

## Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 8/23 9:30 am  
Wed: 8/24 5:30 pm Adoration  
6:45 pm  
Sat: 8/27 6:30 pm Micheal Studley and Betty Harper (D)  
~given by Sally & Skip Studley  
Sun: 8/28 8:30 am Peopl of the parish

### **CONTRIBUTIONS for August 14, 2016**

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$ 1,417
Building Fund	\$ 130
Assumption of Mary	\$ 70

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

Flowers this weekend are in memory of Don Cook.

### **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](mailto:stmarystoccoa@gmail.com) (email)

### **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.



## **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 Larry Barbour.

### **St. Vincent dePaul**

Since September 2015, St. Mary's has helped nearly 30 families and disabled individuals with food, utility bills, rent, and other services, totaling over \$7,500. Thanks to the generosity of St. Mary's Parishioners, who gave nearly \$2,500, three donors who gave \$1,000 each and assistance through "twinning" from other conferences in the Diocese, we have been able to continue our spiritual and charitable outreach. Our services are most rewarding and we invite all parishioners (with variety of ages and abilities) to join us in our mission to bring Christ out into our community. For more information, please call Nancy Williamson at 706-356-8046 or Sharon Cook at 706-297-8344.

**HELP-LINE** number for those needing assistance is: **1 (678) 892-6163.**

Tickets for the Auxiliary Fund Drive to help Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cancer Home in Atlanta will be sold the weekend of August 27/28. Donation is \$5 a book of 6 tickets or \$1 per ticket. Thank you for your kind and generous support.

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect on the theme of salvation. Jesus is going up from Galilee to the city of Jerusalem, and along the way, says St. Luke the Evangelist, someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (13:23). Jesus did not answer the question directly: it is not important to know how many are saved, but rather, it is important to know what is the path of salvation. And so Jesus responds to the question by saying, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough" (v. 24).

What does Jesus mean? What is the gate by which we enter? And why does Jesus speak about a narrow gate? The image of the gate recurs several times in the Gospel and is reminiscent of home and hearth, where we find safety, love and warmth. Jesus tells us that there is a gate that allows us to enter into God's family, into the warmth of the house of God, of communion with Him. This gate is Jesus himself (cf. Jn 10:9). He is the gate.

He is the gateway to salvation. He leads us to the Father. And the gate that is Jesus is never closed, this gate is never closed, it is always open and open to everyone, without distinction, without exclusions, without privileges. Because, you know, Jesus does not exclude anyone.

Some of you might say to me, "But Father, surely I am excluded, because I am a great sinner. I have done so many things in my life." No, you are not excluded! Precisely for that reason you are preferred, because Jesus prefers the sinner, always, in order to pardon him, to love him. Jesus is waiting for you, to embrace you, to pardon you. Don't be afraid: He's waiting for you. Be lively, have the courage to enter through His gate. All are invited to pass through this gate, to pass through the gate of faith, to enter into His life, and to allow Him to enter into our life, because He transforms it, renews it, the gifts of full and lasting joy.

Thank you St. Mary's for wrapping your arms around us in the lost of our grandson Michael. For the many cards, mass cards and prayers we thank you. The reception after the service was so thoughtful and nice. Keep us in your prayers. St. Mary's church family is great.

Johnny and Rilla

### **Knights of Columbus**

The K of C Council will be installing the new officers for this fraternal year at the membership meeting on Aug. 23, 2016 starting at the regular time of 6pm.

It will be an open meeting for all members and their WIVES to attend the ceremony along with any members of the St. Mary's Parish Family that want to attend.

Oue District Deputy Terry Adams will do the installation. Afterwards we will have a celebration honoring Past Grand Knight-Larry Barbour for his long service to the Council.

### **SEEKING CRAFT SALE PARTICIPANTS!**

The 9th Annual Indoor/Outdoor Craft Sale at Sacred Heart Church at 1009 Benson St.(across from Quality Foods) in Hartwell will be held on Saturday November 12, 2016.

We are seeking anyone who would be interested in reserving a table to sell their things at \$35 per 8ft table. Please call Judy Earle at 706-436-3944 for reservations as tables will go fast.