

Aug 31, 2020

Saint Mary Catholic Church  
231 Rothell Rd. Ext.  
Toccoa, Georgia 30577

Dear Father Henry and Christa,

I am writing today to request a Mass be offered for my sister, Nancy Cash White. Nancy has recently undergone surgery and is now undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments for melanoma which has resurfaced and spread after 15 years in remission.

The reason I am making this request is that St. Mary is our "home" church. Our mother, Jeanne Link Cash was a parishioner in Toccoa starting in 1948 and was active with Saint Mary from its inception until she passed on 5/30/2014. I and my three siblings were also active in the church throughout our childhood and until moving from Toccoa. My sister Nancy was the first child baptized at St. Mary in 1956 (see attached). Nancy was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Mary. She has lived in many places since but, as me, shares very fond memories of St. Mary Church and will always consider it her home congregation.

I would be most grateful if you would acknowledge this request to Nancy as I believe it would greatly boost her spirits. Her address is:

Nancy Cash White  
215 Quarters Rd.  
Fayetteville, GA 30215

Even though Nancy is not a current parishioner at St. Mary, it would be also appreciated if she could be mentioned in the prayer list if appropriate.

Thank you for this consideration. Enclosed please also find a church offering to be applied as you best see fit.

Sincerely,



Bill Cash  
6101 Timber Creek Lane  
Wilmington, NC 28411  
wcash@ec.rr.com

## Memories of The Catholic Community in Toccoa, Georgia

My husband and I moved to Toccoa in 1948. There were very few Catholics here at that time. Toccoa was a mission. Each Sunday Father Michael Manning, after having said an early Mass in Gainesville, would drive 50 miles to Toccoa to say Mass at the Albemarle Hotel\*, in a tiny room just off the hotel lobby. Following the Toccoa Mass, Father Manning would drive an additional 20 miles to Lakemont on Lake Rabun to say another Mass there. I had great respect for Father Manning (later, much deserved, Monsignor Manning). He spent many long hours traveling the country roads of North Georgia to serve the Catholics of the area.

As our congregation grew, it became necessary to find larger quarters, so we rented the American Legion hall for Mass. The American Legion still meets in the same building near the Toccoa Clinic.

During that period an annual Mother's Day collection was taken up, throughout the diocese with the understanding that the funds collected would be used to build a church somewhere in North Georgia. The Toccoa congregation was overjoyed to hear that we had been chosen as the recipients of this wonderful new church. Father Manning continued as our pastor during this period.

Since Toccoa did not have a permanent pastor in the early 1950's, we took our first two children to Gainesville in 1950 and 1952 for Baptism by Father Manning. Our third child, born in 1956, was the first baby baptized in the new church. } NANCY

The Verona Fathers were the first permanent pastors of the new church, also taking care of missions in Hartwell and Clayton. These dedicated priests were greatly admired and appreciated by the Toccoa Catholic community. In my view, all of the priests who followed deserve a sincere vote of thanks for their devotion to service in the Toccoa area.

\* The Albemarle Hotel still stands, but is now known as the Alexander Apartments

*Jeanne Cash*

(parishioner since 1948)