

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 11/8 9:30 am Don Cook (D)

~given by Sharon Cook

Wed: 11/9 5:30 pm

6:45 pm

Sat: 11/12 6:30 pm People of the parish

Sun: 11/13 8:30 am Denise Bigham

~given by June Webb

Second Collections for Next Week

Saint Vincent dePaul, St. Mary's Conference

CONTRIBUTIONS for October 30, 2016

Church Budget \$ 2,100

General Offertory \$ 1,888.50

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

Flowers 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: Stephanie Cortellino 404-353-0475

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)

Multi-Purpose Building Committee: 706-201-1185

There is a playpen as you enter church to place items in for Toccoa Life. At the end of the month, we will donate any baby items to help with all the young women who have opted to give birth and keep their babies. All of your support is deeply appreciated. Thanks so much!!

Solidarity HealthShare - a Catholic alternative to Obamacare. Please visit: solidarityhealthshare.org or call 844-313-4999



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, Walter Gaines, Janice Sibley and Joan Ferrara.

Counters for church contributions are needed. If you have two to three hours to spare at least once a month to join the counting group, please contact Nancy Williamson at (706) 356 8046..

St. Vincent dePaul

The next meeting for SVdP, St. Mary's Conference will be November 16th after Mass (about 7:15PM) in the Religious Education room. Just when we were becoming concerned that our funds for helping the needy were getting low, especially as we are nearing the holidays, Christ the Redeemer Conference from Dawsonville, GA presented us with \$1000. This is called "twinning" when a conference shares their extra funds with another conference. As we believe we are answering God's call to bring Him into the homes of the poor and needy in our community, He, in turn, always comes through to ensure we have the resources to help fulfill our mission. He is truly good and we are so very blessed. All are invited to join us in our meetings and consider becoming a Vincentian. For more information, please contact Nancy Williamson at (706) 356 8046.

ADVENT WREATHS, ADVENT CANDLES, and ADVENT CALENDARS will be on sale starting Nov. 19th and 20th after mass. Proceeds will go to the Ladies Guild for future projects. Any questions, phone Pat Defenbaugh @ 706-244-1316

Ladies of the Parish: Please mark your calendars for the next meeting of the Ladies of St. Mary, Wed. November 16th at 10:00am in the parish hall. All women of the parish are invited to attend. If you are interested in being a part of this group and are unable to attend, please contact Stephanie Cortellino at 404-353-0475. Thank you and we hope to see you on the 16th!

This weekend, Sat/Sun, Nov 5/6, the Parish Council will be distributing a updated St Mary's Parish Organizations and Ministries Directory at the conclusion of both Masses (one per family please). A Parish Council member will provide a brief introductory during the announcements before the final Blessing.

Next weekend, Sat/Sun, Nov 12/13, the Parish Council will sponsor a Ministry Fair after both Masses in the vestibule. A member from each Ministry will be available to answer any questions regarding their ministry. Parishioners are encouraged to actively engage and consider joining a ministry!

Our Thanksgiving Mass will be on November 16, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

There will be NO adoration on the 16th of November due to the children's mass

Volunteers Needed: Hospice Compassus is looking for patient care and office volunteers in your area. These volunteers are needed to play games, read, write letters, run errands, and provide companionship for our patients. If you are interested in helping patients who are living with a life-limiting illness, please contact Bridgett Biggers at 706-354-1707 for more information.

The Four Cornerstones of Drawing Closer to God

The following four cornerstones are "across the board" type traits that would seemingly draw each of us closer to God. The first cornerstone is to "Be Still." In Psalm 46, we are told "Be Still and know that I am God." In our rush and go world, being still is no easy task for most individuals. By being still and making prayer a priority, we tap into the grace, peace and power of our creator. By being still and praying, we come to hear God's voice with greater clarity.

The second cornerstone is to "Be Mindful." So, what does this mean? It means considering what you allow to enter your mind. What are you watching, reading and listening to? Our mind acts out what it takes in. Consider the programming of your mind and change it to draw closer to God. By changing the programming, we are putting on the armor of God. In 2 Thessalonians, we are told that "... the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one." In essence, our minds require a daily metamorphosis to combat the programming of the world around us.

The third cornerstone is to "Be Positive." Consider again reading the classic from Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, "The Power of Positive Thinking" - a classic but still very powerful! Time and time again in scripture, we see examples of those who have intense positive faith. Such examples include the woman in Luke 8 who just wanted to touch the cloak of Jesus (and did and was healed). How about the passionate conviction and positive attitude of the individuals in Mark 2 that carried the paralytic in through the roof!! Consider from Mark 10, the faith of Bartimaeus, the blind beggar. Scripture gives us endless examples of being positive.

The fourth and final cornerstone is to "Be Not Afraid." This is a constant message of scripture. Accordingly, one must conclude that if God mentions it that many times, it must be important! We have no guarantee of an easy "walk in the park" type life. In fact, we know and in most cases have experienced trials. However, in James 1, we are told to "Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. " Sure we desire perseverance as a trait but rarely do we seek out and enjoy trials. However, given that trials are inevitable, we have the comfort of the consistent message of "Be Not Afraid."

Consider the visual and trembling fear of the disciples in the upper room. Then consider Jesus coming and telling them "Peace Be with You." At that point, the fear and anxiety are replaced with peace and faith. Again, Be Not Afraid. These cornerstones are just one of many tools available to us. However, with the focus upon the four discussed above, we can certainly draw closer to God and experience his hand at work. It was Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, who once said after a stroke and enduring the effects thereof that "It is indeed a profound spiritual experience to know and feel myself so totally in God's hands." May each individual who applies the above cornerstones truly feel the hand of God at work, welcome life's circumstances and know that the present moment always provides the opportunity to draw closer to God.- Brian Brown / May 2008