part of the Mass. At the dismissal, our commission to go out and spread the good news of Jesus Christ is celebrated. Please remember that the celebrant should be the last person to enter and the first person to leave Mass.

Proper Attire: Please remember to wear your Sunday best for Church. Dress should be modest and not attract undue attention. This reflects a respect for Jesus, self and others at Mass.

Please do not bring any food, drink or chewing gum into the Church.

Reception of Holy Communion

- As you approach the Minister of Holy Communion, please bow your head reverently as a sign of devotion to the Lord's Presence in the Eucharist.
- You may receive the Body of Christ (the Host) on the tongue or in the hand. Please make it clear to the Minister which way you are receiving. If you are receiving on the tongue, then please keep your hands folded.

- If you receive in the hand, please hold *both* hands up, one on top of the other, making a cradle to receive the Body of Christ. After the Minister says, “The Body of Christ”, please respond aloud and clearly, “Amen.” Allow the Minister to place the Host in your hand then use your other hand to place the Host in your mouth. Please do not grab it from the Minister or receive it only with one hand, or do anything else that may cause the Host to drop on the floor. Receive this sacred Gift with reverence and devotion. Please consume the Host in front of the Minister and then step away.
- If you are carrying anything in your hands, please receive on the tongue for the sake of reverence and to prevent the Host from falling to the ground. If you are holding a small child in your arms, it is much safer if you receive the Host on the tongue.
- Please allow the Altar Server to place the communion paten under your hands or your chin as you receive to ensure that no fragments of the Host fall to the ground.
- If you receive on the tongue, please say, “Amen” first, then extend your tongue out of your mouth. Please do not move until the Minister has placed the Host securely on your tongue.
- If you receive the Precious Blood of Christ from the Communion Cup, again bow your head as you approach the Minister, say “Amen” clearly, and take the communion cup with both hands around the bowl, being very careful not to spill a drop of the Precious Blood of Christ. Make sure that you carefully hand the communion cup back to the Minister and that the Minister has the cup firmly in hand before you let go of the communion cup.
- Christ is fully present – Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity – under both species, in the smallest fragment of the Host, and the smallest drop of the Precious Blood. That is why we take such great care of it, but it is also acceptable to receive only one species. We do have low-gluten Hosts available if you have a gluten allergy. If so, you may request one by talking with Father Richard Rasch before the Mass begins.
- If you are not Catholic or if you are not able to receive Holy Communion for any reason, you are still welcome to come forward in the procession. Simply cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing from the Minister.
- The Communion Hymn allows us to join our voices as a sign of our unity in Christ that we experience through Holy Communion. There will be time for silent prayer after the hymn concludes.
- Please remain kneeling until the Blessed Sacrament has been returned to the Tabernacle.
- May our devotion to the Eucharist bear much fruit as this great Sacrament strengthens us to bring Christ’s Presence to a world in desperate need of Him.