

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tues: 3/8 9:30 am Anna Mou (D) by Cynthia Li

Wed: 3/9 5:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:30 pm Mass

Sat: 3/12 6:30 pm Charles Payson (D) by Robert Payson

Sun: 3/13 8:30 am People of the Parish

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM

HOLY WEEK/EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Thur 3/24 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Fri 3/25 3:00 pm Good Friday/Lord's Passion

Sat 3/26 8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Sun 3/27 10:00 am Easter Sunday Mass

CONTRIBUTIONS for 2/28/16

Church Budget \$ 2,100

Sunday Offering (2/28/16) \$ 2,293

SECOND COLLECTIONS THIS WEEK

Catholic Relief Services (Archdiocese Collection) Build Improvement (Parish Collection)

Counters for this week are Flora Butler and Jan Dover

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS: Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for Easter lilies in mem01Y of loved ones. It is \$10 and the names will be listed in the Easter bulletin.

Parish Committees

Pastoral Council: Deanna Holmer 706-297-7493

Finance Committee: Bob Defenbaugh 706-886-8950

Ladies of saint Mary: Gerrie Chalk 706-963-0050

Religious Education: Sharon Cook 706-297-8344

Nancy Barbour 706-244-1437

Knights of Columbus: Larry Barbour 706-244-1410

Maintenance Committee: Larry Barbour 706-244-1410

Bulletin editor: Christa O'Barr 706-886-2819; stmarystoccoa@gmail.com (email)

Pray for ...

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Zachary Carreno, Kevin Chase, Carl Dowell, Joe Franzmathes, Chuck Hansen, Judy Hawkins, Edna Kane, Ed Kernan, Brenda & Tom McKevelin, Carl Pope, Chloe Smith, Skip Studley, Joe Todd, Jim Zell, Elaine Peterson, Charles Roberts, Glenn Gloeckner, Mary Hennessey, Hubert Jones, Lisa Panatera, Esquivail, Jeff & Artie Conner, Karen Poole, Carlton House, Mac Boswell, Karen Perchinski, & Brion Lanier.

Ministry of Gods Housekeepers

Are in need of a few good parish members to fill our ranks in order to keep your church neat and clean.

Please call Ray Hopper for details, 706-779-2700.

Ministry of Gods Gardeners Are there two church members who can spend 1 hour, 5 times spread out over the year?? Each will work with another church member of God's Housekeepers to keep St. Mary's clean. Is this too much to ask? If you can help, please call Ray at (706) 779-2700.

St. Vincent DePaul St. Vincent DePaul St. Mary's Conference members will meet Wednesdays, March 9th and 23rd after the 6:30 PM Mass (about 7:15 PM) in the Religious Education room. All parishioners are invited to join us as we help the poor and needy in our community both financially and spiritually.

St. Vincent DePaul, St. Mary's Conference central help-line number for people, needing assistance is: 1 (678) 892-6163.

Chili Cook Off

The Chili Cook Off was a great success! THANKS to Nancy Barbour for all the desserts and decorations. Plus, a thanks to all who came and donated money to the K of C and the building fund. Hope everyone had as good a time as we did. This is a great way for our church to get together and become stronger. We look forward to doing more in the future. Thanks Again, The Biester's and Dessauer's

We are in need of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist. If you are interested, please see Fr. Sullivan.

SAVE THE DATE: St. Patrick's Dinner on Saturday, March 19th after Mass. Tickets will be sold the first and second weeks of March. \$5 for kids and \$10 for adults.

LADIES OF ST. MARY'S meeting on Wednesday, March 9th at 10:00 am in the Social Hall. All ladies of the parish are invited.

NOTICE: For the next few weeks, during Christa's absence, please submit bulletin notices and announcements no later than noon on Tuesday's.

Mass Intentions

Sharon Cook will be taking care of mass intentions while I am away. Everything will be in the Sacristy.

Living Faith Devotionals

The new devotionals for April-June have arrived and will be on the table in the Narthex along with a signup sheet if you would like to renew or begin your subscription.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"LET US CELEBRATE WITH A FEAST"

As we leave winter behind and enter into the home stretch of our Lenten journey we have good reason to celebrate. We know that with each new sunrise we will enjoy more warmth and daylight. We know also that Christ, our risen "Sun," is bringing more and more warmth and light into the world with each new day. How better to celebrate than with a feast! The first reading, the psalm, and the Gospel for this Sunday all refer to feasts. Each of these feasts celebrates what the psalm calls "the goodness of the Lord" (Psalm 34:9). The spring Passover festival in the reading from Joshua celebrates God's gift of the land of Canaan to the Israelites. In the Gospel parable the father doesn't give a thought to his prodigal son's sins or to his own injured feelings. He proclaims, "Let us celebrate with a feast!" (Luke 15:23). He then leaves his own banquet to encourage Fr. Vincent Sullivan, Pastor his elder son to "celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again" (Luke 15:32).

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

All three of these feasts point to the one banquet that we will celebrate in the promised land of heaven, and that we anticipate in the Eucharistic banquet. At the Eucharist we celebrate the infinite forgiveness and love God has shown us in Christ. However, we are not simply to relax at the table and drink in our own forgiveness. St. Paul reminds us that God has "given us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18). Like the brothers in the parable, God's generosity to us should open our hearts to forgive and ask forgiveness of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Like the father in the parable, we are to be "ambassadors for Christ," extending "the message of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5: 19, 20) to all those who need Christ's reconciling forgiveness. The heavenly banquet will not be complete until all people come to the feast and "taste and see the goodness of the Lord" (Psalm 34:9).

Today's Readings: Joshua 5:9a, 1&-12; Psalm 34:2-7•, 2 Corinthians 5:17 21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Forgetting to Count Your Blessings: The minute the prodigal son begins to think about himself and turn his attention away from the father's love is the minute he begins to have problems that will lead to spiritual and material bankruptcy. Asking for his inheritance was tantamount to wishing his father's death, since an inheritance is bestowed only after the death on one's parents. How many times have I asked God to die by choosing my own will over his? Self-centeredness leads to ingratitude: forgetting that I have received everything from God through no merit of my own and that it will all return to him. Self-centeredness also leads to trying to find happiness anywhere except the one place it ultimately is found: in and with God.

Lord, though I cannot see you with my eyes, I believe you are present to me now, in my innermost being, and that you know me far better than I know myself I also know that you love me much more than I love my own self. Thank you for loving and watching over me, though I don't deserve your love. In return, I offer you my sorrow for my sins and my hope to love you more each day.

Fr. Vincent Sullivan, Pastor

