

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 7/19 9:30 am
Wed: 7/20 5:30 pm Adoration
6:30 pm
Sat: 7/23 6:30 pm People of the parish
Sun: 7/24 8:30 am

CONTRIBUTIONS for July 10, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$1,847
Building Fund	\$ 35

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEK

COUNTERS for this week are: Ruth Manna and Yvonne Dessauer.

The flowers this week are in honor of Mother Way and the Beverly family.

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)

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.

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.



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 and Lore Schnell.

St. Vincent dePaul

St. Mary's Conference of Saint Vincent DePaul will meet this Wednesday, 7:15 PM in the Religious Education room following Adoration and Mass. We are receiving more and more calls for assistance from individuals and families in our community to help with utility bills, rent, food, and car insurance as they experience unemployment or illness. We invite parishioners to join us and help bring Christ to the poor and needy. Your charitable donations are also greatly appreciated. For more information, please call Nancy Williamson at 706-356-8046.

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

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. The box for donations is in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

SPEAK UP FOR YOURSELF

Rabbinic teaching notes that it is the characters who "stood up" to the Almighty who were most admired in scripture: Moses, who protested his tongue-tied inability to lead the Exodus; Job, who questioned the very will and wisdom of God; Abraham, who bartered for the saving of Sodom and Gomorrah; Sarah, who, just beyond the final verse of today's first reading from Genesis, will chuckle at God's fruitful covenant in the womb she believed barren. On the cross, Jesus himself would echo one of the most heaven-defying questions of the psalmist: "Why have you abandoned me?" And, while it may be easy to think of these defiant characters as being short on faith, the scriptures prefer to use their boldness to indicate the depths to which they trusted their relationship with God. Made in the image of their Creator, the people of Israel knew that every solid and intimate relationship should run the entire gamut of human emotions.

WHO ARE YOU?

In today's Gospel passage, Martha joins the ranks of her ancestors who freely contested the situations in which they found themselves. She doesn't merely gripe about her sister's laziness; she does it without restraint to the one she addresses as "Lord." Her tone, "Do you not care?" is somewhat accusatory (Luke 10:40). She must have felt quite trusting of her relationship with her sister and her Lord, in order to address Jesus in such a forthright manner. Jesus does not hesitate to give her a straightforward reply. He doesn't contradict the need for the serving that must be done. He would, in fact, one day imitate the servile hospitality of Abraham's foot-washing. Martha had welcomed him, washed the feet at which Mary sat, as Abraham welcomed his visitors. She scurried for a meal, as did Sarah for her guests. All necessary, but her anxiety and worry kept her from "the better part" of knowing her sister and knowing Christ. May we all be a bit like Martha, ready to welcome, to bear the burden of serving, to call others to serve with us, but always, with Mary, in the assurance of those who sit attentively at the feet of the Lord.

Martha, Martha

Mary chose the better part. Where does that leave Martha?
Mary and Martha are familiar to many of us. Their story, in which Martha is busy serving and worries about the tasks at hand, rankles the sensibilities of many who wonder about Jesus' response. Mary, it seems, ignores Martha's bustle, focusing instead on Jesus' and his teaching. The reflections of Scripture scholars has at times focused on the twofold characteristics of the Christian life, the contemplative aspect and the active dimension. We may miss something if our reflection stays there, however. Martha is featured in another key Gospel narrative, the one in which her brother, Lazarus, has died. Jesus waits to come to the grieving family. Martha is the first to question his absence, and to declare her belief that he is the Messiah. It seems that while serving, Martha has been listening all along. She has a trusting relationship with and faith in Jesus. Perhaps she, like Jesus' mother Mary, has been pondering many things in her heart. Maybe we overreact to Jesus' words to Martha, and therefore miss something important for us as well. As we go about our daily lives, it will be good for us to remember Martha and Mary. Let us consider our relationship with the Lord in the midst of our daily living, and allow Christ's love, forgiveness, and mercy to permeate our hearts, and to shine through us. At times, we must be like Mary and "choose the better part," and at other times, we will be Martha, busy with many things. We can let go of the worry and anxiousness that burdened Martha and sometimes burdens us, and learn to recognize God's presence with us even in, especially in, our busy, bustling, lives!

Today's Readings: Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15:2-5; Colossians 1:24-28; Luke 10:38-42