

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 9/27 9:30 am

Wed: 9/28 5:30 pm
6:45 pm

Sat: 10/1 6:30 pm People of the Parish

Sun: 10/2 8:30 am Gregory Peay (L)
given by Nancy Williamson

**Next Tues. at 9:30 am there will be a communion service.
Next Wed. there will be adoration at 5:30 followed by
communion service.**

Second Collections for Next Week

Building Improvement

CONTRIBUTIONS for September 18, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$2,074

COUNTERS for this week are: Betty Smith and Gary Cortellino.

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)

“The Knights of Columbus will be selling Religious Christmas in the coming weeks to any member of the Parish Family that wants to purchase them. We will have a display setup after Mass to view the different boxes of Cards.”

Salvation army is looking for volunteers to ring the bells and the angel tree ministry. If interested please call 706-716-4968

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, Larry Barbour and Walter Gaines.

SAVE THE DATE: The Ladies of St. Mary's invite you to our Fall Senior Luncheon on Wednesday Oct. 12th at 12:30PM in the Social Hall. Spend time with old friends and make new ones. After lunch, stay to visit, play cards or games. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. We look forward to seeing you!

The front windows of the church will be replaced in the near future. Barton Glass, who did the front doors of the church, will be doing the windows.

Second Collection

Today's second collection is for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia. Last year, with more than 4,000 volunteers, and a dedicated central support staff, St. Vincent de Paul delivered hope and help to more than 126,000 people in need. This second collection is special because each dollar raised goes not only to helping people in our parish area but also to helping people in need across the state. Our gifts to this collection go directly to provide emergency shelter, food, clothing and educational resources to those experiencing hardship and crisis with the ultimate goal of achieving self-sufficiency. We can, like Christ, serve the poorest of the poor among us through our wholehearted support of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia. Please be generous.

A priest was standing at the Church doors shaking hands with the people as they left after Mass. As Joe tried to pass by, the priest pulled him aside as said, “Joe, you need to join the Army of the Lord.” Joe replied, “I’m already in the Army of the Lord, Father.” “Well, then how come I don’t see you in church except at Christmas and Easter?” the priest asked. Joe whispered back, “I’m in the secret service.”

In today's second reading, St. Paul gives instructions to Timothy as a soldier of the Lord, urging him to fight the good fight. Paul is not asking Timothy to wage a war against his adversaries and rivals, as one would expect. He is asking him to fight the only battle that really matters in the end – the battle of faith; the struggle of holiness. As he instructs Timothy, “Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called.”

That statement really stands out, “Compete well for the faith.” It is a statement of the passion that God call us each of us to have for our faith. Sometimes we think that all we need to do in life is be a good person. That's a statement we hear all the time, “I’m a good person,” as though being a good person were enough. Don't get me wrong – being a good person is fantastic, we need good people in the world. Good people are always more beneficial to the world than bad people. But, in the quest for eternal life, being good isn't enough. God doesn't want us to merely be good. There are a whole lot of “good” atheists in the world. God wants us to be holy. And that takes some work. “Compete well for the faith. ...Lay hold of eternal life, to which you have been called.” It sort of has the ring of “carpe diem,” or “seize the day.” St. Paul is telling us “carpe fidem” or “seize your faith.”

How many of us compete for faith? Or how many of us simply take our faith for granted? God wants to shake us out of our complacency today – He wants to get us out of the “secret service” and make us one of His foot soldiers fighting the good fight, actively pursuing our faith, being not only good, but striving for holiness.

Shortly after he converted to Catholicism in the late 1930s, Thomas Merton was talking with his friend, Robert Lax. Lax was Jewish, and he asked Merton what he wanted to be, now that he was Catholic. “I don't know,” Merton replied, adding simply that he wanted to be a good Catholic. Lax stopped him in his tracks. “What you should say,” he told him, “is that you want to be a saint!” Merton was dumbfounded. “How do you expect me to become a saint?,” Merton asked him. Lax said: “All that is necessary to be a saint is to want to be one. Don't you believe that God will make you what He created you to be, if you will consent to let him do it? All you have to do is desire it.”

My brothers and sisters, “Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called.” My friends, “Carpe fidem” – seize your faith, let us all strive for holiness, to be saints!

St. Vincent dePaul

ATTENTION: It is important for all members of St. Mary's Conference to attend the meeting, September 21st at 7 PM in the Social Hall, following Adoration and the Communion Service. We will complete the 2nd half of the sexual abuse training that ALL members are required to have in order to conduct home visits and work directly with clients. Pizza and drinks will be served.

All are welcome to come join our St. Mary's Conference members on our spiritual growth journey through service to people in need. You are invited to see our Catholic faith in action through the volunteers of this unique lay vocation and Christ's face in those we serve. For more information please contact Nancy Williamson at (706) 356 8046 or Sharon Cook (706) 297-8344.

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