



OBISPOS PIDEN UNA INMEDIATA SOLUCIÓN LEGISLATIVA PARA DREAMERS El Presidente del Comité de Migración de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos (USCCB), el Obispo Joe Vásquez, de Austin, Texas, anunció el apoyo al "Uniting and Securing America" (USA) Act. Este es un proyecto de ley que plantea un camino a la ciudadanía para los Dreamers y el aumento en la tecnología para mejorar la seguridad en la frontera entre México y Estados Unidos. "Tenemos muchas esperanzas en que nuestro apoyo a la versión actual del USA Act y nuestro continuo apoyo al Dream Act van a estimular al Congreso a actuar ahora para encontrar una solución

legislativa humana para los Dreamers", expresó el Obispo Vásquez.

El USA Act proporcionaría a los Dreamers que califiquen la protección de la deportación, así como un camino a la ciudadanía. Adicionalmente, el USA Act 2018 aumentaría la seguridad en la frontera de Estados Unidos con México, en parte con el establecimiento de mejores tecnologías; también propone el aumento del número de jueces de inmigración y abogados al servicio de la Junta de Apelaciones de Inmigración (Board of Immigration Appeals) y trataría de abordar las causas del problema para prevenir la futura inmigración irregular desde Centro América.

Ante la necesidad de una acción inmediata, el Obispo Vásquez sentenció: "Todos los días, mis hermanos obispos y yo somos testigos directamente de la constante ansiedad de los jóvenes Dreamers y sus familias y esa experiencia nos motiva a presionar al Congreso para una inmediata y duradera solución para este problema".

Para obtener más información, favor visitar <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/immigration/daca-resource-page/>.

LA CAMPAÑA DEL OBISPO está realizando



por una serie de segunda colectas en la Misas. Ya tomamos cinco colectas y de las cifras de 26 de abril ya logramos \$7,235 o 50% de nuestro reto parroquial de \$14,376. Gracias a los

que están contribuyendo y favor a continuar. El lema de la campaña por este año es seamos Discípulos Misioneros.

Corresponsabilidad: 5to domingo de Pascua

El buen administrador de los bienes de Dios vive según el consejo de San Juan, amando con los actos y en verdad, en vez de hablar de ello nada más.



JUEVES: HORA SANTA DELANTE DE LA SANTÍSIMA

Como este jueves es el primero del mes todos están invitados a venir a la iglesia de las 6:55 hasta a las 8:00 para adorar, rezar, y cantar en una Hora Santa.



Apunten sus calendarios. Todos invitados

Viernes el 11 de mayo a las 6:30 en la noche hay una misa para celebrar el sacramento de Confirmación con nuestro Obispo Gregory Hartmayer. Se los administrará a 11 jóvenes, seis de nuestra parroquia y cinco de la de Santa Teresa en Cordele.

Además el día siguiente, sábado 12 de mayo, hay una misa a las 10 de la mañana que nuestro párroco celebrará para la primera comunión de nuestros niños y algunos jóvenes.



St. Mary Catholic Church

332 S. Lee St., Americus, GA 31709

Telephone: (229) 924-3495

Pastor: Father Fran Gillespie SJ ("Padre Paco")

email: fgillespie@diosav.org

Bookkeeper: stmaryamericus@gmail.com

Parish Web Page: www.stmaryamericus.com

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

April 29, 2018 5th Sunday of Easter

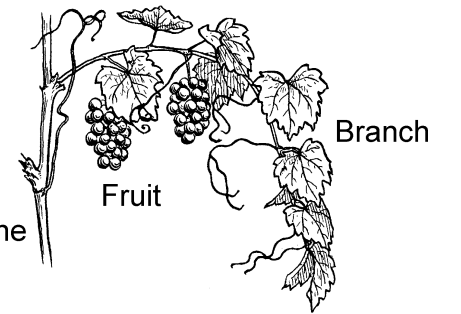
"Jesus said to his disciples:

"I am the true vine... Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless

it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain

in me. I am the vine, you are the branches." (John:15)



Nuestra Misión: Nosotros, los feligreses de la Iglesia Católica Santa María en Americus, Georgia, compartimos nuestra diversidad mientras abarcando nuestro Bautismo común adorando a Dios, celebrando la Eucaristía, honrando María, difundiendo la Palabra, y sirviendo a los demás.

Mission: We, the parishioners of St. Mary Catholic Church in Americus, Georgia, share our diversity while embracing our common Baptism by worshiping God, celebrating the Eucharist, honoring Mary, spreading the Word, and serving others.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Clases de Preparación Bautismal - Por favor llame la oficina parroquial para registrarse por las platicas pre-bautismales a menos un mes antes del Bautismo.

Clases de Preparación de Matrimonio - Las parejas necesitan comunicarse con el Padre por lo menos seis meses antes de la fecha de la boda.

Sacramento de la Unción de un Enfermo - Si alguien está enfermo, llame el párroco para recibir este sacramento (favor, no esperar al ultimo momento).

Confesión/Reconciliación - Sábado 4:00 pm a 4:30 pm o llame el párroco por una cita particular.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

Baptismal Preparation Class - Contact the pastor by phone /email to register for a pre-Baptism class at least a month ahead of a Baptismal date.

Marriage Preparation - Contact the pastor at least 6 months before expected wedding date.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick - Those quite ill, hospitalized, or facing surgery who wish the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, please contact the pastor. This Sacrament can be received more than once, periodically during the year.

Confession/Reconciliation - Saturday 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm or call Fr. Fran for an appointment.

HORARIO DE LAS MISAS

Sábado: 5:30 PM (Ingles)

Domingo: 9:30 (Ingles); 11:30 (Español)

Martes a Viernes a las 12:00 (ingles) en la capilla

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY MASSES

Saturday: 5:30 pm - English

Sunday: 9:30 (English); 11:30 (Spanish)

Tuesday thru Friday, 12 Noon, in chapel (English)

Diocesan Office for Protection of Children & Youth (912-201-4074); toll free hotline is (888) 357-5330

Parish Pastoral Council Membership With the customary rotation of some members going off of our parish's Pastoral Council (PC) and in preparation for our annual nomination and election process of new members, it is time to review requirements for PC membership. The idea is to encourage beforehand qualified and eligible parishioners to prayerfully consider serving on it

What is the Pastoral Council? Briefly, per Church Law, the Parish Pastoral Council is a structure of consultation to the pastor. It is a planning council, not a coordinating council; a consultative group pursuing the mission of the parish church with the pastor. The consultation of the Pastoral Council is essential in the decision-making process, but the Pastoral Council is not the decision maker. (Church's Canon Law #536) .

Who sits on the PC? When does it meet? Our parish's Pastoral Council meets almost monthly and consists of elected and appointed members. Persons deemed eligible to serve on our parish's Pastoral Council must meet requirements as the following:

- *Be in full communion with the Catholic Church;
- * Be a registered parishioner of St. Mary for at least a year before election process starts (i.e. by 5/1/17);
- *Attend the Vigil or Sunday Mass most weekends of the month throughout the year (save vacations, holiday visiting, and such like). Not to so regularly attend, for whatever reason, renders one out of touch with a pivotal part of the parish and thus severely limited in the advisory PC role to the pastor;
- *Subscribe to the "Spirituality of Stewardship" involving the sharing of their time, talent, and treasure to our parish and to our Savannah Diocesan Church;
- * Able to attend 10 or 11 monthly meetings on Tuesday eve at 5:30 and willing to share in tasks and committees to meet council goals for parish;
- *Be interested in the overall spiritual and temporal welfare of the parish and be without an inordinate attachment to a group or personal agenda;
- *Endorse the mission statement of our parish;
- *Be 18 years of age and conversant in English;

For more information, contact pastoral council member Carolyn Campbell at 229-942-2801 or by email at: carolynrdc@att.net.



Month of May is Mary's Month
Traditionally Catholics pray the rosary more often during the month of May and so are reminded to do so as we start May this week. "Throughout the centuries, the Church has turned to the Blessed Virgin in order to come closer to Christ. Many forms of piety toward the Mother of God developed that help bring us closer to her Son. In these devotions to Mary, 'while the Mother is honored, the Son, through whom all things have their being and in whom it has pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell, is rightly known, loved and glorified and . . . all His commands are observed.' The Church honors her as the Mother of God, looks to her as a model of perfect discipleship, and asks for her prayers to God on our behalf." (USCCB)



Pray with the Pope
APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER
Pope's Prayer Intention for May As part of the Apostleship of Prayer and in union with our Pope, please remember the following intention this month.
Intention: Evangelization – The Mission of Laity, That the lay faithful may fulfill their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today.

The 21st Knights of Columbus Charity Golf Tournament raised \$4,500. Thank you very much for your help and your prayers for a successful golf tournament. Thanks especially to all Hole Sponsors, Prize Donors, Golfers, Volunteers and Brother Knights.



Stewardship Thought
5th Sunday of Easter Do I ever take the initiative in giving our time, talent and treasure, or do we always wait to be asked?



Charitable Giving & The New Tax Law
The Savannah Diocese's Financial Office sent pastors this week the following announcement for their bulletins in the expectation some senior parishioners might find it helpful.



Tax-Free IRA Charitable Gifting
Given recent changes in the tax law, Federal Law now allows tax-free charitable contributions of up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA. To make a tax-free charitable contribution e.g. to your parish or diocese, the following requirements must be met:

- The IRA owner must be 70 ½ or older.
- Qualified charitable contributions must be made by December 31st each year.
- The charitable contribution must be transferred directly from the IRA to the eligible charity.
- A charity must be a 501 C (3) organization.
- Distribution can be made to multiple charities in the same year per the above..

Making a qualified charitable contribution as opposed to a normal charitable gift has two main advantages:

1. A qualified charitable contribution counts toward satisfying the donor's required minimum distribution for the tax year.
2. The distribution is excluded from the taxpayer's income; you do not need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution.

Contact your financial, tax advisor or Mary Alice Nadeau of the Savannah Diocese Financial Office for further information: (912) 201-4124; manadeau@diosav.org

<u>Weekend</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Budget/Presupuesto</u>	<u>Surplus/(+Sobre)Deficit/(—Falta)</u>	<u>2nd Collection</u>
April 1	\$4,536	\$2,925	\$1,611	Priests Retirm't \$1,449
April 8	\$2,696	\$2,925	(\$ 229)	BAA 11:30 Mass \$ 276
April 15	\$2,689	\$2,925	(\$ 236)	BAA 11:30 Mass \$ 316
April 22	\$2,470	\$2,925	(\$ 455)	BAA 11:30 Mass \$ 253

Last Days for BAA Matching Contributions
The Diocese happily informs parishes that thanks again this year to an anonymous donor, donations made for only this month of April will be matched. The matching requirements will be similar to last year's. For example: gifts made this month of April will be matched dollar for dollar provided the donation is an increase from the previous year. Thus, if a donor made a gift of \$400 in 2017 and increased the gift to \$500 in 2018, the \$100 increase is matched;
2) The donation is a new gift in 2018. Thus, if a donor did not make a gift in 2017 and gives in 2018, the 2018 gift will be matched in full.



Given the blessed largess of the anonymous diocesan benefactor, all of us do well to prayerfully consider increasing our gift in any way we can. If it's just \$25, that \$25 will be matched. Similarly, those who could not give last year are urged to consider giving this year so their gift can be doubled by the miracle of matching.



Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA): We are called to be Missionary Disciples is this year's theme. The BAA helps support such pastoral needs as: our 19 seminarians with the per man cost per year of c. \$40,000; spiritual formation of our children and youth; campus ministry, etc.

Our parish's BAA data as of 4/20 is:
St. Mary's BAA Goal \$14,376
Contributed as of 4/12 \$ 7,235
Percent of Goal now: 50 %
Amount yet to contribute \$ 7,141
Pledges Outstanding Balance (\$1,760)