

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 8/30 9:30 am

Wed: 8/31 5:30 pm Adoration
6:45 pm

Sat: 9/3 6:30 pm People of the parish

Sun: 9/4 8:30 am Henry Johns (D)

~given by Denis Burk and Nancy Williamson

Second Collections for Next Week

Building Improvement Fund & Catholic University

CONTRIBUTIONS for August 21, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$ 1,776
Assumption of Mary	\$ 50

COUNTERS for this week are: Yvonne Dessauer and Betty Smith.

Flowers this weekend are in memory of Bruce Broussard.

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;
stmariastoccoa@gmail.com (email)

Knights of Columbus

"Knights of Columbus would like to announce that anyone who has purchased a memorial brick for the "Hail Mary Walk" can view their installed brick. We have just received and installed all of the previous requests and are now current with all requests. In addition the Knights would like to thank all of the knights and their Ladies that made time to attend the recent installation of Officers for the current fraternal year. The evening was a great success."
Mike Staley – Grand Knight



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

St. Mary's Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul will meet Wednesdays, the 7th and 21st of September, at 7:15 PM following the 6:30 PM Mass, in the Religious Education Room. It is important for ALL members to attend the meeting on the 21st as well as completing our training program on "Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse". Our meetings are open for anyone wishing to learn more about the work of SVdP and how we bring Christ into our community. Our Saint Vincent de Paul, blue bucket collection last week was \$236.00. Please know your generosity is greatly appreciated. We are continuing to receive nearly 20 calls for help each week and, of those, we complete 3-4 home visits to needy individuals and families. Our money for assistance is quickly dwindling. It is amazing how so many in our community are struggling to care for themselves, family members, and others with so little income. Please pray for them! For more information contact Nancy Williamson (706) 356-8046 or Sharon Cook (706) 297-8344. **HELP-LINE** number for those needing assistance is: **1 (678) 892-6163.**

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.

The Catholic University of America is unique among universities in the United States – even among Catholic universities. Established by the Vatican and the U.S. bishops in 1887, it is the national university of the Catholic Church. It is proud to have nearly one third of the U.S. bishops as alumni, along with over 12,400 living priests and religious from around the world. In Washington, DC the university provides an education based in Catholic intellectual tradition to nearly 7,000 students through its 12 schools – that include arts & sciences, music, engineering, philosophy, social work, law, and business in addition to ecclesiastical degrees in canon law and theology. Next weekend, we will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Your support will enable Catholic University to expand its impact in preparing the next generation of leadership for our Church and nation. We appreciate your generosity.

A Note...

Because Jesus himself is the model for authentic charity, our practice of this virtue ought to reflect God's charity towards us. For this reason, the Lord commands us to serve those who are incapable of returning the favor. "Invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind," Jesus says. "The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1825). In addition to the poor and the sick, there are others: those with whom we disagree, those who have hurt our feelings, those who rub us the wrong way. Are we not called to serve them in some way? Perhaps not with a literal seat at our dinner table, but certainly with a measure of prayer and sacrifice. Every celebration of the Holy Mass is a participation in, and anticipation of, the Paschal Banquet of Heaven, where the elect experience God face-to-face. In the Eucharistic sacrifice, Jesus invites us to share in His eternal wedding feast. May the merciful Lord grant us a spirit of selfless service, so that we might be made worthy to be called higher up. Fr. Stephen B. Reynolds, St. Theresa Catholic Church in Sugar Land, Tx

TABLE MANNERS

Lest we think that today's Gospel passage is a primer on how to host a dinner party, we need to remember that the image of the banquet—particularly in Luke's Gospel—is a primary way Jesus illustrates the reign of God. Meals of all sorts, from the most commonplace to the most festive banquet, were a social phenomenon that his listeners understood. Being at table was an important means of communication for them. This is why Jesus got in so much trouble for dining with sinners: his critics wouldn't dine with them, believing they would never dine at the banquet set by God Almighty. Today we still are uncomfortable being at a meal table with those we do not like or of whom we do not approve. So Jesus used table images to upend many of the expectations about order and place cards that were common in his day. Such is the upended table he describes today, where the puffed-up guest gets deflated, where the guest who is seated quietly at the foot of the table is brought to the place of honor by none other than the host himself.

EARTHLY TABLES, HEAVENLY TABLES

To get ready for the upending we'll experience at the heavenly banquet, Jesus tells us to use the tables of our daily living. We ought not invite those we know or are related to; they may repay us and therefore we will not actually have extended any hospitality at all. Rather, look to those who cannot repay the hospitality. Issue the invitation to anyone who does not have the means to return one; bring all who are not able to get to the table by themselves. Be their nourishment, be their strength. Then you will join the feasting of the resurrection of the righteous. And what a gathering the Letter to the Hebrews describes! Infinite angels partaking in the festivities of the heavenly Jerusalem, all who have become the firstborn to heaven in Christ their firstfruit assembled there, all the rejoicing spirits of the just ones, now made perfect, joined with Jesus. Then our joy will not be in the feasting or our particular place at the table, but in our oneness in the covenant of eternal life won for us by the blood of Christ.

Today's Readings: Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29; Psalm 68:4–7, 10–11; Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a; Luke 14:1, 7–14