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<p><b>Andrea J. Grant, Esq.</b> <b>LAW OFFICE OF ANDREA GRANT, LLC</b> Formerly Grant &amp; Green, LLC</p> <p>P: (706) 245-9293 F: (706) 245-0626 E: andreagna@bellsouth.net</p> <p>504 Bowers Street Post Office Box 60 Royston, GA 30662</p>	<p>Removals Pruning Cabling/ Bracing Planting Tree Risk Assessments FREE Estimates</p> <p><b>Arbor Heights tree care</b> "We will reach new heights for you." Kyle Helgeland 706-244-2300</p>	<p><b>Friends Of The Ritz Theatre</b></p> <p>139 E Doyle Street Toccoa, Georgia 30577</p> <p>Gary Cortellino Board member e-mail: garycortell@aol.com cell: 678 360-2545</p> <p>for event schedule visit: <a href="http://ritztheatretoccoa.com">ritztheatretoccoa.com</a></p>
<p><b>Brother John's Subs</b></p> <p>27 Stephens Circle, Toccoa, GA 30557 (Next to 1st Franklin Financial)</p> <p>(706) 886-9597 Hallie Edenfield</p>	<p><b>Saint Vincent de Paul Society</b> <b>Saint Mary Toccoa Conference</b></p> <p><b>Help Telephone #</b> <b>(678) 892-6163</b></p>	<p><b>King's Beverage Package Store</b> Parishioner</p> <p>Mention that you are from St. Mary's and the profits from that sale will be donated to our Building Fund</p> <p><b>801 Big A Road S 706-827-0099</b></p>
<p><b>GPC POULTRY SUPPLIES &amp; HARDWARES</b></p> <p>9036 Athens Road Carnesville, GA 30521 Call: 706-356-0304</p>		<p><b>Modern Nails</b> Waxing &amp; Tanning</p> <p>Complete Professional Nail Care for Ladies &amp; Gentlemen 162 Walmart Way Eastanollee, GA 30538 <b>706-886-7599</b> Mon-Sat: 10am-7pm Sunday: Closed</p>
<p><b>VPM VETERAN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Christian Nelms 706-491-9116 vpm30577@gmail.com</p> <p>•LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE •LANDSCAPE DESIGN •LANDSCAPE INSTALL •IRRIGATION / WATER FEATURES •DECKS •PROPERTY CLEANUP</p>	<p><b>PEACH HOUSE FARM</b> CURRAHEE MOUNTAIN</p> <p>2950 W Currahee Street Toccoa GA 30577 <a href="http://www.peachhousefarm.com">www.peachhousefarm.com</a> Instagram @peachhousefarm</p>	<p><b>Decorating Defined</b> Sandra Prevost 919-610-2935</p> <p><b>SIMPLIFY</b> Refresh your home or office, Organize, Declutter your everyday space</p> <p>We appreciate the opportunity to work with you <a href="mailto:livinfree76@hartcom.net">livinfree76@hartcom.net</a> 919-610-2935</p>

More spaces are available for advertising your company or remembering your loved ones.  
Please, contact Christa for further information. Your support for our bulletin is greatly appreciated!

**Rev. Henry Thang M. Pham**  
Pastor

frhenryofstmary@gmail.com  
(706) 886-2819 ext- 1

**Rev. Mr. Greg Ollick, M.A.**  
Deacon & Administrator

gregollick@aol.com  
(404) 918-7472

#### PARISH OFFICE

**Monday:** 12PM - 2PM  
**Tuesday through Thursday:**  
10AM - 2PM

#### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 5 PM Vigil Mass  
**Sunday:** 8:30 AM; 11 AM  
Tues, Thurs, Sat: 9 AM  
**Monday; Wednesday:** 6PM  
**1st Friday Only:** 6PM

#### ADORATION & ROSARY

**Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday**  
7:00AM—8:45AM  
**Monday; Wednesday; 1st Friday**  
5PM-5:45PM

#### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

**Saturday:** 8:30 AM  
**Sunday:** 8:00 AM

#### RECONCILIATION

**Monday -Thursday** after Mass  
**Saturday:** 9:45 AM & 4 PM  
Or by appointment

#### BAPTISM & MATRIMONY

Contact Deacon Greg  
404-918-7472

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sharon Cook (706) 297-8344  
Jessica Burger (904) 219-1129

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

##### RCIA

Deacon Greg Ollick (404) 918-7472



# St Mary Catholic Church

OCTOBER

31  
2021

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



You shall

*Love*  
your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:31

231 Rothell Road Ext. Toccoa Ga 30577

Email: [stmarystoccoa@gmail.com](mailto:stmarystoccoa@gmail.com)

Office: (706) 886-2819

Website: [www.stmarystoccoa.org](http://www.stmarystoccoa.org)

FaceBook: [stmarystoccoa](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystoccoa)



## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

**SAT: 10/30 31st Sunday Ordinary**

**Vigil 5:00 PM—Goan Baotixita (D)**  
(Mrs. Thom)

**SUN: 10/31 31st Sunday Ordinary—**  
**8:30 AM— Andrew Moe—Healing Mercies (L)**  
(Greg & Janice Ollick)

**11:00 AM—Teresa-Maria (D)**  
(Hòa Bạch & Diệp Áo)

**53<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Mrs. Lê Nguyễn & Mr. Tâm Phạm**

**MON: 11/1 Monday— ALL SAINTS DAY**  
**5:00 PM—Adoration**  
**6:00 PM – Babe Pio-Leo Hongo (D)**  
(An & Bảo)

**TUES: 11/2 Tuesday— ALL SOUL'S DAY**  
**7:00 AM—Adoration**  
**9:00 AM – Denise Bigham (D)**  
(June Webb)

**WED: 11/3 Wednesday– St. Martin de Porres**  
**5:00 PM—Adoration**  
**6:00 PM— Blessings & Peace**  
(Đạt & Bình Family)

**THUR: 11/4 Thursday– St. Charles Borromeo**  
**7:00 AM—Adoration**  
**9:00 AM – Giu-se (D)**  
(Mrs. Khiêm Thị Nguyễn)

**FRI: 11/5 Friday FIRST FRIDAY ONLY**  
**5:00 PM—Adoration**  
**6:00 PM—(Vincent) Thanh Nguyeexn (Healing)**  
(Dương Phạm)

**SAT: 11/6 Saturday—**  
**9:00 AM— (Augustino) Định Văn Đoàn (D)**  
(Hùng Đoàn & Phụng Võ)

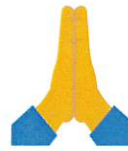
**32nd Sunday Ordinary**

**Vigil 5:00 PM—Max Biester (D)**  
(Helen Biester)

**SUN: 11/7 32nd Sunday Ordinary—**  
**8:30 AM—Children's Blessing (L)**  
(Mrs. Khiêm Thị Nguyễn )

**11:00 AM—Fr. Gioan (John) (D)**  
(Dũng & Nguyệt Family)

*Please keep the following people in your prayers:*



Joe Franzmathes, Laura Barnett, June Webb, Sharon Cook, Carol Womack, Eddie Hallford, Bill Dineen, Jay McAtee, Fred Defenbaugh, John Craton, Joan Akins, Rita & Gordie Nash, Connie Tirico, Denis Burk, Alice Marold, Marilyn & David James., Lucca Fiorillo, Gia-cô-bê Nguyễn Thanh, Yvonne Dessauer and for all others not mentioned here.

If you want to submit an individual for Prayer Intentions, please contact Christa (706) 886-2819. Update Christa at least every four weeks if you wish to continue with community prayers.

Please notify the church office or Mrs. Gerrie Chalk at (706) 963-0050 of a loved one who is sick. Our home-bound Ministers are please to bring you Holy Communion.

### Offertory/Contributions

**Weekend of October 24, 2021**

**Weekly Budget \$ 2,300.00**  
**Offertory \$ 2,126.00**



**There is no Second Collection this week**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**The counters for this week are:** Nancy Williamson, Tina Doan and Connie Tirico.

If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, contact Nancy Williamson for training via Christa in the office. 706-886-2819.



**BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS** are to be sent to Janice Ollick at [janiceollick@gmail.com](mailto:janiceollick@gmail.com) **NO LATER THAN noon on Thursday, two weeks prior to the weekend requested** for the bulletin. Late submissions may or may not be able to be placed.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

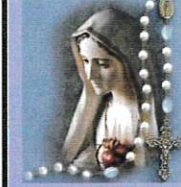
The list of ministries and contact information is available in the Narthex of the Church and published on our Church website:  
[www.stmarystoccoa.org](http://www.stmarystoccoa.org)



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Joseph M. Malik—Council 9975**

Membership meeting—4th Tuesday of each month  
Parish breakfast on 1st of 2nd Sunday each Month



**Ladies of St. Mary's**

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm from September to May

**In Memory of**  
**Matilde Saavedra**



**In Memory of**  
**James H. Broussard**  
**"Bruce"**

**In Loving**  
**Memory of**  
**Don Cook**



**Alexander's Flowers & Gifts**

**147 Center Plaza Dr.**  
**Toccoa, Ga 30577**  
**(706) 886-9431**



### Lagniappe Dulcimer Shop

Instruments & Accessories  
*Free Lessons with Purchase of Dulcimer*  
OPEN: Thursday—Friday—10:00 AM —4:30 PM  
Saturday—10:00 AM—2:00 PM

1572 Falls Road  
706-599-1107



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**THANK YOU TO OUR**  
**GENEROUS SPONSORS!**




*Save the date*

The Ladies of St. Mary will be hosting a **Wine & Cheese Social** for all women of the parish on **Sunday November 14 at 2:00 PM**. All ladies of the parish are invited. Come and enjoy time with old friends and make new friends. We hope to see many of you there. Any questions—call Stephanie Cortellino—404-353-0475.



**All Souls Day** is November 2nd. Please remember those who have died. Envelopes will be in the narthex. All stipends will go to the building fund.



**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER**

**People Who Suffer from Depression**

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a  
 Tuesday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016  
 Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33  
 Thursday: Rom 14:7-12; Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14; Lk 15:1-10  
 Friday: Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1-4; Lk 16:1-8  
 Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Lk 16:9-15  
 Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:10-16; Ps 146:7-10; Heb 9:24-28; Mk 12:38-44 [41-44]

**Parish School of Religion Classes**



October 30th 6:00—8:00 Confirmation Class  
 November 6th Confirmation Class  
 October 30th 9:30—10:45 - Pre-K & 1st Grades  
 First Holy Communion  
 3rd—5th Grades  
 Middle School

The **Annual Memorial Mass** to pray for deceased bishops, priests and deacons who once served in our archdiocese will be celebrated by Archbishop Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 2, at Arlington Memorial Park (201 Mount Vernon Highway, Atlanta, Georgia 30328). Please consider attending and praying for the souls of our deceased clergy.

**Hearing Health Day**



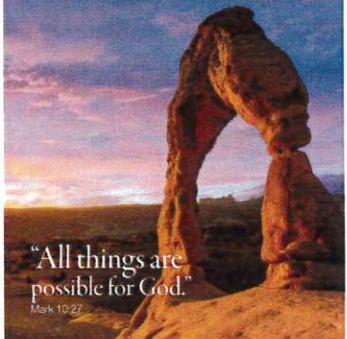
has been rescheduled for November 6th from 2:00 pm to 4:40 pm. This service is totally free and will be administered by two local audiologists.

**Calling all VETERANS!!!**

We want to recognize you and honor you on the weekend of November 7th. We will have a sheet in the narthex over the next several weeks, if you would give us your Name, Branch & Rank. This information will be used to make a poster as a recognition and honor for your services to this great nation.

October • November • December 2021

**Living Faith**  
Daily Catholic Devotions




"All things are possible for God."  
Mark 10:27

If you would like to receive this daily devotional, you can contact, Janice Ollick at [janiceollick@gmail.com](mailto:janiceollick@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church.

The price is \$15.00 for a year's subscription.

**3rd Annual H.O.P.E. for a Drug Free Stephens County 5K (3.1 miles) WALK, TROT OR RUN**



**TURKEY TROT**

Saturday, November 6th, 2021  
 Start Time is 9:00 am

Begins & ends on Alexander Street at City Hall.


Registration Forms are in the narthex.

**H.O.P.E.** Stands for Heroin, Opioid Prevention & Education.

**Thank You**



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**



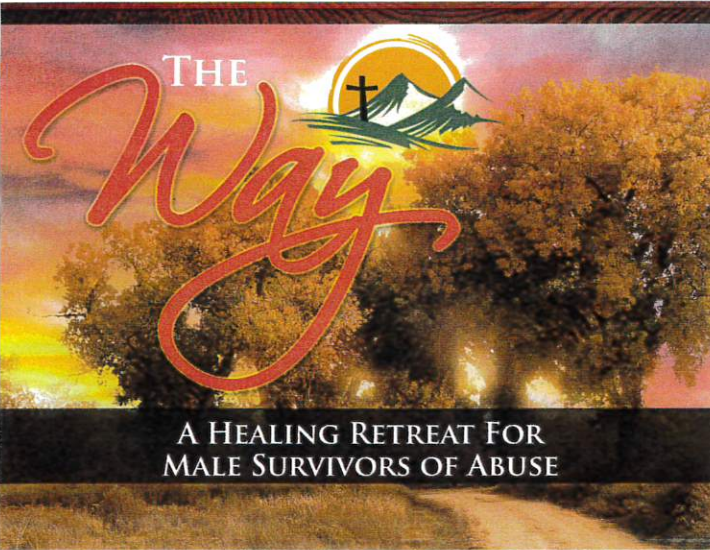
Please remember to keep up with your Capital Campaign Pledge payments. By doing this, it will help to keep us on track to make this a successful build. Please make your checks out to **St. Mary's Building Fund**. Thank you!

**BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY**



If you would like to have your birthday and/or anniversary announced on WNEG radio/Connie Gaines, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Questions? Contact Gary Cortellino (678) 360-2545 or [garycortel@aol.com](mailto:garycortel@aol.com)

**THE Way**



**A HEALING RETREAT FOR MALE SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2021  
 CARMEL RETREAT CENTER  
 HOSCHTON, GA

A SERVICE OF THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA**  
 OFFICE OF CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION

For more information or to request an application, please contact Sue Stubbs.  
 Phone: 404.920.7550 Email: [ssubbs@archatl.com](mailto:ssubbs@archatl.com)

**Application deadline: November 5, 2021**  
 Must provide your own transportation to and from the retreat location.

*This retreat is Christian-based. Men of all faiths and traditions are invited and welcome.*



# DO WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR?

October 22, 2021 • Rev. Mark Suslenko  
For Sunday, October 31, 2021  
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 12:28b-34



Christians did a great disservice to themselves when they lost touch with [Israel's Shema prayer](#): "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" Jesus was very familiar with this prayer and references it in his teaching on the commandments. These simple yet powerful words are at the center of a devout Jew's habit of prayer, recited both in the morning and the evening, on Yom Kippur, and traditionally as one's last words before death. It is a constant reminder that God alone is God, a lesson of which we must be reminded regularly. We can easily make many other things our "gods." When we follow a different compass we can suddenly find ourselves off center, lost and feeling disconnected. Only God can be our true north. There are no substitutes. If we take a good look at ourselves, there are many things that we make unnecessarily important. We can be more devoted to serving and securing them rather than the genuine God of our lives: our Maker, Sustainer, and Redeemer.

Jesus also makes a big point of intimately linking the love of neighbor with the love of God. Acts of kindness are important. Many people's lives get turned around as a result of them. We read such stories all the time: of courageous police officers doing incredible work for their community and charitable acts for those in need, a food-service employee reaching out to someone who is hurting, a classmate standing up for someone who is bullied, and the lonely, homeless, and friendless human being comforted by someone who truly cares. But is doing a few of these "random acts of kindness" every once in a while, enough to fulfill Jesus' commandment? As good and effective as these gestures are, they alone are not enough. It is not sufficient to check the "random act of kindness" box on our Christian "to-do list" and then move on to other things. Does being a good Christian mean simply obeying the laws and requirements of our faith? Or, is there more to it than that?

It's not about laws. Being a devout believer is about attending to our relationships. Jesus wants to make sure we have the first one straightened out so that we can properly attend to the others. This is where religion steps in. Good, healthy religion is not about simply articulating laws and demanding conformity. True religion is about relationships. A good, healthy religion inspires, cultivates, and nurtures our relationship with God so that it pervades and influences all our other relationships, including those with our neighbor. A religion that is exclusively about navel-gazing, obtaining personal merits, and securing a place in heaven is nothing close to what Jesus had in mind. What religion needs to help us with is learning how to live sacred lives. We will find ourselves fulfilling all the precepts of the law in both word and deed not because we *have* to but because we *want* to. Love, fully embraced, changes our motivation. Everything is connected.



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 7TH!**

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.**

Report suspected abuse by Church employees and volunteers to the Archdiocesan [24-hours Abuse Reporting Hotline: 1-888-437-0764](#)

Even if good fruit is born as a result as a result of our positive actions, it is ultimately useless if our relationships with God and our neighbor are misaligned. Looking to God as the one, true God and not falling for seemingly more satisfying substitutes, is the only way to purge ourselves from the self-interest, pride, and personal agendas that easily color our loving. Jesus reminds us that life is a sacred dance featuring ourselves, our neighbors, and God. It is a dance choreographed by the Master Composer himself. We cannot risk forgetting that God is God, as God is in all things, before all things, and the end of all things. We are drawn to the heart of our neighbors because of God's sacred presence alive in their souls. It draws us out of ourselves and to them. St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross said, "As for what concerns our relations with our fellow men, the anguish in our neighbor's soul must break all precept. All that we do is a means to an end, but love is an end in itself, because God is love."

God's divinity flows through the sacredness of life. This is why no human being can be allowed to experience unnecessary harm, want or neglect. Yet so many of our neighbors sob and cry because they have been cast aside or left behind. Without anyone to help, they suffer. Unless the world understands that it has a sacred heartbeat, it will never really learn how to love and live. So many things are falling apart around us. There is so much conflict. Personal agendas, differing ideologies and philosophies are at war. People seek what they want over what is best for all. All these things and the loss of a moral compass all point to the fact that we have left the Shema to pages of history and consider it an outdated tradition. We have either forgotten or never learned our lessons. Now it is time to follow the anguish and respond to it.

Jesus stands before us today and eloquently details the beautiful first and second commandments. When we respond to him will he be able to affirm that we did so with understanding? More importantly, could Jesus, as he did the scribe, confidently tell us that we are not far from the Kingdom of God? We need to hear, once again, who God is and who we are so that we can fittingly and properly live with one another. Sadly, however, many of us do not want to hear that we are not at the center of God's universe or even the one we create for ourselves. Opening ourselves to the voice of truth puts a corrective into our lives that may be hard for some to swallow. It will require us to change up our opinions about things, redirect our loyalties, care less about the world's agenda, and make some difficult choices. It will not be the most popular road to travel but it's the only one that leads to life.

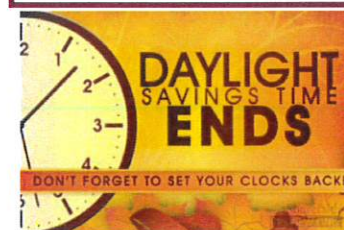
"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!" To whom or what are we truly devoted? Our humble and honest answers to that question may shock us, especially if we consider ourselves righteous, law-abiding believers.

*Fr. Mark Suslenkos*

## PRAYER

Lord, help me to authentically love You with my whole heart, mind, soul and strength.  
Help me to have such an honest love for You that it also overflows into my love for others.  
May Your precious gift of holiness permeate my life and enable me to love You and others in a total way.  
Jesus, I trust in You.

AMEN



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