

Fr. Henry Thang M. Pham

PASTOR

frhenryofstmary@gmail.com

(706) 886 -2819 ext – 7202

Sacramental Emergency

706 - 716 - 7465

Mr. Peter Odenbach

OCIA Director

peter@waveeater.com

(407) 630-2692

Mrs. Jessica Burger

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

jnburger4@gmail.com

(904)-219-1129

Mr. Quyền Hà

VIETNAMESE CONNECTION

quyentha1969@yahoo.com

(918)-808 -2575

PARISH OFFICE

(706) 886-2819

Monday: 12PM – 4PM

Tuesday to Thursday

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8:30 AM (English)

12: PM (Tiếng Việt)

Monday, Wednesday; 1st Friday

6:00 PM

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

9:00 AM

HOLY HOUR

Monday; Wednesday; 1st Friday

4:30 PM

Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

7:30 AM

WEEKEND HOLY HOUR

Saturday Evening: 4: 00 PM

Sunday: 7:00 AM & 11:30 AM

RECONCILIATION

After Mass

Monday - Thursday & Saturday

Or: by appointment



St Mary Catholic Church

Our time is now - Let's grow together

231 Rothell Rd Ext. Toccoa Ga 30577

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O Box 674, Toccoa, GA 30577

Email: stmarystoccoa@gmail.com

Office: (706) 886-2819

Website: www.stmarystoccoa.org

FaceBook: stmarystoccoa



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

08.17.2025

“I came to cast fire upon the earth”.

Luke 12:49-53

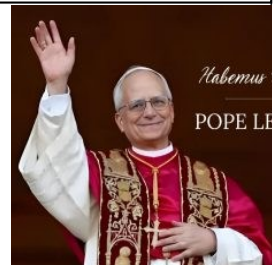
**The Pope Leo's Intention
In August 2025**

For mutual coexistence:

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Cầu cho việc cùng nhau chung sống:

Chúng ta hãy cầu nguyện cho những xã hội nơi mà sự chung sống dường như khó khăn hơn sẽ không khuất phục trước sự cám dỗ đối đầu bởi lý do sắc tộc, chính trị, tôn giáo hoặc ý thức hệ.



Mass Intentions 08. 16 - 23. 2025

SAT: 08/16	(Vigil)	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN OT Jer 38:4-6, 8 -10/Heb 12:1- 4 Lk 12:49-53
5:00 PM		Richard & Geraldine Chalk 56th Anniversary - Gerri Chalk
SUN: 08/17		TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN OT Jer 38:4-6, 8 -10/Heb 12:1- 4 Lk 12:49-53
8:30 AM		Lh. Anna & Lh. Phanxicô Xaviê - Lễ giỗ Cô Nguyễn Nguyệt
12:00 PM		Lh. Giuse Huỳnh Tuấn Fr. Henry
MON: 08/18		Weekday 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
6:00 PM		Lh. Đaminh Hà Công Thê - Fr. Henry
TUE: 08/19		Saint John Eudes, Priest Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
9:00 AM		Souls of Purgatory (D) <i>Eileen Helgeland</i>
WED: 08/20		Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church white Memorial Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
6:00 PM		Charles O. Prejean, Sr. (D) - Fr. Henry
THU: 08/21		Saint Pius X, Pope white Memorial Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
9:00 AM		Lh. Theresa Phạm Thị Hiền <i>AC Trinh & Thành</i>
FRI: 08/22		The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary—Memorial Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Mt 22:34-40 NO MASS
SAT 08/23		Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin; BVM Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-1
9:00 AM		Lh. Theresa Phạm Thị Hiền <i>AC Trinh & Thành</i>
5:00 PM		Lh. Theresa Phạm Thị Hiền <i>AC Trinh & Thành</i>
SUN: 08/24		TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Is 66:18-21/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 Lk 13:22-30
8:30 AM		Anthony Sigler's birthday (L) <i>Joyce Sigler</i>
12:00 PM		Cầu cho tất cả các thành viên trong gia đình, còn sống cũng như đã qua đời - Cô Nguyễn Nguyệt

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Long ago, a signet ring was an essential part of the wardrobe of influential people. A letter or document would be sealed with hot wax, and a signet ring pressed into the wax would affirm the origin of the document. In the case of the pope, at least from the thirteenth century, the ring was used to seal public documents with hot lead, saving the red wax for private letters. The public documents were called bullae after the Latin name for the lead stamp, and we still call them “papal bulls.”

It is not surprising, therefore, that a signet ring has long been bestowed as part of the inauguration of a pope. The ring is called the Pescatorio, or “Ring of the Fisherman.” It reminds the wearer of his link with Peter, and his responsibility to continue the apostolic ministry of “fishing for human beings.” Until 1842 it actually functioned as a signet ring. Now, each pope receives a new gold ring at the beginning of his ministry. It goes on the fourth finger of his right hand and bears some fisherman design, usually St. Peter casting nets from a boat, as well as the pope’s name in Latin. A custom that endures for the pope, but not so much for bishops, is for people being introduced to him to kiss the Pescatorio as a sign of respect for his teaching authority. Another enduring custom is for the ring to be smashed and defaced at the pope’s death, originally a way of preventing counterfeit deathbed documents.

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

Please keep the following People in your prayers

David Dessauer, Mr. Ben White, Mr. Steve Dessauer, Mary Wheeler, Angela Hanh, Nguyễn Lành, Harold Alexander, Tom Snider, Bill Dineen, Meg Guck, Laura Barnett, Pearline Smith and Doug Pickens, Sharon Cook, Dorothy Cook, Mary Ann Coughlan, Ronny Murphy, Eddie Hallford, Jay McAtee, Melissa Grigg, James Meyn, Dan Dwyer, Calvin Isbell, Jerry Powell, Kim Kellams, Danny Carter, Lori Gasque, Tim McGlone Sr., Timothy McGlone Jr. Robert McGlone, Joe Franz Mathes, Christen Cook, Lindsey McDonald, Rebecca Gonzalez, Nancy Barbour, Connie Tirico, Tammie Tweedy, Nancy Sterling, Geneva Alexander, Alie Smith, Lisa Carothers, Randall Adams, Melissa Dillon, David Boston, Mildred & Hallie Edenfield, Kimberly Simmons, Charlotte Hazel McEvilly, Ray Brueland, Joseph Schork, Brenda Wolfrey, Teresa Jones, and for all others not mentioned. If you want to submit an individual for Prayer Intentions, **please call the office 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 Holy Communion and the Weekly Bulletin.



Sunday, August 17, 2025

“I came to cast fire upon the earth”.

Luke 12:49-53

Meditation: Do you want to be on fire for God? Jesus shocked his disciples when he declared that he would cast fire and cause division rather than peace upon the earth. What kind of fire did Jesus have in mind here?

The fire of God’s purifying love and cleansing word

The image of fire in biblical times was often associated with God and with his action in the world and in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as God’s revelation to Moses through the burning bush in the wilderness which was not consumed by the flames (Exodus 3:2). God assured the Hebrew people of his continual presence, guidance, and protection for them through the wilderness for forty years with the pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day (Exodus 13:21-22). The prophet Elijah called down fire from heaven to reveal God’s presence and power and to purify the people of false idols (1 Kings 18:36-39). The image of fire was also used as a sign of God’s glory (Ezekiel 1:4, 13) and holiness (Deuteronomy 4:24), his protective presence (2 Kings 6:17), and his righteous judgment (Zechariah 13:9) and holy wrath against sin (Isaiah 66:15-16).

Fire is also a sign and symbol of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11-12 and Luke 3:16-17). When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples at Pentecost “tongues of fire” appeared above their heads (Acts 2:3). We can see from both the Old and New Testament Scriptures that God’s fire purifies and cleanses to make us clean (sins washed away) and holy (fit to offer him acceptable praise and worship), and it inspires a reverent fear (awe in God’s presence) and respect (obeying and giving God his due) for God and for his holy word.

“Lord Jesus, may the fire of your love consume me and transform my life that I may truly desire nothing more than life with you. Fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit that I may always seek to please you and do your will.”

Chúa Nhật, ngày 17.08.2025

“Ta đến để ném lửa xuống thế gian”.

Lc 12, 49-53

Suy niệm: Bạn có muốn được đốt cháy vì Chúa không? Đức Giêsu đã làm cho các môn đệ sửng sốt khi Người tuyên bố rằng Người sẽ ném lửa và gây ra sự chia rẽ hơn là đem hòa bình cho thế giới. Ngọn lửa nào Đức Giêsu muốn ám chỉ ở đây?

Ngọn lửa tình yêu thanh tẩy và lời thánh hóa của Thiên Chúa

Trong Kinh thánh, hình ảnh lửa thường được liên kết với Thiên Chúa, với hành động của Người trong thế gian và trong đời sống của dân Người. Thánh thoả, Thiên Chúa bày tỏ sự hiện diện của Người bằng cách dùng lửa, như sự mặc khải của Thiên Chúa với Môisen nơi bụi gai bốc cháy mà không bị thiêu rụi trong hoang địa (Xh 3,2). Thiên Chúa đã bảo đảm với dân Do thái về sự hiện diện, hướng dẫn, và bảo vệ thường xuyên của Người đối với họ qua hoang địa bốn mươi năm với cột lửa ban đêm và cột mây ban ngày (Xh 13,21-22). Ngôn sứ Êlia gọi lửa từ trời xuống để thể hiện sự hiện diện và quyền năng của Thiên Chúa và thanh tẩy những người thờ bụt thần (1V 18,36-39). Hình ảnh ngọn lửa cũng được sử dụng để biểu hiện vinh quang của Thiên Chúa (Ed 1,4.13), sự thánh thiện (Đnl 4,24), sự hiện diện che chở (2V 6,17), sự xét xử công minh (Dcr 13,9), và sự phản nộ của Người chống lại tội lỗi (Is 66,15-16).

Ngọn lửa cũng là dấu chỉ và biểu tượng sự hiện diện và quyền năng của Chúa Thánh Thần. Gioan tẩy giả nói rằng Đức Giêsu sẽ thanh tẩy bằng Chúa Thánh Thần và lửa (Mt 3,11-12 và Lc 3,16-17). Khi Chúa Thánh Thần đổ xuống trên các môn đệ vào ngày lễ Ngũ Tuần, “các lưỡi lửa” xuất hiện trên đầu họ (Cv 2,3). Chúng ta có thể thấy cả hai từ Cựu ước và Tân ước rằng lửa của Thiên Chúa vừa sà lọc vừa thanh tẩy để làm cho chúng ta nên sạch (xóa tan tội lỗi) và thánh thiện (xứng hợp để dâng Người lời ca ngợi và thờ phượng), nó cũng khơi dậy lòng kính sợ (sự hiện diện của Thiên Chúa) và tôn kính (vâng phục và đáp trả lại) Thiên Chúa và Lời của Người.

Lạy Chúa, chớ gì tình yêu của Chúa đốt cháy con và biến đổi cuộc đời con để con có thể thực sự không ao ước gì khác hơn cuộc sống với Chúa. Xin Chúa làm cho con mạnh mẽ trong tình yêu và lòng trung thành mà không gì có thể ngăn cản con khỏi thực thi thánh ý Chúa.

Offertory/Contribution Weekend of August 09 & 10, 2025		HML /DEBT REDUCTION Weekend of August 09 & 10, 2025	
Weekly Budget	\$ 3,100.00		
Offertory	\$ 2,472.00	HML /DEBT REDUCTION GOAL	\$ 400,000.00
HML (Debt Reduction Program) (Donor from Atlanta)	\$ 10,000.00	Donations To Date	\$ 249,953.81
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 594.00	Remaining Debt Amount	\$ 150,046.19
Unscheduled	\$ 121.00		
Total deposit	\$ 3,187.00	Additional Sponsor Opportunities Available on Poster in Narthex.	
The counters for the week of 08/18 are: Teri Creighton , Connie Tirico and Pat Kassal			

Thank you for your generosity! And please continue to support.

HML UPDATE WEEKEND
08. 16 -17. 2025

Please take a moment to check out the three new planters alongside the side of the Religious Education Building. They now are filled in and contain the first of many plantings to come. The landscape professional calls these “foundation plants”, Notice also in the new Holy Family Garden that the uplighting fixtures have been installed for all three Statue locations and the wrought iron arches. At night, when these up lights come on, our beautiful garden will be even more beautiful!

Thanks to all for your continued support of the HML debt reduction effort!



Save the date
for
St. Mary’s
Parish Picnic !

Sunday,
09. 07th. 2025
3:00 PM

at Tugaloo
State
Park Pavilion



Red Cross Blood Drive



The Knights of Columbus Council 9975 at St. Mary's Catholic Church will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive during the **Month of August on the 21st from 10:00 AM to 3:00PM.**

This will be the very First Public Community Service event ever held in our new Family Life Center. We earnestly hope that all of the Parishioners that are able to donate will during this drive.

To sign up for a time slot you can either call the Red Cross at (800) RED CROSS that is (800)-733-2767 or contact blood donation center online at RedCrossBlood.org

There is a special insensitive during the month of August of a \$15.00 Card for a successful donation. If you need additional information, please contact:

Mike Staley - Project Chairman: Cell # 770-241-8544

The Eight Components of the Old Testament

The Old Testament, (OT), is a collection of historical, and sacred works developed over a period of 1100 years BC. It is historical, in that it relates the development of ancient Israel and the Hebrew faith. It is sacred in that it, through Divine inspiration, it was recorded as the Word of God. The Catholic Church upholds this work as being unchangeable in regard to faith and morals, because the authors were divinely inspired.

The OT is a covenant between the people of Israel and God. The *Chosen People* were the first to have a Monotheistic theology. The Pentateuch instructed them with knowledge of the beginning of man, made in the image and likeness of God. It also conferred on the Jewish people their own set of laws to abide by, i.e; Exodus and Deuteronomy.

In its literary form, the OT reflects the wisdom of the ancient writers. Although there are many variations of the written Bible, there is a certain adherence to the principal that it is the Word of God. While there may be variations in some of the language translations, and the order in which the books are incorporated, the most important books of the OT are in compliance with each other in their message.

The literary form brings forth the art and culture of the Israelites. The Psalms, and Song of Solomon reflect a poetic love in their message praising God. God is their History. It is because of Him that they exist. The OT is constant in its message that, if one lives in the fear (awe), of God he will be redeemed. The OT is their moral compass, and the Decalogue His direct "handwritten" law for them.

The OT is the foundation of all Christianity. In the OT the prophets predicted the coming of the Son of God. It is what brings us to the New Testament and the salvation of the Cross. Christ used these sacred scriptures in His teachings to the Disciples. Christ also fulfilled them by His life and, especially, His death.



STROKE SCAN PLUS

EVERY 40 SECONDS, SOMEONE IN THE U.S. IS HAVING A STROKE!

Stroke Scan Plus and Saint Mary Catholic Church will be hosting lifesaving, wellness ultrasound screenings on **Saturday, August 30th**. It is important to perform preventive maintenance for ourselves yearly. Do you have **high blood pressure or high cholesterol, diabetes, or a family history of heart disease, stroke, abdominal aneurysm, or internal cancers?** If so, do not miss this opportunity for early detection of a possibly serious disease. These screenings are typically NOT performed at your annual check-up, and insurance companies may not pay for them unless you are symptomatic. **Stroke Scan Plus** will be offering them to you for **\$169** for all 7 combined ultrasound screenings (Stroke, AAA, Thyroid, Liver, Kidneys, & Gallbladder). Blood testing will incur an additional cost. Insurance is NOT necessary, and appointments are limited. Stroke Scan will be available at the church for you to register on on **Saturday, August 16th - Sunday, August 17th**, or please call 832-437-7355 to schedule an appointment today for you or a loved one. The screenings will take place in/at the **Saint Mary Catholic Church**. Prevention is your key to quality health! www.strokescan.com.

STROKE SCAN PLUS

The Stroke Scan representative(s) Monifa Tema Barrett will be at Saint Mary Catholic Church, on Aug 16 & 17, 2025 to make a short announcement at all masses to do pre-registrations for the upcoming Vascular Screening Event on Aug 30, 2025.

Monifa Tema Barrett will be able to answer any questions from those interested in our services during registration. If possible, we kindly request a table for the convenience of patient registrations.

On behalf of Health Coordinator Jaime Valencia and Stroke Scan, we sincerely appreciate the opportunity. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Marie Prats Harvey

O: 832-437-7355

TF: 832-551-7968

Health Coordinator

Name: Jaime Valencia

Email: jaime@strokescan.com

Phone: 281-541-9604

25119 Lakeview Rd.

Katy, TX 77494

Toll Free: 866-935-7226 (wel-scan)

Tel: 832-437-7355

Fax: 832-437-7356

www.strokescan.com

The Knights of Columbus Joseph M. Malik Council 9975



Grand Knight Leon Womack
Phone: 706-491-7110
Email: leonw8251@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 every month
- 10 AM; at the Social Hall

Co-Presidents: - Connie Tirico: (678) - 464 - 3214
- Michelle Wright: (404) - 375 - 5958



Saint Vincent de Paul Society St. Mary Toccoa Conference

Help Telephone : 678 - 892 - 6163

St Vincent de Paul Needs you!

Are you looking for ways to experience Christ? Members of St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul conference invite you to share in their ministry of experiencing Christ by serving our neighbors in need. We see Christ in the poor because Jesus told us "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me." To learn more: www.svdpgorgia.org/join-svdp. For more information contact **Ethan Owen:** (706) - 599 - 6815.

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

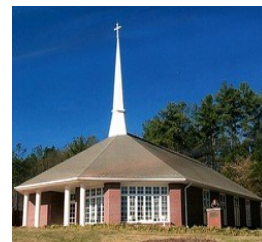


If you would like to have your birthday and anniversary announced on WNEG radio/ Connie Gaines, please use the signup sheet is in the narthex. **Questions? Contact Gary Cortellino: Phone: 678) 360-2545**
Email: garycortel@aol.com

Help us keep the Church Clean!

1/ God's Housekeepers :

We are looking for more parishioners to help clean the church. The ministry is called God's Housekeepers and each week 2 people clean the church, narthex, and restrooms. Your commitment would be four times during the year. We have all of the supplies for you. If you're interested or want more information, **please call, text or email Laverne Tilley.**



Phone: 770 - 539 -0460 or email: ltalley@gmail.com.

Thanks and let me know if you need more information.

2/ Lawn Care Service:

If you are interested to help to care the garden or lawn care of the Church. Please contact Mr. Tony Duong Vu's team at:



♦ vutony603@gmail.com or 706-599-4278

♦ Vu12575@gmail.com or 813-966-0688

August focus: Leaving a gift through a will or estate plan August is national Make-A-Will Month. Use this opportunity to plant the seed for parishioners to include your parish endowment fund in their will to perpetuate their love for your parish forever.



August 17 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Leaving a Legacy to the Parish:

Giving assets to the parish endowment fund through your will enables you to help your parish long into the future, without affecting your cash flow now. August is National Make-A-Will Month and a good reminder to update or create a will to include charitable entities. For more information, contact Juliet Greco at the Catholic Foundation at jgreco@cfnga.org or 404.497.9440.