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<p>Andrea J. Grant, Esq. LAW OFFICE OF ANDREA GRANT, LLC Formerly Grant & Green, LLC</p> <p>P: (706) 245-9293 F: (706) 245-0626 E: andreag@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>Arbor Heights tree care "We will reach new heights for you" Kyle Helgeland 706-244-2300</p>	<p>Friends Of The Ritz Theatre</p> <p>139 E Doyle Street Toccoa, Georgia 30577</p> <p>Gary Cortellino Board member e-mail: garycortel@aol.com cell: 678 360-2545</p> <p>for event schedule visit: ritztheatretoocoa.com</p>
<p>Brother John's Subs</p> <p>27 Stephens GA 30557 (Next to 1st Franklin Financial) (706) 886-9597</p> <p>Circle, Toccoa, Hallie Edenfield</p>	<p>Saint Vincent de Paul Society Saint Mary Toccoa Conference</p> <p>Help Telephone # (678) 892-6163</p>	<p>King's Beverage Package Store 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>801 Big A Road S 706-827-0099</p>
<p></p> <p>9036 Athens Road Carnesville, GA 30521 Call: 706-356-0304</p> <p>GPC POULTRY SUPPLIES & HARDWARES</p>		<p>Modern Nails Waxing & Tanning</p> <p>Complete Professional Nail Care for Ladies & Gentlemen 162 Walmart Way Eastanollee, GA 30538 706-886-7599 Mon-Sat: 10am-7pm Sunday: Closed</p>
<p>WPM VETERAN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Christian Nelms 706-491-9116 vpm30577@gmail.com</p>	<p>PEACH HOUSE FARM CURRAHEE MOUNTAIN</p> <p>2950 W Currahee Street Toccoa GA 30577 www.peachhousefarm.com Instagram @peachhousefarm</p>	
<p>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPE DESIGN LANDSCAPE INSTALL IRRIGATION / WATER FEATURES DECKS PROPERTY CLEANUP</p>	<p>Decorating Defined Sandra Prevost 919-610-2935</p> <p>SIMPLIFY Refresh your home or office, Organize, Declutter your everyday space</p> <p>We appreciate the opportunity to work with you livingfree76@hartcom.net 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
 Jessica Burger (904) 219-1129
 Sharon Cook (706) 297-8344

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
 RCIA
 Deacon Greg Ollick (404) 918-7472



St Mary Catholic Church

DECEMBER 12, 2021



THIRD Sunday OF Advent

Whoever has two cloaks should share
 with the person who has none.
 And whoever has food should do likewise.

Luke 3:11

231 Rothell Road Ext. Toccoa Ga 30577
 Email: stmarystoccoa@gmail.com
 Office: (706) 886-2819
 Website: www.stmarystoccoa.org
 FaceBook: [stmarystoccoa](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystoccoa)

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS	
SAT: 12/13 3rd Sunday in Advent	
Vigil 5:00 PM— Kara Ollick (L) Birthday Blessings (Greg & Janice Ollick)	
SUN: 12/12 3rd Sunday in Advent	
Our Lady of Guadalupe	
8:30 AM— Don Cook (D) (Sharon Cook)	
11:00 AM— Sen-Cầm Thị Trần (D) (Father Henry)	
MON: 12/13 Monday— St. Lucy	
5:00 PM—Adoration	
6:00 PM – Ruby Young (D) (Janice Ollick)	
TUES: 12/14 Tuesday— St. John of the Cross	
7:00 AM—Adoration	
9:00 AM – Blessings for Family (L) (Thụ Ngọc Trần)	
WED: 12/15 Wednesday—	
5:00 PM—Adoration	
6:00 PM—All Souls (D) (Tiên Trần & Chan Kim Family)	
THUR: 12/16 Thursday—	
7:00 AM—Adoration	
9:00 AM – Stephen Peay (L) (Nancy Williamson)	
FRI: 12/17 Friday FIRST FRIDAY ONLY	
5:00 PM—Adoration	
6:00 PM—	
SAT: 12/18 Saturday—	
7:00 AM—Adoration	
9:00 AM— Souls of Aborted Babies (D) (Thụ Ngọc Trần)	
4th Sunday of Advent	
Vigil 5:00 PM—Dick Burtness (D) (Richard & Gerri Chalk)	
Wedding Blessings for Kenneth & Janice Dover's 50th Wedding Anniversary	
SUN: 12/19 4th Sunday of Advent	
8:30 AM— Max Biester (D) (Sharon Cook)	
Babe Pio-Leo Hongo (D) (Hoài Thương & Duong Hồ Ngô)	
11:00 AM—Mr. Dương Phạm Family (L) (Dương Phạm)	

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, 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 December 5, 2021

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,800.00
Offertory	\$ 6,716.00
Building Fund	\$15,739.00



Our Second Collection this week is for the Retired Religious Fund

Thank you for your generosity!

The counters for this week are: Jerry Bronikowski, Janice Ollick and William King.

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



Next week's second collection is for our local

St. Vincent DePaul Society

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS are to be sent to Janice Ollick at janiceollick@gmail.com NO LATER THAN noon on **Wednesday** one week 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

 <p>KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS</p> <p>Joseph M. Malik—Council 9975</p> <p>Membership meeting—4th Tuesday of each month Parish breakfast on 1st of 2nd Sunday each Month</p>	 <p>Ladies of St. Mary's</p> <p>We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am & 6:00 pm from September to May</p>	<p>In Memory of</p> <p>Matilde Saavedra</p> 
<p>In Memory of</p> <p>James H. Broussard</p> <p>"Bruce"</p>	<p>In Loving Memory of</p> <p>Don Cook</p> 	<p>Alexander's Flowers & Gifts</p> <p>147 Center Plaza Dr. Toccoa, Ga 30577 (706) 886-9431</p> 
<p>Lagniappe Dulcimer Shop</p> <p>Instruments & Accessories</p> <p>Free Lessons with Purchase of Dulcimer</p> <p>OPEN: Thursday—Friday—10:00 AM —4:30 PM Saturday—10:00 AM—2:00 PM</p> <p>1572 Falls Road 706-599-1107</p> 	SPACE AVAILABLE	SPACE AVAILABLE
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THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: Gaudete is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Advent

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

AN ADVENT PRAYER

May the God of peace make us completely holy.
May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Forever faithful is the One who calls us—God our Father!

Expectant, let us live in joyful hope for the revelation of the glory of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!

To him be glory forever!

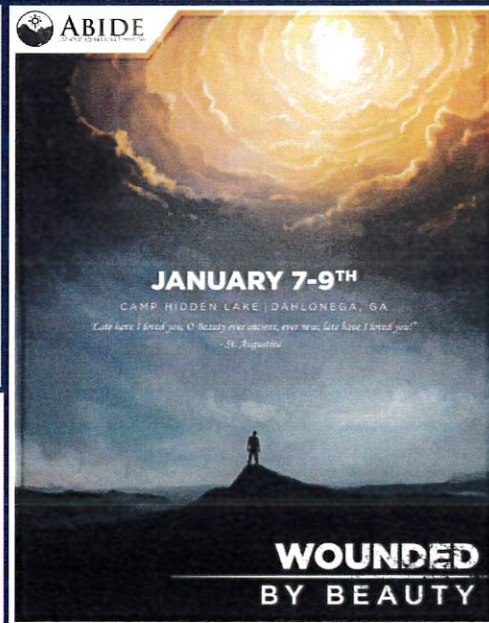
Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

—From Come, Lord Jesus by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 127

"All young adults are invited to a retreat January 7-9 at Camp Hidden Lake in Dahlonega. The theme of the retreat is "Wounded By Beauty." Encountering God as beauty leads us to vulnerability, and only in that vulnerability do we know His Fatherhood and joy He wants to give us. Partial and full scholarships are available, so cost should not be an issue. Sign-ups close January 1.

The sign-up info can be found at

<https://abidecatholic.com/wounded-by-beauty-retreat>.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
Saturday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45



God's Housekeeper's 2022 from: LaVerne Tilley

I will be creating the schedule for the upcoming year. We need more helpers to clean the church. We work in pairs and if there are enough volunteers your commitment is 4 times per year. Cleaning the church takes about one hour and is such a blessing and peaceful ministry. Supplies and cleaning equipment are provided. You only need to volunteer an hour to vacuum, dust, and light cleaning. If you would like to be part of this ministry there are forms in the Narthex to complete for your contact information (left side). The schedule will be out in late January. Please let me know if you have any questions. Lhtilley@gmail.com cell: 770-539-0460



Parish School of Religion Classes

December 11th	Confirmation Class
December 18th	No Confirmation Class
December 12th	PSR Classes
December 19th	No PSR Classes



AVOID



KEEP CLEAN



DISINFECT



SYMPTOM AWARE

Please return your **Boomerang Baby Bottles** this week. You can drop them in the box in the narthex or you can bring them by the office this week. Thank you for your generosity to this wonderful organization. Remember, if you are making out a check, it needs to be made out to **Toccoa Life Center**.



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 signup sheet in the narthex. Questions? Contact Gary Cortellino (678) 360-2545 or garycortel@aol.com

REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD!
December 3, 2021 • Rev. Mark Suslenko
For Sunday, December 12, 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-18a—Philippians 4:4-7—Luke 3:10-18



"Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!" "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!" These words from the Prophet Zephaniah and the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians frame the festive call of Gaudete Sunday. Pausing to rejoice may seem a bit of a challenge to some. We all grapple with life at times. These struggles can be so overwhelming and intense that they rob us of joy and a sense of peaceful wellbeing. Personal, corporate, familial, ecclesial, and social conflicts are all too plentiful. We are constantly bumping elbows with our weaknesses and sinfulness as well as those of the world. Our sad, painful cries reveal our incompleteness.

But, if we listen carefully, we can hear within our discomfort God's call to peace, to move beyond and heal the sadness and journey to a better place. We yearn for this but are not always clear as to how it can be achieved. God is constantly beckoning us to grow and change. Is this not the message of Christ? In Christ, God reveals incredible things about who He is and who we are. Life's eternal destiny is made known. He is with us and brightens the often dark recesses of human hearts. We have to see ourselves in Christ. The source of hope, life, love, faith, and meaning has been revealed.

However, accepting God's invitation stretches us a bit. We have to leave old and static ways behind and search for something new. We can even experience discomfort and anxiety as we move and change. Growing pains are more than physical. We do not need to look far for pain and heartache. Our mirrors reveal a good measure of it. Our world cries as inflation soars, food banks struggle to feed the hungry, the devastating effects of climate change continue, the pandemic lingers, political corruption abounds, racial injustice persists, and our borders remain unwelcome places of conflict. This partial list outlines what is ailing humankind. Add anger, growing resentment, frustration, exhaustion, and impatience, and the situation is potentially volatile. Our Church, living in the modern world, also feels the effects of the tides of conflict, disillusionment, division, and change.

Where is God's invitation being revealed in all that is happening within and without? Pope Benedict XVI gives us a hint in his encyclical, *Saved in Hope*. He writes that it is "only the great certitude of hope that my own life and history in general, despite all failures, are held firm by the indestructible power of Love, and that this gives them meaning and importance, only this kind of hope can then give the courage to act and to persevere." In short, a deep life of faith assures us that no matter what or where life brings us, God is still working. We will not fall apart or fall into despair! Human nature leads us to believe that any experience of joy is deferrable to some future time when sadness, stress, disharmony, and discontent are no more. Believing this to be true, we find ourselves waiting for the day when the lion can actually peacefully lay down with the lamb. Until then, we cling to our misery and apathy. We convince ourselves that we are victims and hence, powerless. Today, however, we are reminded to rejoice in the Lord "always!" We have to open a path to it now, amid unsettling and disturbing situations, and not defer it to the future.

We are not finished but are all works in progress. Our faith reminds us that creation groans and is in agony. We are all on the path to fulfillment and redemption, an assurance revealed to us in the Birth of Christ. Even though life moves us to stumble over our weaknesses and sinfulness, we can as Pope Benedict reminds us, "open ourselves to truth, to love, to what is good. We can free our life and the world from the poisons and contaminations that could destroy the present and the future. This makes sense even if outwardly we achieve nothing or seem powerless in the face of overwhelming hostile forces." Discord and suffering are a part of life and often cannot be controlled. But we fail to see that what we ultimately seek is something we already have! Do we not want the faith that brings the assurance that God has things in His care? Do we not wish to have a love that allows us to see the beauty and goodness that abounds, even amid heartache and despair? Do we not desire to possess the hope that God will bring us to the oneness of His Kingdom where all is fulfilled in the blessed presence of Christ? This is why we rejoice today. What we seek has already been given to us in Christ. God has profoundly and intimately touched all humanity and all creation. When we journey with our friends of faith, hope, and love, then even in the midst of darkness and uncertainty, we will experience joy! We will know, beyond doubt, that Divine Surprises will come and that lasting peace is our inheritance. This is not something we can earn. It is a pure and unconditional gift. God's perfect gift was revealed to us in the birth of Christ. That same gift can be born again in each of us. This is the miracle of Christmas.

Our celebration today makes perfect sense. Look above and beyond whatever is unsettling, disturbing, or hurtful. Leave the fear, uncertainty, and anxiety aside, and see God's truth and the truth of who you are. Rejoice! Forget about what happens tomorrow and beyond. Deal only with today. The future brings its challenges as it unfolds into the present. Control what you can and depart from what you cannot. God's friends, blessed faith, hope, and love, are within you. They are His gift. There are no requirements to earn them. Accept them as God's tender, intimate, and loving blessing. Rejoice that Someone as beautiful and magnificent as God thinks so highly of you! This is what gives life its importance.

Advent—Christmas Schedule

December 11, 12, 2021—Third Week of Advent—
***Gaudete Sunday and Our Lady of Guadalupe.**
Normal Mass Times

December 12, 2021—Church Christmas Party.
4:00 PM until...Ladies of St. Mary's to provide the meat.
Sign-up sheet in the narthex for other food items.

December 18, 19, 2021—Fourth Sunday of Advent—
Normal Mass Times

December 24, 2021—Christmas Eve Program & Mass
(Bilingual)
Children's Program 6:00 PM
Christmas Eve Mass 7:00 PM

December 25, 2021—Christmas Day Mass
10:00 AM—Bilingual Mass
*****NO 5:00 PM VIGIL MASS*****

December 26, 2021—Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Normal Mass Times

December 31, 2021—New Year's Eve Mass
5:00 PM Mass

January 1, 2022—New Year's Day Mass—Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
9:00 AM Mass Time
5:00 PM VIGIL MASS

January 2, 2022—Epiphany Masses
Normal Mass Times