Fr. Henry Thang M. Pham PASTOR

frhenryofstmary@gmail.com (706) 886 -2819 ext – 2 Sacramental Emergency

770 - 561- 3918

Mr. Peter Odenbach
RCIA Director
407-630-2692

Mrs. Jessica Burger
PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION
(904) 219-1129

Quyền Hà
VIETNAMESE CONNECTION
(918) 808 -2575

Ayen Camilli
PARISH SECRETARY

Monday to Thursday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (706) 886-2819

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:30 AM (English)

12 PM (Tiếng Việt)

Tue, Thur, Saturday: 9:00 AM Mon, Wed, 1st Friday: 6:00 PM

HOLY HOUR / HOLY ROSARY

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

7:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Monday; Wednesday; 1st Friday:

4:00 PM - 5:45 PM

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

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

RECONCILIATION

Monday - Thursday: After Mass

Saturday: 9:45 AM;

6:00 PM (after Mass)

Or: by appointment



St Mary Catholic Church

Our time is now Let's grow together

231 Rothell Rd Ext. Toccoa Ga 30577

Email: stmarystoccoa@gmail.com

Office: (706) 886-2819

Website: www.stmarystoccoa.org



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today there is an abrupt shift in the season of Advent. From here on the tone is more joyful and expectant and the tug of the Christmas message is irresistible. At daily Mass on December 17 we begin to unfold the story of Jesus' birth. Who can resist the beauty of the first reading today—deserts aflame with flowers, arthritics set to dancing, the tone-deaf singing hymns? So we don't miss the change, the parish may take rose-colored vestments out of mothballs, we may light rose-colored candles on the wreath, or fill in our wreaths with desert flowers, pink seashells, seed pods, cones and berries. The seeds of God's kingdom have been sown in us. In these shining days of Advent they are sprouting in many ways. How do we bring the promise to light? This is the week to prepare gifts for the poor. It is the week to invite a lonely neighbor to your Christmas dinner, the week to write a note forgiving a lost friend, the week to shatter a family grudge so that even in the desert places of your heart, Christ's life may blossom.

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

TODAY'S READINGS: - First reading: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; - Psalm: Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

- Second reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24; - Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Gaudete Sunday Mass Intentions 12/16-24/ 2023

SAT: 12/16 (Vigil) THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM Mrs. June Webb (D)

Morgan & Concrete Company

SUN: 12/17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM Cầu cho ông bà tổ tiên và các

linh hồn by AC Đức và Duyên

12:00 PM Tạ ơn Chúa và cầu bình an nhân

dịp mừng sinh nhật Bà Ngoại

Mrs. Pauline Le

MON: 12/18 Advent Weekday

6:00 PM Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Colletta

Fr. Henry

TUE: 12/19 Advent Weekday

9:00 AM Johnny Hornick (D) Sharon Cook

WED: 12/20 Advent Weekday

6:00 PM Tạ ơn Chúa và cầu bình an

Gđ Hòa và Mai

THUR: 12/21 Advent Weekday

Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9:00 AM Jean Slezickey (D) Barbara Gelvin

FRI: 12/22 Advent Weekday

SAT: 12/23 Advent Weekday

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

9:00 AM Lh. Tiên Nhân và các Lh. mồ côi

Bác Tú

5:00 PM Prayers for Schork Family &

Johnsen Families

(Living & Decesed) Joe Schork

SUN: 12/24 FOUR SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:30 AM Lh. Maria, Lh. Anna, Lh. Gioan Kim

và các linh hồn Mr. Ngôn Nguyễn

12:PM NO NOON MASS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: FOUR SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention on 12/2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre



living with disabilities HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE

of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Cầu Cho Người Khuyết Tật

Chúng ta hãy cầu nguyện cho những người khuyết tật được xã hội quan tâm cách đặc biệt, và được các tổ chức giáo dục cung cấp những chương trình hòa nhập nhằm tăng cường sự tham gia tích cực của họ.

Please keep the following people in your prayers

Joe Franzmathes, Laura Barnett, June Webb, Sharon Cook, Eddie Hallford, Jay McAtee, John Craton, Melissa Grigg, James Meyn, Dan Dwyer, Calvin Isbell,



Jerry Powell, Kim Kellams, Danny Carter, Joachim Pham M.Tường, Tim McGlone Sr., Timothy McGlone Jr., Robert McGlone, Christen Cook, Lindsey McDonald, Rebecca Gonzalez, Joy Powell, Nancy Barbour, Mr Joaquin Fejeran & NH—Madeline Mary Singer, Connie Tirico, Tammy Tweedy, Nancy Sterling, Geneva Alexander, Alie Smith, Mr. Dundee Andrew, Anne Kuter and for all others not mentioned here.

If you want to submit an individual for Prayer Intentions, please contact Mrs. Ayen Camilli at: (706) - 886-2819 ext - 1 or Mrs. Gerrie Chalk at: 706 - 963-0050 for a loved one who is sick. Our homebound Ministers are please to bring you the Holy Communion and Weekly Bulletin.



MONDAY 12/25/2023
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
Holyday of Obligation

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

• Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

Meditation: "Rejoice always"!

(1 Thessalonians 5:16)

When St. Paul tells us to "rejoice always" (1 Thessalonians 5:16), it might seem that he is asking the impossible. How can we always feel joyful? Isn't this too much to ask, even today, on Gaudete (or "Rejoice") Sunday?

Not according to St. Thomas Aquinas! He taught that "joy is caused by love" (Summa Theologiae II-II, q. 28). As we experience God's love for us, we grow in love for him — and this exchange of love is what produces joy in us. St. Paul also knew that God's love was the secret to joy, which is why he follows up his exhortation to "rejoice always" with specific steps that we can take to experience his love more deeply:

First, pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). When we open our heart to God throughout the day, he fills it with his very self. The experience of his unconditional love and unending mercy ignites our love in return.

Second, in all circumstances give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Gratitude also deepens our love for God, especially when we reflect on who he is and what he has done for us. And in this Advent season, whatever our circumstances, we can thank God for sending his Son to earth to become one of us.

Finally, do not quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul tells us that "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (5:5). If we want more joy in our lives, we can ask the Spirit to stir up the love of God in our hearts. And when he does, we can express it by praising him – which will, in turn, increase our joy.

Joy is not just for Gaudete Sunday; it's for every day. So each day, follow Paul's advice: turn to the Lord in prayer, thank him for all he has done for you, and ask him to fill you with more of his Spirit. Then praise him – and let your spirit soar!

"Lord, shower me with your love today so that my heart swells with joy!"

Chuyển ngữ: Sr. Maria Trần Thị Ngọc Hương—Theo the Word Among us

CHÚA NHẬT III MÙA VỌNG - NĂM B Suy Niệm: "Anh em hãy vui mừng luôn mãi".

(1Tx 5,16).

Khi Thánh Phaolô nói chúng ta "hãy vui mừng luôn mãi" (1 Tx 5,16), dường như thánh nhân đang yêu cầu điều không thể. Làm sao chúng ta có thể luôn luôn cảm thấy vui vẻ được? Điều này chẳng phải là đòi hỏi quá nhiều sao, ngay cả hôm nay, vào Chúa Nhật Gaudete – Hãy Vui Lên (hoặc "Hãy Vui Mừng")?

Nhưng Thánh Tôma Aquinô lại có quan điểm khác! Thánh nhân dạy rằng "niềm vui nảy sinh do bởi tình yêu" (Tổng luận Thần học II-II, q.28). Khi chúng ta cảm nghiệm tình yêu của Thiên Chúa dành cho chúng ta, chúng ta càng lớn lên trong tình yêu dành cho Người – và sự trao đổi tình yêu này là điều tạo ra niềm vui trong chúng ta. Thánh Phaolô cũng biết rằng tình yêu của Thiên Chúa là bí quyết để có niềm vui, đó là lý do tại sao ngài theo đuổi lời kêu gọi "vui luôn mãi" bằng những bước đặc biệt mà chúng ta có thể thực hiện để kinh nghiệm tình yêu của Người cách sâu sắc hơn:

Thứ nhất, hãy cầu nguyện không ngừng (1 Tx 5,17). Khi chúng ta mở lòng mình ra với Thiên Chúa trong suốt cả ngày sống, Người sẽ lấp đầy ngày sống ấy bằng chính Người. Kinh nghiệm về tình yêu vô điều kiện và lòng thương xót vô biên của Người sẽ làm bừng dậy tình yêu của chúng ta.

Thứ hai, hãy tạ ơn trong mọi hoàn cảnh (1 Tx 5,18). Lòng biết ơn cũng làm sâu sắc thêm tình yêu của chúng ta dành cho Thiên Chúa, đặc biệt khi chúng ta suy ngẫm Người là ai và Người đã làm gì cho chúng ta. Và trong Mùa Vọng này, cho dù hoàn cảnh chúng ta thế nào, chúng ta có thể tạ ơn Chúa vì đã sai Con của Người đến trần gian để trở thành một người trong chúng ta.

Cuối cùng, đừng dập tắt Thần Khí (1 Tx 5,19). Trong thư gửi các tín hữu Roma, Thánh Phaolô nói cho chúng ta rằng "Thiên Chúa đã đổ tình yêu của Người vào lòng chúng ta, nhờ Thánh Thần mà Người ban cho chúng ta" (Rm 5,5). Nếu chúng ta muốn có nhiều niềm vui hơn trong cuộc sống, chúng ta có thể cầu xin Thánh Thần khơi lên tình yêu Thiên Chúa trong lòng chúng ta. Và khi Người làm như vậy, chúng ta có thể bày tỏ điều đó bằng việc ngợi khen Người – đáp lại, điều này sẽ làm gia tăng niềm vui của chúng ta.

Niềm vui không chỉ dành cho Ngày Chúa Nhật Hãy Vui Lên; nhưng là cho mọi ngày. Vậy mỗi ngày, bạn hãy làm theo lời khuyên của Thánh Phaolô: hãy hướng về Chúa trong cầu nguyện, hãy tạ ơn Người về tất cả những gì Người đã làm cho bạn, và hãy cầu xin Người lấp đầy tâm hồn bạn Thần Khí của Người hơn nữa. Rồi hãy ngợi khen Người – và hãy để cho tâm hồn bạn bay vút lên!

"Lạy Chúa, hôm nay xin hãy tuôn đổ trên con tình yêu của Chúa để tâm hồn con dâng trào niềm vui!"

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2023 - 2024

December 16 - 17, 2023: Third Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM: Vigil Mass 8:30 AM: English Mass

12:00 PM: Vietnamese (Bilingual)

December 23 - 24, 2023: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM: Normal Mass Times 8:30 AM Normal Mass Times 12:00 PM NO NOON MASS

Sunday December 24, 2023: Christmas Carols & Mass

6:00 PM: Children Play - Christmas Story

6:30 PM: Christmas Carols - Music 7:00 PM: Christmas Eve Bilingual Mass

Monday December 25, 2023: Christmas Day Mass

9:00 AM English

12:00 PM: Vietnamese Mass (Bilingual)

Monday January 01, 2024: New Year's Eve Mass Solemnity of Mary - The Holy Mother of God

9:00 AM English

6:00 PM Vietnamese Mass (Bilingual)

Sunday January 07, 2024: Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 PM: Vigil Mass

8:30 AM: English Mass

12:00 PM: Vietnamese (Bilingual)

Christmas Flowers Offering 2023

	T.		
Famílies	In Memory of	Famílies	In Memory of
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Mrs. Barbara Gelvin	Geraldine Kotch; Terry Gelvin Michael Kotch	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Odenbach	Rose & Bob Seyer Annerbub Odenbach
Mr. & Mrs. James Barnett	Jamie Barnett Melissa Banett	Hiền Trần	Giuse Trần Quang Thiện Maria Nguyệt
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Chalk	Chalk & Jones family	Nguyễn Giang & Trần Mai	Phêrô Nguyễn Văn Tự
Mr. Duong Vũ & Mrs. Huyền	Nguyễn Hoàng	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dessauer	Ray + Helen Dumand
Mr. & Mrs. Jake & Meg Guck	Patricia Dunn & Margaret Guck	Mrs. Quỳnh	All souls
Mr. Robert Mrs. Patricia Defenbaugh	Our son, Paul Defenbaugh Cheryl Verhil, Evan Hansen Sister Helen Vahling John + Stellaloidolt Rosella & Fred Defenbaugh John & Grace Loidolt James + Rose Pechan John & Anna Grafen Abraham+Frances Defenbaugh	Mr. & Mrs. Stephanie & Gary	Frank + Joan Cortellino Bobby + Barbara Rivers Robby & Kathy Rivers Richard Cortellino
Fr. Henry	Ancestors who passed away	Carey Perriella	Marjorie & William Cram
Mr. Thanh Việt And Mrs. Thảo Nguyễn	Nguyễn Viết Sử Nguyễn Thị Phượng	Mrs. Kim Huyền Nguyễn	All souls Peter, Dominic and Rosa
Mrs. Sharon Cook	Don Cook	Sr. Anna	Rev. Benedicto & Fr. Peter
Mrs. Marion Rice	Jose Rice	Mrs. Sharon Cook	Don Cook
Mrs. Rilla Hornick	Jenny Hornick; Micheal Hornick	Voyce Sigler	Chester Sigler Christina Sigler Lopez
Famílies	In Honor of	Famílies	In Honor of
Fr. Henry's family	Fr. Henry's family	Mr. Fred Reed	Fr. Henry & Sr. Anna
Mrs. Beverly Corwin And Mr. Larry	Mrs. Beverly Corwin And Mr. Larry's family	Mr. Richard And Mrs. Scarlet Howard	Mr. Richard's family
Mrs. Thu & Chris	Mrs. Thu & Chris's family	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tilley	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tilley
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Watkins	Stephen Watkins' family	Derrier Li	Lee's family & Tsnly's family
Mr. & Mrs. Hòa Nguyên	Hòa Nguyễn's family	Brian Nguyễn	Mr. Bình & Trâm's family
Mr. John & Kay Marcinick	John Kay Marcinick's family	Sr. Anna	R. Anna's family
Mrs. Jenny Woodward	Mrs. Jenny Woodward's family	Mr. Thuần & Nhàn	Thuần & Nhàn's family
Mr. Larry Strain	Mr. Larry Strain's family	Mr. Duong Vũ & Mrs. Huyền	Dương Vũ & Huyền's family
Mr. & Mrs. Hung Đoan	Mr. & Mrs. Hung Đoan's family	Hạnh & Quyền Hà	Hà & Trần's family
Trang Lê & Vũ Nguyễn	Trang Lê & Vũ Nguyễn's family	Betty Smith	Betty Smith's family
Tiên & Chant's family	Tiên & Chan's family	Mrs. Điệp & Mr. Liên	Mrs. Điệp & Mr. Liên's family

The Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice, the Lord is Near! Gaudete Sunday, Ember Days and O Antiphons

The Advent liturgy is so rich, varied and beautiful. Every time the liturgical cycle repeats, it is another opportunity to enter more deeply into the Church's liturgy as



She prepares for Christmas. This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. The rose-colored vestments for the Third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday are a signal for the transition into the second part of Advent, which is provides more intense preparation for the remaining days of Advent. Besides Gaudete Sunday, the Advent Ember Days and O Antiphons are the special treasures of the second phase of the Advent liturgy.

Gaudete Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday because of the first word "Rejoice" in the Introit or entrance antiphon of Sunday's Liturgy. "Rejoice" is also repeated throughout the readings and prayers. The vestments worn by the priest can be the color rose (sometimes referred to as pink). The third candle of the Advent wreath is also rose. Both are reminders that Christ's coming is very soon; we are nearing the end of Advent, and we can hardly contain our joy.

By Jennifer Gregory Miller (bio - articles - email) | Dec 10, 2021 | In The Liturgical Year. Originally published December 2014. See my post from 2013, O Come!! The O Antiphons for further reflection on the O Antiphons.

Offertory/Contribution Weekend December 09 & 10, 2023

Weekly Budget	\$ 3,100.00
Offertory	\$ 3,010.18
Building Fund	\$ 875.00
Retirement Fund Religious Ed.	\$ 584.19
Immaculate Conception	\$642.00
Charities - Poor at St. Mary:	\$ 1,500.00

The counters for this week are: Nancy Williamson, William King & Pat Kassal

Next week, second collection is for

CHRISTMAS & CATHOLIC CHARITY

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you

Thank you, all our parishioners, particularly the parents who brought their children to the Church for the Parish Mission Retreat and Penance Service last Tuesday. Thank you particularly the Ladies Guild and those who helped prepare everything for this event. May God bless you all for your efforts and prepare your heart for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ our Lord with a renewal Spirit.

May God Bless Fr. Praveen, the Retreat Master for his inspiration.

<u>BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS</u>: Bulletin Submission are to be sent to: **stmarystoccoa@gmail.com NO LATER THAN** noon on **Wednesday** for the bulletin. Late submissions may not be able to be placed.

<u>PARISH MINISTRIES</u>: Please check parish's website for detail information for each role in the Committee/ Subcommittee and take part in our family church! The list of ministries and contact information is available in the Narthex of the Church and published on our church

website: www.stmarystoccoa.org/parish-council



BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

If you would like to have your birthday and/ anniversary announced on WNEG radio/ Connie Gaines, please use the signup sheet is in the narthex. Questions? Contact

Gary Cortellino: 678) 360-2545

PSR ON DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024 9:30 AM —11:30 AM

Class	Date	Breakfast schedule
PSR	12/17	Ladies Guild
No Classes	12/24 & 12/31	No Breakfast
PSR	01/07	Knight of Columbus
PSR	01/14	Mrs. Trang, Mrs. Mai & Hạnh
PSR	01/21	Ladies Guild
PSR	01/28	Mrs. Nguyên, Lan & Thảo

Religious Education students and families will be decorating the church on Dec.

24th after the 8:30 mass.

The Knights of Columbus Joseph M. Malik Council 9975

Grand Knight Mike Staley: 770-241-8544 (Cell)

Email: mikestaley914@gmail.com



A Catholic Men's organization whose principles are charity, unity and fraternity: all activities that the council involves itself in are based upon these tenets. We work closely with our Pastor and members are involved in a wide range of church functions in support of the parish family.

- * Members are required to be practicing Catholics and a Minimum of eighteen years old.
- * Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month @6PM in
- * The Parish Social Hall.
- * Monthly parish breakfast is sponsored on the first or second Sunday after the morning Mass.

For more info please visit: www.kofc.org

St. Mary's Ladies

The Ladies of St. Mary serve to provide a community of fellowship and growth in faith, reaching out to serve and support our pastor, parish families and

the community. We serve God through a commitment and uniting our members through prayer, work and service.

Meet: 2nd Wednesday of the month

- 10 AM: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov
- 7pm: Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec
- Co-Presidents: Donna: (678) 851 7170
 - Stephanie: (404) 353 0475



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Matilde Saavedra



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Mon-Sat: 10am-7pm Sunday: Closed