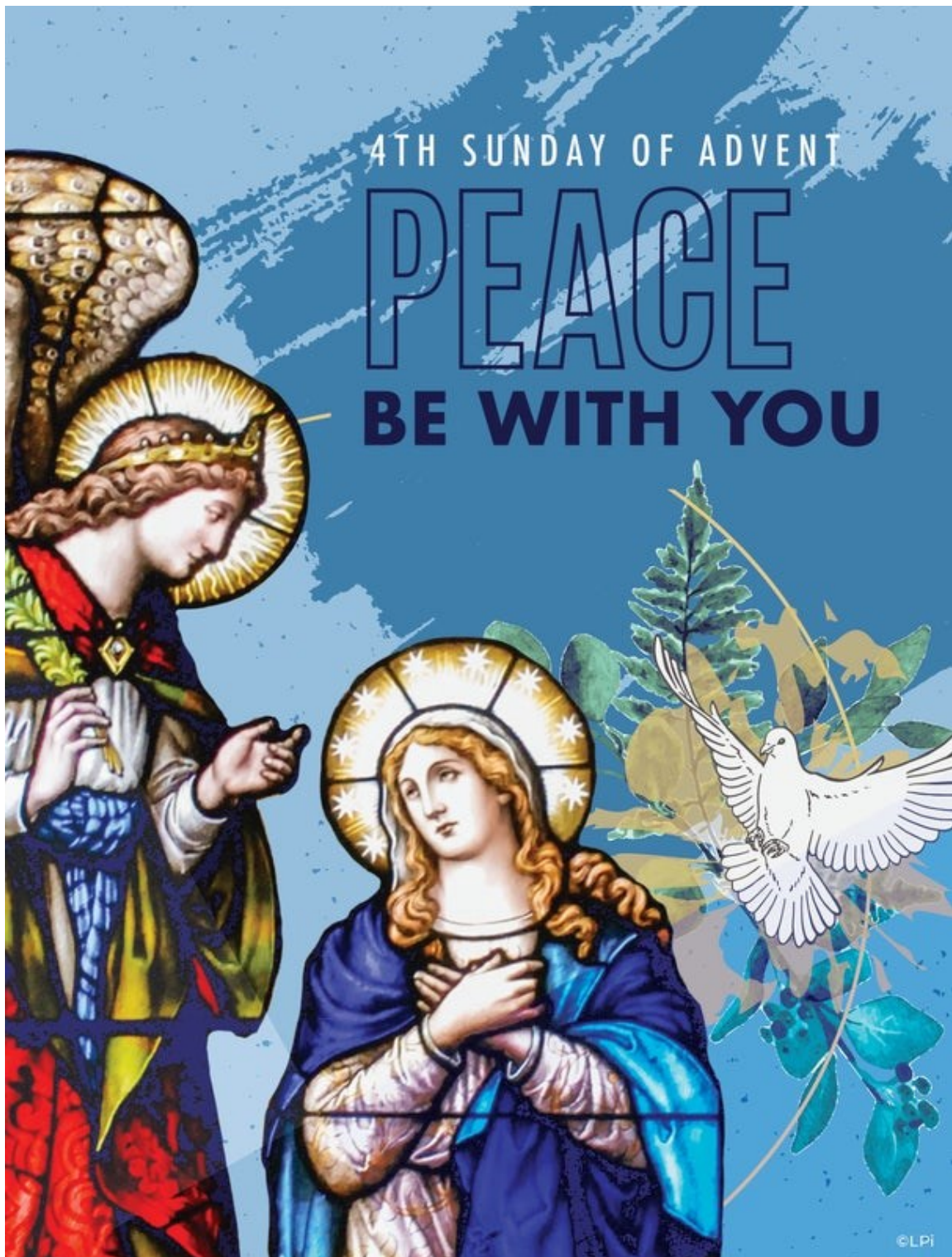




St. James the Apostle

Catholic Church | McDonough, Georgia



December 22, 2024 | Fourth Sunday of Advent
1000 Decatur Rd McDonough GA | 770-957-5441

Parish Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00—4:00
parishoffice@stjamesapostle.com
http://www.stjamesapostle.com

Mass Schedule

Weekdays

Monday—Friday 8:30 am
Wednesday: 6:30 pm

Weekends

Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am | 11:00 am | 5:00 pm

Confession Schedule

Wednesday 7:00—8:00 pm

Saturday 9:00—10:00 am

Or by appointment

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday 7:00—8:00 pm

First Fridays 9:00 am—8:00 pm

Mass Intentions | Week of December 22

Monday	8:30am Peggy Wofford by Donna Waggoner
Tuesday	4:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil 7:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil 11:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil
Wednesday	10:00am Christmas Day
Thursday	8:30am Marthe, Antoine, Nancy & Danielle Moscova+ by Faimi Moscova
Friday	8:30am Francis, Malie & RoseVal Philippeaux+ by Faimi Moscova
Saturday	4:00pm Lily John Puzhakkal+ by The Puzhakkal Family
Sunday	8:30am The Williams Family+ by Drs. Frank Williams & Eve Higginbotham Williams 11:00am Brandon Lewis O’Hearn by Leticia Richards 5:00pm Our Parishioners

The Parish Offices will be closed
Monday, December 23, 2024 through
Friday, January 3, 2025.

Our clergy and staff wish you and
your families a blessed Christmas.



Sign up for **FLOCKNOTE** to receive up-
dates on all happenings here at St.
James the Apostle!

Text **SJACC** to 84576 to sign up for
FLOCKNOTE.



Come and pray the Rosary with your
parish community beginning at 8:00 a.m.
on Tuesdays through the end of the year.

Calendar of Events

Monday

8:30 am | Mass

Tuesday

8:30 am | Mass

4:00 pm | Christmas Eve
Mass

7:00 pm | Christmas Eve
Mass

11:00 pm | Christmas Eve
Mass

Wednesday

10:00 am | Christmas Mass

Thursday

8:30 am | Mass

Weekly Reflection

Dear Parish Family,
Merry Christmas!

This sacred season reminds us that no darkness can overcome the light of Christ. In the tiny town of Bethlehem, the Light of the World was born in humility, bringing hope and joy to a weary world. The same light shines brightly in our hearts today, calling us to reflect God's love in all we do.

As we gaze upon the manger, we see more than a newborn child; we see the face of God, who chose to draw near to us, to share in our struggles, and to redeem us. This profound truth is what we celebrate at Christmas: God is with us—Emmanuel!

I am deeply grateful for each of you and for all that you have done to make this season of Advent so meaningful and now this Christmas season so beautiful. Your kindness, generosity, and faithfulness are a true blessing to our parish and to me personally. Whether through your prayers, your service, or your presence at Mass, or through the light of Christ shining in your outreach to the poor—including the homeless and children in need—through the St. Vincent De Paul and New Beginnings ministries, you have helped make this past year a time of growth, love, and grace for our parish family.

May the light of Christ illumine your heart and home this Christmas, and may it guide you into the New Year filled with His peace, joy, and love. Together, let us rejoice in the great gift of Jesus, our Savior, and carry His light into the world.

Wishing you Christ's peace and joy this Christmas,
Liam

Readings & Observances Week of December 22

Monday:

St. John of Kanty, Priest
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday:

Christmas Eve
Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday:

The Nativity of the Lord
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday:

St. Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday:

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday:

The Holy Innocents, martyrs
1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Sunday:

The Holy Family
1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 (see 5a)/ 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Friday

8:30 am | Mass

Saturday

9:00—10:00 am | Confessions | Church
4:00 pm | Mass

Sunday

8:30 am | Mass
11:00 am | Mass
5:00 pm | Mass

Coming Month

December 23-January 3—
Parish Offices Closed
December 29—Family Ro-
sary
January 3—First Friday Ad-
oration
January 18—VIRTUS Train-
ing
January 18—Young at
Heart
February 1—Chili Cook Off

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve Mass

4:00 pm—Children's Choir

7:00 pm

11:00 pm—Christmas Carols begin at 10:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day Mass

10:00 am

Wednesday, January 1—Mary, Mother of God

8:30 am, 7:00 pm

New Beginnings

We ask so much of all of you throughout the year in support of our five food programs and our emergency housing efforts. Without your generous support we could not have done all that we accomplished in 2024. Thank you and may your Christmas be a meaningful one overflowing with the heart-filled hope and love from the Christ Child. Vivat Jesus!

"Could you not spend an hour with Me?"

Matthew 26:40

Thank you again for your dedication to our Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel. The chapel is open to everyone for Adoration Monday through Thursday from 9 am until 4 pm. We are incredibly grateful to those who have committed to being guardians of the Blessed Sacrament during these hours.

While our Stage 1 guardian schedule is currently full, we are still seeking guardians for our Stage 2 Adoration times. This stage covers Monday through Thursday from 4 pm to 10 pm. Please note that Stage 2 Adoration times will not begin until after the New Year and once all guardian positions are full.

Additionally, we are in need of guardians for Mondays at 10 am and Thursdays at 12 pm. If you can commit to one of those hours, please email Deacon Charles at ciner@stjamesapostle.com

To sign up for your Holy Hour, please visit <https://adorationpro.org/jamesmcdonough> and then click on "Weekly Commitment." Please remember that by signing up for a Holy Hour you are committing to attend Eucharistic Adoration at the time you requested on a weekly basis.

Grief Share

All adults are welcome Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:30 PM or Thursdays 9:30 -11:30 am in Room 210. The cost is \$20 for workbook. To register, go to griefshare.org/findagroup and search for St James Catholic Church. Any questions, contact Joe Blankenship 770-914-2341

CURSILLO

Cursillo is a three-day, grace filled spiritual encounter with Jesus Christ held at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, GA. It's an opportunity to grow closer to God. For information contact Julie Gonzalez: 678-628-3322 or Claude Gaw 505-946-7012

Ultreya Meetings

These meetings are for all those who have made or are interested in making a Cursillo, and they are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 9-10 am, in rooms 212-213.

Holy Innocents Children's Choir

The St. James "Holy Innocents Children's Choir" has resumed. Rehearsals are 5-5:40 pm in the Music Room. Children 1st grade through 7th grade are welcome. Please contact Music Director, Diane Scarbrough for more information: (770) 957-5441, X104 or dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com

SAVE THE DATE

CCW is hosting a Chili Cookoff / Dinner on Saturday Feb 1 after the 4pm Mass. This is a competition between the Parish Ministries AND this year we will allow a total of 4 Parishioners to also enter the competition. The Prizes are People's Choice \$100 and Judges Best \$100. If you would like to enter your excellent chili recipe to win \$100 please contact Polly Crozier at pollyfaye@gmail.com.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group

The Divine Mercy Group has weekly meetings in the cry room immediately following the 8:30 am Mass on Mondays. All are welcome to attend!



OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA / OCIA

Whether you have been Catholic your entire life or are new to the faith, you are invited to find out more about the Catholic faith through the **Rite (Order) of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**.

Classes will resume on January 7th with an Explanatory Mass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Deacon Charles Iner at ciner@stjamesapostle.com

**Religious Education (PreK—8th grades)
Youth Ministry (9-12th grades)**

No classes until January 12!

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Now Enrolling for the
2024-2025 School Year!!**

Our Preschool classes are for children ages 1-5 years old. Registration forms and information are available on our website:

www.stjamesapostleatholicchurch.com/preschool

For more information, please call (770) 957-5441 Ext. 121 or email the Director at vspieth@stjamesapostle.com



Now Hiring!

Immediate opening for a 2-Year Old Aide for the 2024-2025 School Year!

Teaching experience preferred, but not required. Serious inquiries only!

Please visit our website to submit an application: <https://stjamesapostleatholicchurch.com/preschool/forms/>

St. James Preschool—1000 GA Hwy 155 N—McDonough, GA

St. Zita Sanctuary Ministry

Our mission is to properly maintain and clean and polished sanctuary within St. James The Apostle. We meet in the church every other Thursday from 4-5 p.m. We have teams of 3 -4 volunteers and sign ups are done on our website. If interested, please sign up on our website or contact Diane Scarbrough at (770) 957-5441, x104 or dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com

Parish Endowment Fund

The joy of Jesus Christ is celebrated with anticipation each year. Continue the Catholic legacy of joy by ensuring your parish is around to serve for generations. A year end gift to the endowment fund provides for parish needs now and in the future. Give online at cfnga.org/give and search for your parish. Contact the Catholic Foundation at 404.497.9440 to learn more.

**Come Join the Knights of Columbus
Holy Trinity Council 7601**

We welcome all to join us on the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm to say the rosary inside St. James Church and/or at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall to meet and greet existing members and welcome new members! It's a great way to socialize, network, and get a better understanding of what the Knights have to offer.

**Couples Celebrating
50th and 60th Anniversary in 2025**

The Archdiocese of Atlanta would like to honor couples married in 1975 and 1965 with an invitation to a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at noon at Saint Brigid Catholic Church. A reception will follow for the anniversary couples and their families. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/anniversarymass> to RSVP and for additional information.

Young Adult Group

If you are a young adult between the ages of 18-30, we would like to invite you to be part of our Young Adults ministry. We will not meet for formation in December. For more information, feel free to email Bill Renje at wjrenje@att.net.

St. Martha Altar Guild

is seeking parishioners to help launder small linens (Purificators) that are used during communion to clean and purify chalices. These linens are not the large altar linens that adorn the altar. This commitment will not require much of your time. Please contact Don DeWeese at 770-957-5441 (DDeweese@stjamesapostle.com) if you are interested in participating in this ministry.

Prayer Chain

Contact Anna Cheverino 770-320-8393.

Priest Seeking Kidney Donation

Fr. Jose Kochuparampil, assigned to St. Mary Mother of God parish in Jackson, GA, prayerfully requests your consideration of organ donation on his behalf. Read more about Fr. Jose's story and learn how to help: <https://nkr.org/AZM563>

Clergy & Staff

Pastor	Rev. Liam A. Coyne	ext. 105	
Deacon	Rev. Mr. Charles Iner	ext. 201	ciner@stjamesapostle.com
Msgr. Terry W. Young,	Retired in Residence		
Business Manager	Tim Mitchell	ext. 102	tmitchell@stjamesapostle.com
Music Director	Diane Scarbrough	ext. 104	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com
Pastoral Associate	Sandy Major	ext. 101	sandymajor@stjamesapostle.com
Pastoral Associate	Channy O'Meara	ext. 101	comeara@stjamesapostle.com
Parish Secretary	Amy Gordineer	ext. 100	agordineer@stjamesapostle.com
Bulletin Editor	Allison Wyatt		awyatt@stjamesapostle.com
Accountant	Tasha Quinn	ext. 120	tloucks@stjamesapostle.com
Maintenance Coord.	Jim Zakutansky	ext. 202	jameszak@stjamesapostle.com
Liturgical Assistant	Don DeWeese		ddeweese@stjamesapostle.com
Religious Education			
Director	Eric Bridwell	ext. 108	ebidwell@stjamesapostle.com
Assistant	Tracy Howard	ext. 109	thoward@stjamesapostle.com
Preschool Director	Vickie Spieth	ext. 121	vspieth@stjamesapostle.com
Youth Minister	Michelle Fallon	ext. 110	mfallon@stjamesapostle.com

Adult Ed / RCIA	Dcn. Charles Iner 770-957-5441 x201	ciner@stjamesapostle.com
Boy Scouts	Ray Lightner 678-231-2490	ray.lightner@gmail.com
Council of Catholic Women	Polly Crozier 678-697-7690	pollyfaye@gmail.com
Cub Scouts	Brooke Greene 770-851-6696	greene783@gmail.com
Cursillo	Julie Gonzalez 678-628-3322	
Daisies Girl Scouts	Jennifer Tadrzak 404-969-8661	
Divine Mercy Group	Kathy Cowin 678-601-4517	
First Friday Devotion	Mary Byram 678-228-3391	
Girl Scouts	Susan McCurdy - 770-957-1863 Ingrid Zabala - 678-583-0616	
Knights of Columbus	Shawn J. Doucette 678-580-9431	
Lectors/EMHC Scheduling	Michelle Harada 404-680-3710	
Little Flower Women's Bible Study	Diane Scarbrough 770-318-2577	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com
Ministry to the Sick	Dcn. Charles Iner 770-957-5441x201	
Music Ministry	Diane Scarbrough 770-318-2577	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com
New Beginnings	Joel Walker 470-771-2039	nbasjtacc@gmail.com
Prayer Group	Anna Cheverino 770-320-8393	
St. James Men's Fellowship	Mike Martin—404-557-0083 Tommy Patterson—678-549-7382	
St. Vincent de Paul	Linda Berkowitz 404-987-2843	lindaberkowitz@bellsouth.net
Ultreya	Tom & Pam Jablonski 404-451-8118	
Welcome Ministry	Leticia Richards 770-507-7377	skrldr1@gmail.com
Young Adults	Bill Renje 813-416-2356	
Young at Heart	JoAnn Senger 678-756-2951	
St. Zita Sanctuary Ministry	Diane Scarbrough 770-318-2577	dscarbrough@stjamesapostle.com

Sacramental Preparation & Information

INFANT BAPTISM Parents must be members of St. James for at least 3 months or have the pastor's permission, and must complete the Belonging online course through Ascension Press as preparation. Both parents and Godparents are required to take the on-line course. For any questions, please refer to our St. James the Apostle website at stjamesapostleatholicchurch.com. Baptisms are normally celebrated on the **first Saturday** of the month at 10:30am.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Children in the second grade, and active in the Faith Formation program for two consecutive years, are eligible to enroll in the sacramental preparation program. Special preparation sessions are held throughout the year before the reception of these sacraments. Contact the Faith Formation office 770-957-5441 ext.108.

CONFIRMATION Youth in the 10th grade or older, and active in the teen program of the parish for at least two consecutive years, will be eligible to register for Confirmation. Contact the Youth Ministry office at 770-957-5441 ext. 110 for more information. For Adult Confirmation preparation, contact Deacon Charles Iner at ciner@stjamesapostle.com or 770-957-5441 ext. 201.

MARRIAGE Couples considering marriage must contact the parish office **at least six months before** the projected date and must attend a pre-marriage program.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK Celebrated the second Saturday of the month following the 4:00 pm Vigil Mass, or contact the Parish Office to make arrangements. **If this is an emergency situation after hours, please call the Parish Office and press "1" for a sacramental emergency.**

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK If you or a loved one is in the hospital or in an assisted living situation, either temporarily or long term, please call the Parish Office Monday-Thursday to arrange a visit. This must be arranged prior to any weekend Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS Please contact the Parish Office. **Suggested donation is \$15.**

Weekly Collection

Due to bulletin deadlines, the collection will be reported next week.



Holy Family Counseling Center provides counseling for individuals, couples and families from a Catholic perspective. For information and appointments, contact 678-993-8494 or holyfamilycounselingcenter.com

Men's Discernment Retreat

Men's Discernment Retreat for men ages 18-35. Have you ever considered the possibility of serving God as a priest? Come pray and explore if this could be the vocation God has prepared for you. Join us for our annual Men's Discernment Retreat December 27th through 29th at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit. Register at calledbychrist.com/events/discernment-retreat.

Sick List

In order to keep current the published names of those for whom prayers have been requested, we will remove the names at the end of each two-month period. Please call the parish office at the end of each two-month period if you wish to have the name reposted.

Please Pray For...

Peggy Woffard | Katie Cawley | Mary Wagner | Jim O'Connor | Patti Eckels | Micah Carroll | Chris Belback | Mike & Caroline Lanasa | Hector Jordan Sr. | Nela Jordan | Terry Scardasis | Susan Fuller | Claire Bassenberg | Tom Jablonski | Roger Hallam | Christian Kleb | Jeffery Sweetser | Maureen Richardson

If you or a loved one is in the hospital, hospice, homebound or in an assisted living situation, please call our Sick Ministry at 770-957-5441 x118 to notify us.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

PATH (Post Abortion Treatment & Healing) offers help and healing to women and men wounded by abortion. We are hosting our next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat February 21-23, 2025. There you will find compassionate, confidential support to begin your healing journey. For more information or to register, please visit our website at healingafterabortion.org

ARCHDIOCESE ABUSE REPORTING

We are Here to Listen and Take Action
Archdiocesan 24 hour Abuse Reporting Hotline
1-888-437-0764

Abuse hotline for bishops only:
<https://reportbishopabuse.org> or call (800) 276-1562.