

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Sun 8/7 8:30 am Tom and Jo Donofry (D)
~given by June Webb
Tue: 8/9 9:30 am Robert Mize (D)
~given by Cecile Mize
Wed: 8/10 5:30 pm Adoration
6:45 pm
Sat: 8/13 6:30 pm
Sun: 8/14 8:30 am Michael Hornick (D)
~given by The Ladies Guild

CONTRIBUTIONS for July 31, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$ 1,972
Building Fund	\$ 100
Mission Cooperative	\$ 226

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

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)

SEEKING CRAFT SALE PARTICIPANTS!

The 9th Annual Indoor/Outdoor Craft Sale at Sacred Heart Church at 1009 Benson St.(across from Quality Foods) in Hartwell will be held on Saturday November 12, 2016.

We are seeking anyone who would be interested in reserving a table to sell their things at \$35 per 8ft table. Please call Judy Earle at 706-436-3944 for reservations as tables will go fast.

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, Lore Schnell, Gwen Cuvo and Larry Barbour.

St. Vincent dePaul

St. Vincent dePaul, St. Mary's Conference will meet in August the Wednesday evenings of the 3rd and 17th, in the religious education room following the 6:30 PM Mass (about 7:15PM). This week we received 14 calls for assistance from families experiencing difficulties in paying their utilities, rent, etc. One call was from a very elderly veteran who is blind and has a wife suffering from cancer needing assistance with their electric bill to keep it from being cut off from lack of payment. Other calls were from families with children who were potentially facing homelessness. We invite parishioners, who would like to help in any manner, to join us in our meetings or make donations. Our blue bucket donations from parishioners this past weekend totaled \$202. Thank you for your generosity. For more information, please call Nancy Williamson, 706-356-8046. **HELP-LINE** number for those needing assistance is: **1 (678) 892-6163.**

RECEPTIONS AFTER FUNERALS: Once arrangements are made at the funeral home and the family contacts the Bereavement Committee, we may have 24 to 48 hours to prepare a luncheon for as few as 40 or up to 100 people. The Crew Captain calls the ladies on her list and they volunteer to provide sandwiches, salads, casseroles, fruit, desserts and beverages. The required number of tables and chairs are arranged in the Social Hall and set with linens. It takes many willing hands and generous hearts! Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex for this important ministry. Thanks!.

A Note...

If we are to realize the faith God has given us, we have to work in the midst of the tension between God's promise for the future and the realities of today. On the one hand, we should fully recognize the provisional, finite nature of all that we do. We will not be surprised when things don't work out as we had hoped. "All these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised" (Heb. 11:39). Situations arise in which our best efforts to do good work are thwarted not only by circumstance, but also by the deliberate misdeeds of human beings. This may cause us grief, but it will not lead us to despair, because we have our eyes fixed on God's city to come.

Sometimes our work is thwarted by our own weakness. We fall short of the mark. Consider the list of names in Hebrews 11:32. When we read their stories we see clearly their own failures, sometimes significant failures. If we read about Barak's timidity as a general (Judg. 4:8-9) through human eyes, we likely would see no faith at all. Yet God sees their faith through God's eyes and credits their work by his grace, not their accomplishment. We can take heart in this when we also have stumbled. We may have spoken harshly to a co-worker, been impatient with a student, ignored our responsibility to our family, and done our work poorly. But we have faith that God is able to bring about his intent for the world even in the midst of our weakness and failure.

SINCEREST SYMPATHY

We extend our sincerest sympathy to Rilla and Johnny Hornick on the recent death of their grandson, David-Micheal Hornick.

A special thanks to Carolyn and Henry Hayes for the donation of the nice cabinet in the narthex.

Today's Readings: Wisdom 18:6-9; Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-22; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 [1-2, 8-12]; Luke 12:32-48 [35-40]

FAITHFUL AND HOPEFUL

The Letter to the Hebrews binds up beautifully the first two of the great triumvirate of Christian virtues: faith and hope. When what we hope for is realized, faith is born; in faith we have the evidence of what still remains unseen. Hebrews puts before us our ancestors in faith: Abraham and Sarah. It illustrates their lives of faith, their hopes realized so that faith might be born, their faith as witness to all that is yet intangible to us. It is the covenant made and kept in faith, with loving-kindness, that is our inheritance from them. Though they long ago passed over from this life to their life among the stars used to describe their descendants, that covenant lives on, given life anew in the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is to that covenant in Christ that we are each called again in the faith given to us in baptism; it is that covenant that brings forth and seals the vocation God has called us to live in joyful hope until we, too, reach our homeland in heaven with Abraham and Sarah.

FAITHFUL AND PRUDENT STEWARDS

Who doesn't need to fear the return of the master? The faithful and prudent steward, that's who. It is this steward who has taken what the master has given and has treated it—no matter what—as a great gift and treasure. Today we get the first glimmers of the words about the coming of Christ whom we await in joyful hope. These will increasingly characterize the Gospels for the next several months. Jesus gives us images of surrender that are characteristic of faithful disciples: he speaks of loins girt for exodus and lamps lit for the bridegroom's coming. He tells of the master returning to the household, eagerly anticipating what has transpired there in his absence; he forewarns that the master alone knows the time of his return. These teachings could strike fear into the hearts of those listening. Jesus concludes by saying: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much" (Luke 12:48). The vocation of the Christian disciple is to realize that whatever has been bestowed on us is "much" in the master's eyes. Disciples' vocations are lived faithfully and prudently, for they do not wait for the master's return in dread; they hope for it in joy.