

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 5/24 9:30 am
Wed: 5/25 5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm
Sat: 5/28 6:30 pm People of the parish
Sun: 5/29 8:30 am

CONTRIBUTIONS for May 15, 2016

Church Budget \$ 2,100
General Offertory \$ 2,185

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

St. Vincent dePaul, St. Mary's conference

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

Flowers for this week are in memory of Herman Watson

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)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are needed. See Fr. Sullivan if interested.

Couples Celebrating 50th and 60th Anniversary in 2016

Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory would like to honor couples married in 1966 and 1956 with an invitation to a Golden/Diamond Wedding Anniversary Mass on Saturday October 1st, 2016 at 12:00 noon at Saint Brigid Catholic Church. A reception will follow the mass for the anniversary couples and their families. Space is limited. Please go to <http://tiny.cc/anniversarymass> to RSVP for this event.



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, Brenda & Tom McKevlin, 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, and Dennis Nilan.

Thanks to everyone that donated food and drinks for our First Communion breakfast and to those that helped us clean up afterwards. It was a very special time for our four children: Elena Edenfield, Annastasia Roberson, Darius Robereson and Joseline Ruiz that received their First Communion on Sunday, May 1st.
Sharon and Nancy

Our appreciation to the knights of Columbus for the graduation breakfast they prepared for our two Stephens County High School graduates: Huan Tran and tiffany Vu with their family and friends on Sunday, May 15th.

We want to thank the children, parents and teachers that came to our end of the year CCD program dinner we had on Wednesday, May 18th and to thank Hallie Edenfield for the delicious subs she made and donated. We have had a great year, want everyone to have a fun-filled and safe summer and look forward to our CCD program again for the 2016-2017 year. Thanks also to everyone that has supported our CCD program and to Jose Flores for all the juice, bottle of waters, and fruit he has given to the children after class each week.

Thanks to you all and God Bless
Sharon and Nancy
CCD Co-Directors

CONGRADULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES:

Tiffany Vu and Haun Tran!!

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. It's not just a gesture that we use to punctuate prayer. It's not just a sign of our being Catholic. This is a re-statement of our baptism. These words were said over each of us as water was poured on our heads...the first words that made us members of the Body of Christ. These are the same words we speak again as we re-Christen ourselves. We brand ourselves with God in three persons. And whatever we do or say after is in the name of the Father...and the Son...and the Holy Spirit. Just think of what that simple gesture means.

We touch our heads for the Father – the one who created us. This is where we began, in the mind of God, the Creator of our beautiful world. That finger on my forehead is a reminder not only of a Creator but of God so totally in love with us that He sent His only Son to draw us back into His presence. This is the same Father we speak of as “Our Father who art in Heaven.”

We touch our hearts for the Son – the one whose unceasing love took him to the cross, and the one who taught us, as well, how to love through his own Sacred Heart. He gave the ultimate and agonizing proof of His love for us on the cross. John 3:16 is probably one of the most well known verses in scripture just by virtue of the fact that it is advertised a lot in televised football...“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”

We touch our shoulders for the Holy Spirit – the one who gives us strength, on whose shoulders we are carried, and who enables us to be God's arms, working on earth. With the Holy Spirit around, no one is ever alone. God through the Holy Spirit is always with us. What we span in blessing, the Holy Spirit strengthens in life so that we may better shoulder our burdens and responsibilities. In St Augustine's conception of the Trinity, he said, “The Father is the lover. The Son is the loved one. And the Holy Spirit is the love they send forth.”

God wants us to find Him. God is not an isolated Being, but a relationship of persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have been told so often that God is love, and the more we understand of love the more we will understand God. The more we understand of God, the closer we come to finding Him.

The heart of the mystery is that God dwells within each of us. God is not just out there somewhere, God is alive within us...in the spiritual life that makes a human a child of God. Jesus promised us that He would never leave us alone, and we are not alone.

He is with us always, not just outside of us but within us. And so, we come to the end of the blessing – the joining of hands and the concluding, “Amen.” And we remind ourselves that the word “amen” means “so be it;” it is itself an expression of assent, in itself an act of faith in all that has gone before. And so with my “amen” I renew my faith. I believe in you...Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

When we make the sign of the cross, and pray the sign of the cross with those words, we make of ourselves an offering, and a prayer. We embody what the Trinity represents, and we strive to bring that with the example of our lives and with our actions to all those we meet. We do it in the name of God – all that God is, all that God does. We do it in the name of the Trinity. Let us pray to live in that light – to always be drawn to it, and to always strive to give it to others. In the name of the one God in three persons ... in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May all the signs of the cross we ever make be nothing less than a proclamation of our belief in a God who has been revealed to us as Trinity; as Father, Son and Spirit. May it signal our willingness to share that love with others. May the hands we join in faith be generous in giving and eager in helping others. May the shared life and love of the Trinity be reflected in us – the real meaning of the Most Holy Trinity in our lives.

And may God bless us all in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Deacon Gregory Cecere

Lost Key

The church's Tabernacle key is missing, if anybody knows its whereabouts or finds it please turn in to church office. Thanks!