

Mass/Service Schedule/Intentions

Tue: 10/18 9:30 am
Wed: 10/19 5:30 pm
6:45 pm
Sat: 10/22 6:30 pm
Sun: 10/23 8:30 am John Williamson (D)
given by Nancy Williamson

Second Collections for Next Week

CONTRIBUTIONS for October 9, 2016

Church Budget	\$ 2,100
General Offertory	\$ 2,199

COUNTERS for this week are: Ruth Manna & Mary Beverly.

Parish Committees

Pastoral Council: Deanna Holmer 706-297-7493
Finance Committee: Bob Defenbaugh 706-886-8950
Ladies of Saint Mary: Stephanie Cortellino 404-353-0475
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)
Multi-Purpose Building Committee: 706-201-1185

October is "Right to Life" month. We are saying a rosary before the Saturday night mass starting at 6 p.m. and one at 8 a.m. on Sundays to end abortion. It would be great to have more people come and pray it with us during October. In addition, there is a playpen as you enter church to place items in for Toccoa Life. At the end of the month, we will donate any baby items to help with all the young women who have opted to give birth and keep their babies. All of your support is deeply appreciated. Thanks so much!!

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, Larry Barbour, Walter Gaines, Janice Sibley and Joan Ferrara.

Today's second collection is a combination of three national second collections; World Missions, the Church in Latin America, and the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. We are called to this Eucharistic celebration – along with Catholics in every parish, chapel and church throughout the world – to recommit ourselves to the call we heard at Baptism, to share our faith, to be missionaries.

Let us pray at this Mass for all who long to hear the hope-filled, life-giving message of Jesus' love and salvation. Let us offer generous financial help in support of the service of priests, religious and lay catechists throughout the world.

Please be extra generous as this collection will be divided between three very important needs.

A friendly reminder to those who have not paid for their GA bulletin please remit payment to the church, it is \$14 per family. The church has already paid. Prayerfully consider reading the bulletin but if you do not please call the number on the bulletin to cancel your prescription.

Ladies of the Parish: Please mark your calendars for the next meeting of the Ladies of St. Mary, Wed. November 16th at 10:00am in the parish hall. All women of the parish are invited to attend. If you are interested in being a part of this group and are unable to attend, please contact Stephanie Cortellino at 404-353-0475. Thank you and we hope to see you on the 16th!

"Remain faithful; focus on what you have learned and believed. Stay the course, do not waver and if you do waver get back to prayer as soon as possible. Don't give up, don't give into the world that does not believe in prayer. As long as we pray, prayer is winning..." So, what are we called to do as a result of today's readings? First, we are called to pray more, to make prayer a bigger part of our lives. Perhaps what we are called to do is to live prayer. Make how we live our lives a prayer. Second, we are called to learn the pattern of prayer. All prayer follows a pattern. Give honor and glory, give thanks, seek forgiveness, seek understanding (wisdom), and finally seek things. The power of this pattern is that when we seek wisdom, (we receive understanding) and then we don't seek things. Third, we are called to lead prayer in the simple things like grace before a meal so that we strengthen ourselves to pray when the harder situations come our way.

English as a Second Language-ESL

If you are interested in learning more about ESL opportunities in the local area please join us in the St. Mary's Religious Education Hall on Wednesday, October 19th, following mass, approximately 7:30p.m. Prospective students may come, view materials, and take an assessment. Those interested in teaching can learn more about the program. If you have questions please contact Jessica Burger at 904-219-1129 or jburger@pioneerresa.org

St. Vincent dePaul

St. Vincent dePaul St. Mary's Conference will next meet Wednesday, October 26th, at 7:15 PM in the Religious Education Room. All parishioners are invited to attend our meetings and discern joining us in our Vincentian mission to serve our community's poor and needy. We are pleased that we will be hosting the District 8 meeting at our church, October 29th from 9 AM until 12 Noon. Members from other conferences in the Georgia Mountain area will be joining us in a breakfast meeting in our social hall. For more information, please contact Nancy Williamson, 706-356-8046 or Sharon Cook, 706297-8344.

INSTANT GRATIFICATION

Ours is a culture of instant gratification. If our efforts don't lead to immediate success we give up. If our needs aren't quickly satisfied we blow up. From fast food to news bites our culture teaches us to get what we want when we want it. We can't stand to wait or work for anything. Why should we read a six-hundred-page novel when we can watch the movie version instead? Why should we grate cheese, chop vegetables, cook sausage, and wait for dough to rise when we can buy carry-out pizza on our way home from work? Why should we undertake difficult, long-range solutions to our problems when quick fixes are so readily available? Yet instant gratification, however easy and popular, is not the way to find self-fulfillment or to build the kingdom.

PERSEVERANCE IN PRAYER AND WORK

Today's scriptures encourage us to persevere patiently and believe that, in time, God will fulfill our needs and make our efforts fruitful. Like the widow in the Gospel, we must patiently persevere in prayer and work until justice is done. Like Moses, Joshua, Aaron, and Hur, we must work together and support one another, believing that God will prevail. Like the apostle Paul, we must "proclaim the word" and "be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient" (2 Timothy 4:2). And in all things Jesus tells us "to pray always without becoming weary" (Luke 18:1).

Today the Letter to Timothy reminds us of the awaited appearance of "Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead" (2 Timothy 4:1). We then hear Jesus ask, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8) We must ask ourselves whether we tend to give up the struggle to build the kingdom or whether we have enough faith to persevere in prayer and work until God's victory is complete.

Today's Readings: Exodus 17:8-13; Psalm 121:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:14 — 4:2; Luke 18:1-8