

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 8/2 9:30 am
Wed: 8/3 5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm
Sat: 8/6 6:30 pm
Sun: 8/7 8:30 am People of the parish

CONTRIBUTIONS for July 24, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$ 1,793
Building Fund	\$ 102

COUNTERS for this week are: Ruth Manna and Cathy Staley.

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
Jessica Burger 1-904-219-1129
Knights of Columbus: Mike Staley 770-241-8544
Maintenance Committee: Larry Barbour 706-244-1410
Bulletin editor: Christa O'Barr 706-886-2819;
stmarystoccoa@gmail.com (email)

Second Collection

This weekend, we participate in a special appeal for the Mission Cooperative Program in our archdiocese. This year several missionaries, religious orders and (arch)dioceses have been chosen from over 200 applications to take part in this program. Last year, each of the participants received over \$11,000 thanks to your generosity. Thank you for your generosity last year and please prayerfully consider your response this year.

It's that time of the year again...

CCD registrations forms are in the narthex, please fill-out and return as soon as possible so books can be ordered. For one child it's \$25, for two it's \$35 and three or more it's \$45 for family.

If anyone is interested in a rosary for the unborn please see Sharon Cook. They are \$27.



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, Carl Pope, Chloe Smith, Skip Studley, Joe Todd, Jim Zell, Elaine Peterson, Charles Roberts, Glenn Gloeckner, Mary Hennessey, Hubert Jones, Lisa Panatera - Esquivel, Karen Poole, Carlton House, Mac Boswell, Karen Perchinski, Brion Lanier, Max Biester, Gloria Woodall, Laura Barnett, Dell Thomas, Nan Lunn, Diane Farmer, Tina Vu, Lore Schnell, Gwen Cuvo and Carolyn Nix.

St. Vincent dePaul

St. Vincent dePaul, St. Mary's Conference will meet in August the Wednesday evenings of the 3rd and 17th, in the religious education room following the 6:30 PM Mass (about 7:15PM). This week we received 14 calls for assistance from families experiencing difficulties in paying their utilities, rent, etc. One call was from a very elderly veteran who is blind and has a wife suffering from cancer needing assistance with their electric bill to keep it from being cut off from lack of payment. Other calls were from families with children who were potentially facing homelessness. We invite parishioners, who would like to help in any manner, to join us in our meetings or make donations. Our blue bucket donations from parishioners this past weekend totaled \$202. Thank you for your generosity. For more information, please call Nancy Williamson, 706-356-8046. **HELP-LINE** number for those needing assistance is: **1 (678) 892-6163.**

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE: It is time to update our list of volunteers to provide a luncheon for the family and friends of a deceased member of our parish. Many who have so willingly served in the past are no longer able to do so. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call Rita Nash at 706-356-1247.

Knights of Columbus Council will serve breakfast on August 7, 2016 in the Parish Hall starting after Mass about 9:30 AM. The menu will be Thick Cut French Toast with Bacon and Sausage and all the trimmings.

"Doing good" is a principle that unites all humanity, beyond the diversity of ideologies and religions, and creates the "culture of encounter" that is the foundation of peace. "They complain," the Pope said (in a recent homily), because they say, "If he is not one of us, he cannot do good. If he is not of our party, he cannot do good." And Jesus corrects them: "Do not hinder him, he says, let him do good." The disciples, Pope Francis explains, "were a little intolerant," closed off by the idea of possessing the truth, convinced that "those who do not have the truth, cannot do good." "This was wrong . . . Jesus broadens the horizon." Pope Francis said, "The root of this possibility of doing good – that we all have – is in creation": "The Lord created us in His image and likeness, and we are the image of the Lord, and He does good and all of us have this commandment at heart: do good and do not do evil. All of us. 'But, Father, this is not Catholic! He cannot do good.' Yes, he can. He must. Not can: must! Because he has this commandment within him. Instead, this 'closing off' that imagines that those outside, everyone, cannot do good is a wall that leads to war and also to what some people throughout history have conceived of: killing in the name of God. That we can kill in the name of God. And that, simply, is blasphemy. To say that you can kill in the name of God is blasphemy." "Instead," the Pope continued, "the Lord has created us in His image and likeness, and has given us this commandment in the depths of our heart: do good and do not do evil": "The Lord has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone! And this Blood makes us children of God of the first class! We are created children in the likeness of God and the Blood of Christ has redeemed us all! And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace. If we, each doing our own part, if we do good to others, if we meet there, doing good, and we go slowly, gently, little by little, we will make that culture of encounter: we need that so much. We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!'

But do good: we will meet one another there." "Doing good" the Pope explained, is not a matter of faith: "It is a duty, it is an identity card that our Father has given to all of us, because He has made us in His image and likeness. And He does good, always."

EASY WORDS, HARSH WORDS

"If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above," we hear today (Colossians 3:1). "Think of what is above" as well. Easy to comprehend. Good advice. Only common sense. But the ability to seek and think of what is above, Paul tells us, comes only at a price. In order to have truly died so that our life of glory is with Christ in heaven, we must put to death—as Christ was put to death on a cross—all those things about our life "below" that impede our living for Christ and with Christ as our all in all. We cannot really seek and think about things above while we maintain the worst of our human passions, perpetuate our deceitfulness, and emphasize our differences. In this way we not only continue the lying to one another, but still lie to ourselves, and imagine that we can deceive God. Only in the stopping of this can we truly show forth our baptismal image: that of Christ, who is the image of the unseen God. Only then can we take off that old self and be that new creation, the image of our Creator fully restored in Christ.

HARSH WORDS, HEAVENLY WORDS

There are all sorts of reverberations of these themes throughout today's scriptures. Qoheleth (the "Preacher") instructs us that, ultimately, everything of our life on earth is but an empty vanity when we are called from this life. Jesus shows us our true selves in the example of the man who expends all his energy to store his harvest to ensure the luxury of his future. Qoheleth, Paul, and Jesus are all of a like mind on this issue. We have been made in the image of our Creator, we believe that God's creation is graced and good, but we need to keep this in perspective. For all creation and all creatures—humans included—will have naught for a destiny unless that destiny is joined to that of Christ. He preaches that we can be, indeed we must be, rich with treasure—but only the kind of treasure that truly matters to God.