

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 6/28 9:30 am
Wed: 6/29 5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm
Sat: 7/2 6:30 pm
Sun: 7/3 8:30 am

CONTRIBUTIONS for June 19, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$ 2,276
Building Fund	\$ 10

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

Peter's Pence

COUNTERS for this week are: Betty Smith and Ruth Manna.

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)

Once again we are partnering with the Salvation Army to collect toiletry items for those in need in our community. By collecting these items the Salvation Army was able to assist more with utilities, rent, mortgage, and shelter. We were so thankful for the support from our church families and pray you will not hesitate to assist us again this year in doing the most good for our community.

Ministry of Gods Gardeners

We are in great need of some folks to help with the upkeep of the gardens and church grounds. If you are able to help even a couple of hours a week or month, please call or email the church office.



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, Dennis Nolan, Diane Farmer, Tina Vu and Lore Schnell.

St. Vincent dePaul

The next meeting of Saint Vincent dePaul, St. Mary's Conference will be a dinner meeting, **Thursday**, July 7th, 6PM, at the X Factor. Each person is responsible for their meal. We invite parishioners to join us. We are receiving many calls each week from individuals and families in the community for assistance. More and more families are needing help with their electric bills as they increase during the summer months. Thank you for your generosity in helping the needy and vulnerable in our community. We welcome any donations you may want to give to assist our families. For more information, please call Nancy Williamson, (706) 356 8046.

St. Vincent dePaul, St. Mary's Conference central **HELP-LINE** number for those needing assistance is: **1 (678) 892-6163**.

Ministry of Gods Housekeepers

PLEASE, PLEASE!! Are there just two church members who will volunteer a meer 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**. We love Jesus when we honor him with a beautiful church home. If you can help, please call Ray at (706) 779-2700.

Please congratulate our new Parish Council members Gary Cortellino, Jose Flores, Quyen Ha and Courtney Pendergrast. Our next Parish Council Meeting will be July 12th 7:00pm.

St. Mary Catholic Church is pleased to announce that we recieved a disbursement check of \$5,000 from the Parish Assistance Endowment Fund at the Catholic Foundation of North Georgia. These funds will go towards the multi-purpose building proposal.

Second Collection

In the second collection today, we are supporting Pope Francis in his charitable works. The Peter's Pence Collection is taken up worldwide to support our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the collection is an opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous in today's collection.

A Parishioner Story

My name is Tuan Pham and I am a 20 year old Vietnamese/American whose parents are Vietnam war refugees. My dad came over to the United States immediately as the country fell in April 1975 and my mom lived under the new communist regime for 9 more years before moving to Canada and eventually America. My dad worked for a shipyard and my mom helped out at our elementary school. My family lived in San Marcos, California until about 2005 when, on the Feast of St. Joseph, we moved to Homer, Georgia to take over a chicken farm. I am the youngest in the family. I have three older brothers, two sister in laws, and three nephews. I was preparing to graduate from the University of Georgia this month but there's been a shift in my plans, so now I have one more semester left before I can finish my degree. I'm studying Computer Science but decided to postpone my graduation plans to discern a possible vocation in the priesthood. I'm applying to enter seminary in the fall for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. I've devoted this past year to my studies and school so I'd liked to spend this summer volunteering for St. Joseph's Catholic Parish. I'm shadowing my pastor, Father David McGuinness, and the parochial vicar, Father Paul Moreau, and getting a glimpse into the day to day life of the Priest. I started serving at the altar in August of this past year.

The enthusiasm my friends had altar serving made me interested in serving. It was after they moved on from Athens and there was no one serving at daily Mass that I felt the call to step up to the plate. The most important thing about serving is to pray. 1. Pray for yourself. It's easy to get distracted when the entire congregation is facing towards you and all your responsibilities as a server can fill you mind to the point that it prevents you from entering fully into the Great Mystery of the Mass. So before serving I ask God, "Lord free my mind from all temptations and snares of the devil..." Prayer humbles me by showing me that I'm only one part of the Body and it reminds me of the mission to bring glory to God in the Mass. 2. Pray for the priest. 3. Pray for the choir, the lectors, and the parishioners. Servers have a lot of special roles; we assist the priest at the altar and look after the bells and incense. But this is only one part of the community (or what we call the Mystical Body of Christ). It's a cooperative effort; the servers, church architects, organist, and everyone sitting in the pews all working together to raise everyone's eyes towards Heaven at Mass. We all can add beauty to the Mass. We all can lead people into this Great Mystery and help them realize something incredible is taking place. But it all must be done in cooperation with the Holy Spirit and this unity is achieved through prayer. Being a server has deepened my love for the Mass by helping me come to appreciate all the individual components that go into a Mass: the beeswax candlesticks, processional crucifix, lace surplice, and cassock. I've come to realize that you're never too old to serve the Lord. There was a wonderful man at the parish who served at the altar until his death. A short story, I got into a car accident early last fall and because of that I started riding with my friend to Mass on Sundays. I consider this a great gift from God because it is from helping him serve at Mass that I got involved with the children's altar server program. That's to say that I'm on God's schedule and I trust God will speak to me (whether it is through car troubles or interior desires) when it's time to move on.