

ST. MARY ON THE HILL

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Forming the Family in Faith

Third Sunday of Advent -- December 15, 2013

RELIGIOUS

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Gerald Ragan, V.F., Pastor
Rev. Thomas Murphy, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Charlie Hughes, Senior Priest
Deacon Brian Goodman
Deacon Ken Maleck
Deacon Donald McArdle
Deacon Al Sullivan

Pastoral Care

Sr. Josephine Quinlan

Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday 7:45 am, 10:30 am, 12:15 pm, 6:00 pm

Weekdays Monday through Friday 7:00 am

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:15 am

Wednesday Miraculous Medal Novena &

Evening Mass 5:15 pm

Saturday Morning Mass &

Anointing of the Sick 9:15 am

Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:45 – 4:45 pm

Rosary

Monday and Saturday 4:30 pm

Sacred Heart Perpetual Adoration Chapel

1210 Monte Sano Avenue

Available to all parishioners to spend time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and is open 24 hours per day 7 days per week.

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated once a month (except during Lent). Preparation classes are held prior to the Baptism weekends. Please call the office to register

Weddings

Arrangements should be made at least four months in advance.

Nursery

Available at the 10:30 am and 12:15 pm Sunday Masses for ages 6 months to Pre-K4. A pre-school religious program is offered during the 10:30 am Mass for 3 and 4 year olds.

Emergencies

Call the Office (706) 733-6627
After Hours (706) 833-4355

Trinity Hospital Chapel Mass

Thursday 12:00 noon

Ministerio Catolico Hispano

Misa en Español: Domingo 6:00 pm, Iglesia de Saint Joseph, 2607 Lumpkin Road

PARISH MISSION

St. Mary on the Hill Parish, a Catholic community, is committed to caring for God's people through stewardship. We are bound together by the Eucharist, directed by the Gospel teachings and the teachings of the Church, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and are committed to sharing in the ministry of Jesus Christ. As stewards, we will proclaim the Gospel, promote peace and justice, and use our time, talents, and treasure to advance God's Kingdom.



CHURCH STAFF

Administrative Assistant

Martha Kearns
martha.kearns@knology.net

Music & Worship

Alvin Blount
stmusic@knology.net

Stewardship & Development

Mary Davis
davism@knology.net

CCD

Barbara Kareis & Joan Purucker
(706) 733-9908
stmarysccd@hotmail.com

Mothers' Day Out & Nursery

Gina Crow
(706) 262-2659
gina.crow@knology.net

Senior Center

Patty Lezotte
(706) 262- 0340
patty.lezotte@knology.net

Youth Ministry

Michael & Missy Lammers
mmlammers@knology.net
Joanna Watwood
Joannawatwood@gmail.com

Secretaries

Mary Bowles
Karen Brooks

Finance

Dori Thorstad
dthorstad@knology.net

Facilities

Jimmy Carrick
jimmy.carrick@knology.net

SCHOOLS

St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School

www.stmaryssaints.org
Joseph McBride, Principal
(706) 733-6193
smcs@knology.net

Aquinas High School

www.aquinashigh.org
(706) 736-5516
aquinas@aquinashigh.org

*Deadline for bulletin is
Monday at noon. Send information by email
smbulletin@knology.net, fax or phone*

**1420 Monte Sano Avenue, Augusta, GA 30904 • Email: smoth@knology.net • Web: www.stmaryonthehill.org
Parish Office: (706) 733-6627 • Fax (706) 733-4887 • Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:45 AM – 5:30 PM, Friday 8:45 AM – 2:00 PM**



Weekly Schedule:

December 15, 2013

Sunday, December 15 *Third Sunday of Advent*

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

7:45 am (Fr. Charles Hughes)	Mass for the People	CCD 9:00 am CAF/SMCS	Youth Choir Practice 4:00 pm C
10:30 am (Fr. Thomas Murphy)	♥Sally Rhodes	Children's Liturgy during 10:30 Mass PH	Men's Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm G
12:15 pm (Fr. Lou Lindsey)	†Myrtle T. Blount	Baptisms celebrated during 12:15 Mass	Deanery Spanish Mass 6:00 pm
6:00 pm (Fr. David Arnoldt)	†James W. Ryan	Church League Basketball 12:30 pm G	at St. Joseph Church
		Saints Overseas 3:00 pm SC	

*Most Rev. Bishop J. Kevin Boland, DD / Michael McAdams & Bobby Phillips, Theology I**

Monday, December 16

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

7:00 am	†Jack Burke 1 st Anniversary	Senior Center Open 9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Sequence 10:30 am SC
		Walking Aerobics 9:00 am PH	SMCS Basketball Games 4:00 pm G
9:15 am	†Cathy Covert	MDO 9:00 am - 2:30 pm SA	Rosary & Miraculous Medal Novena
		Bridge 10:00 am SC	4:30 pm SJDC

*Rev. Xavier Kumbalapurampil & Most Rev. Bishop Raymond W. Lessard, DD / Vernon Knight, Theology IV**

Tuesday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

7:00 am	†Genevieve Oliver	MDO 9:00 am - 2:30 pm SA	SMS Commission Meeting 5:00 pm PH
9:15 am	†May Claire Mahoney	SMCS Basketball Practice 3:00 - 7:15 pm G	Legion of Mary 6:30 pm SA

*Rev. Msgr. Marvin LeFrois & Rev. Donal Keohane / Brian O'Shaughnessy, Theology II Pastoral Year**

Wednesday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

7:00 am	†Lillian Price	Senior Center Open 9:00 am - 2:30 pm	Bridge 10:00 am SC with Advent Party Following
		Walking Aerobics 9:00 am PH	SMCS Basketball Practice 3:00 - 7:15 pm G
5:15 pm	†Dick & Anne Chamberlain	MDO 9:00 am - 2:30 pm SA	Parish Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm PH

*Rev. Pablo Migone & Rev. Charles Atuah, MSP / John Wright, Theology II Pastoral Year**

Thursday, December 19

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

7:00 am	†Irene Ragan	Senior Center Open 9:00 am - 2:30 pm	RCIA 7:00 pm PH
		MDO 9:00 am - 2:30 pm SA	SMCS Jr. High Dance 7:00 pm CAF
9:15 am	†Ruby LaMar 5 th Anniversary	Bridge 10:00 am SC	Prayer Group 7:30 pm SA
		Bingo 10:30 am SC	Spirit & Truth 7:30 pm AH
		Secular Franciscan Order 7:00 pm SC	Youth Holy Hour 9:00 - 10:00 pm AC

*Rev. Henry Drodz & Rev. Isidore Nguyen Baký / Patrick Tunnell, Theology II**

Friday, December 20

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

7:00 am	♥Nancy Downs	Walking Aerobics 9:00 am PH
9:15 am	†Shannon Burke Agee	SMCS Early Dismissal 11:50 am

*Rev. Paul Cabrita, SM & Rev. Francis Gillespie, SJ / Tony Visintainer, Theology II**



Saturday, December 21 *Memorial of St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45 or (Memorial: 2 Tm 4:1-5; Mt 5:13-19)

9:15 am	†Mary McDonald Bowles 5 th Anniversary	Reconciliation 3:45 - 4:45 pm C
5:00 pm (Fr. Thomas Murphy)	†Dave Baney	

*Rev. Aaron Killips & Rev. Carlos Educardo Pinzon / Theodore Agba, Theology I**

Sunday, December 22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

7:45 am (Fr. Thomas Murphy)	Mass for the People	NO CCD
10:30 am (Fr. Jerry Ragan)	♥James Hutto	Church League Basketball 12:30 pm G
12:15 pm (Fr. Thomas Murphy)	†Sonny Ramp	Youth Choir Practice 4:00 pm C
6:00 pm (Fr. David Arnoldt)	†Irene Ragan	Men's Basketball 5:30 - 7:00 pm G
		Deanery Spanish Mass 6:00 pm at St. Joseph Church

*Rev. Rodolfo Roxas & Rev. Charles Hughes, GHM / Chris Hassel, Theology I**

A = SJC Atrium	BR = Bride Room	N = Nursery	SC = Senior Center	* = Please pray daily for our
AC = Adoration Chapel	C = Church	NX = Narthex	SH = Scout Hut	Priests & Seminarians.
AH = Annunciation House	CAF = SMCS Cafeteria	O = Office	SJC = St. Joseph Center	† = Deceased
MRI = Meeting Room 1	CL = SMCS Computer Lab	PH = Parish Hall	SJDC = St. Joseph Day Chapel	♥ = Living
MR2 = Meeting Room 2	G = School Gym	R = Rectory	SMCS = St. Marys Catholic School	
YC = Youth Center (1 st Floor)	MC = SMCS Media Center	SA = St. Anne's Hall	UR = SJC Upper Room	



The third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. This is the Sunday that we wear pink vestments and light the pink candle on the Advent wreath as a sign of our joy. Gaudete is the Latin word for “let us rejoice.” These words are found in the Entrance Antiphon for this day, which are taken from Philippians 4:4,5: “Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Let us rejoice in the Lord always”).

Yet despite this exhortation all too many of us do not experience joy. I read somewhere that one of the purposes of purgatory is to prepare us to enjoy heaven. Most of us seem to have a limited capacity for joy. So, when we die we need to be cleansed of whatever hinders us from truly enjoying the everlasting joy of heaven.

Blessed Julian of Norwich once wrote: The greatest joy we can give Almighty God, Is to live life joyfully. The late Fr. Bernard Haring, one of the great Vatican II theologians once said: “The spirit of joy is an infallible sign that one is a Christian.” The worst advertisement for Christianity is a gloomy pessimistic face. The philosopher, Nietzsche, once said: If you Christians want me to believe in your redeemer, you will have to look more redeemed.”

This has always been a challenge for me. In my vocation as a priest it is important that I be social, but I am naturally very introverted. So I often have this very pensive, stern look on my face as my mind is trying to process things. My childhood nickname was “Happy”. When Sister Ann Williams, my eighth grade teacher, heard the other students calling me Happy she said to me, “If you are Happy, you ought to notify your face.”

As Christians, our joy is not primarily rooted in the money or possessions we have or the job that we may love or having a great family. The sad reality of human existence is that any or all of these could be taken away in the twinkling of an eye. So when our joy is dependent on stuff outside of us, it rests on shaky ground.

As followers of Christ, our joy must be rooted in the belief and hopefully the felt experience that God loves us unconditionally and that Christ, through his resurrection has defeated suffering, evil and death. We will experience suffering, evil and death in this life but they do not have the last word. In the end if we are connected to Christ, we will defeat all the enemies of life and enter into the joy of the Lord.

There is so much that can rob us of joy. The stress of trying to have the perfect Christmas can quickly rob us of joy. Joy will always elude us if we are trying to be perfectionist and do not accept our own limits and the limitations of the world in general. For example, in a perfect world everyone would get the perfect seat for the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, but that simply isn't the reality. If you look at our advertisement for Christmas Masses in the Chronicle, you'll not find any mention of a 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. I don't think it makes any sense to rob people of their Christmas joy by inviting visitors to join us, if there is no room for them in the “Inn”.

So, in your plans to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord, think about what would be the most joyful Mass experience for your family. Yes, the 4:00 pm Mass does work well for many families. But in addition to the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, there will be 3 other Masses that night that you might consider. There will be Masses at 6:00 pm, 9:00 pm and 12:00 midnight. These Masses are well attended and have great music but normally at these Masses you don't have to get to Church an hour before hand in order to get to sit with the entire family. A growing trend, which I am happy to see, is that parishioners along with their family and guests are returning to the old tradition of participating in Mass on Christmas Day. Masses on Christmas Day are at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. These Masses are not overcrowded and they are still wonderful liturgies.

But if you absolutely must make the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve because of family commitments, please try to get there early as a family. Trying to save seats is frowned upon and we don't like to see people getting ugly on Christmas. The last few years the Church has been almost full at 3:30 pm and when it is full we begin the Mass even if it isn't quite four o'clock. Do not be surprised if you show up at 4:00 pm and are not able to get in the door. Crowds can cause a certain amount of stress but if you bring the joy of Christmas with you, all will be well and we'll have a beautiful celebration of the Lord's birth.

At my Masses on Christmas, I always like to have a boy and girl, dressed as Mary and Joseph carry the Christ child up in procession so we can lay him in the manger. If you are planning to be at the 4:00 pm or 6:00 pm Vigil Masses and have a child that would like to help me, please give the Parish Office a call. Finally, even though joy is not rooted in money, year-end contributions and your wonderful generosity to the parish offertory can go a long, long way in relieving some of the stress I experience with our finances. I am most grateful for your generosity to your Faith Community at Christmas.

And on this Gaudete Sunday, I hope you will rejoice with me that Father Lou Lindsey is celebrating his first Sunday Mass as a Catholic priest at the 12:15 Mass today. What a great joy for him and for the Church!!

On the Way Home: On this Gaudete Sunday what about your Catholic faith gives you joy? How do you experience that the Lord is near?

PRAYER REQUESTS

December 15, 2013



REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: John Cashin, brother of Carolyn Cashin, Lucille Cashin & Henry Cashin; William Peterson, father of Chris McMahon. Our prayers are with these families during this difficult time.

PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Alice Bazemore	Elizabeth Cook	Pia Hagler	Connie Lundy	Wanda Roper	Joyce Stigall
Mary Beier	Ida Damiano	Arlene Hally	Magnotta Family	Emmaline Rice Routon	Elbert Surritte
Shirley Bernhard	Marianna Daskal	Henry Hamilton	Tony Maniquis	Dr. P. J. Stager	Michael Sweeney
John Brennan	Rafael Delgado	Jean Hill	John Mattman	Tiffany Salmons	Angela Temple
Nancy Brigham	Ellie D'Souza	James Hutto	Beth Mazurek	Kirsten Sanders	Kathleen Toland
Marty Brusnahan	Wendy Dutch	Jackie Jackson	Robert McCampbell	Dan Scherer	Rosie Walling
Tom Brusnahan	John Easley	Mary Jackson	Myrna Montalvo	Edwina Schexnayder	Eva Cruz Wheeler
Caroline Chamberlain	Wayne Enroughty	Barbara Kerbelis	Dr. Bill Neumann	Paul H. Seigler, III	Lindsey Williams
Shane Claber	Leonard Fiedorczyk	Mary Alice King	Kellie Ohlinger	Judy Seniuk	Cason Wright
Cameron Clark	George Greene	Robert Kozel	Mike Paul	Smallwood Family	Baby Reagan Wyatt
Joyce Coleman	Hugh Greene	Laurie Landrum	Doris Andreni Portka	Julia K. Smith	Mildred Zeller
Charlotte Conlin	Theresa Griffin	Christy Luckey	Benny Price	E. B. Steward	
James Conner	Mike Hagler	Sr. Linda Marie Lully	Peter Redmond	Robert Stewart	

Please remember to call the church office if you or a family member can be removed from this prayer list.

PRAY FOR THE MILITARY

CPT Thomas M. Beier - Afghanistan	COL Steve Eveker - Afghanistan	Jimmy McArthur - USA	CPT Andrew Rupp - Tikrit
CPT (SEL) Nicolais Chighizola - Iraq	LT Col Michael Gill - Iraq	SSGT Jared McMahan	CPT Jennifer L. Rupp - Baghdad
CPT (SEL) Laura Lammert Chighizola	DCFN Kristen Jacobson	SGT William Morgan - Afghanistan	Jacob Watson - Afghanistan
COL Thomas D. Crimmins - Saudi Arabia	E6 Jason Jones - Afghanistan	SPC Peter Muir - Korea	
SPC Sean Domzalski - Afghanistan	LT Kelly Lammert - Ramstein	CPL Philip Andrew Rast - Iraq	

Please remember in your prayers our parish family and friends, and those involved in the war on terrorism. If you have a loved one in need of prayers, please call the Parish Office (706-733-6627). Names of the sick will be listed for two weeks unless we are informed otherwise.

PRAY FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

McKenzie Dicks Carter	Caty Fealko	Andi Kimbrough	Jane Grady Pollock	Rebecca Trussell
Leah Duke Evans	Amy Trussell Heit	Morgan Krulisky	Brittany Shaffer Rose	Maggie Douglas Williams

Please pray for our expectant mothers and their babies. If you are a member of St. Mary's and expecting a baby, please call the Parish Office to add your name to the Elizabeth Ministry list.

Intercessory Prayer Team at St. Mary on the Hill is ready and willing to pray for the needs of our fellow parishioners. If you or someone you love has a prayer request, please call or send an email. This powerful team of more than 65 members can lift you and your needs in prayer. Contact Mary-Garner Merz 706-736-0998 or e-mail mgmerz123@knology.net.

STEWARDSHIP

PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

	Week of 12/1/2013	FY13 Year to Date	FY12 Year to Date
Contributions	\$ 82,270	\$ 1,679,382	\$ 1,625,719
Children's	\$ 85	\$ 1,406	\$ -
Stock/Other	\$ 39,991	\$ 66,312	\$ 62,209
Total	\$ 122,346	\$ 1,747,100	\$ 1,687,928
Budget	\$ 77,250	\$ 1,776,750	\$ 1,776,750
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 45,096	\$ (29,650)	\$ (88,822)
Memorials/Donations	\$ -	\$ 2,180	\$ 3,730
Southern Cross	\$ -	\$ 5,493	\$ 6,230
Philippines	\$ 5,387	\$ 7,276	\$ -
Religious Retirement	\$ 588	\$ 588	\$ 1,180
Other Special Collections	\$ -	\$ 10,459	\$ 11,709

778 (8 thru the website) of 2452 families and 53 children donated the week of November 24, 2013.

2013 CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember to have your 2013 yearly contributions in before December 31, 2013.

Contributions received after January 1, 2014 will be dated as such.

If you have any questions, concerning your pledge for 2013, please call the Parish Office before the end of the year, 706-733-6627.

DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD

We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't returned your Commitment Card, you still can mail it to the parish. You'll soon receive an extra card in the mail. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of St. Mary's. Please take this opportunity to express your support for our parish with your time, talent, and treasure!

OTHER ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, December 16 St. Teresa of Avila 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24, 2013

4:00 pm * + Contemporary Choir
6:00 pm Family Liturgy
9:00 pm Brass with Parish Choir
12:00 Midnight Brass with Congregational Singing

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25, 2013

9:00 am + Congregational Singing
11:00 am Congregational Singing
3:00 pm Vietnamese Mass

*Nursery Available + Incense Free

**Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation**

Vigil - Tuesday, December 31, 2013

6:00 pm

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

9:00 am and 11:00 am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This Sunday, December 15, we will celebrate the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 10:30 am Mass. This is for children in **kindergarten, first or second grades** who have not celebrated their First Communion. The children will begin the 10:30 am Mass with their parents and then will be dismissed and taken to the Parish Hall for their own age appropriate Liturgy of the Word. They will rejoin their parents in the Church for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact Tiffany Salmons at 762-218-5904 or themobilementor@gmail.com.

FAITH FORMATION

BAPTISMS Baptism Preparation Classes typically are scheduled for the first Sunday of the month.

The next **Baptism Preparation Class** is **Sunday, January 5 at 1:30 pm in the Parish Hall.** Please call the office to register for classes, 706-733-6627.

Baptisms normally will be held the third weekend of the month at the 5:00 pm and 12:15 pm Masses. Please call the office to register.

GOLDEN & SILVER WEDDING

ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATION 2014

Couples celebrating Wedding Anniversaries of Silver (25 years) who were married in 1989 or Golden (50 years) who were married in 1964, are invited to Mass at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Savannah on **Sunday, February 9, 2014** at 11:30 am. A reception follows the Mass. **Please register at St. Marys Parish Office by Friday, December 20, 2013.** Family and friends are invited.

ATTENTION EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Sign-up sheet for the Christmas Masses is in the Grotto Room. Help is needed at all six Masses. Please sign up for a Mass at your earliest convenience. Please remember to check in when serving at the Mass of your choosing.

PERPETUAL ADORATION - ADORERS NEEDED!

11:55 pm - 1:00 am	Sunday, Saturday
1:00 - 2:00 am	Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday
2:00 - 3:00 am	Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, FRIDAY , Saturday
3:00 - 4:00 am	MONDAY , Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
4:00 - 5:00 am	Sunday, Wednesday -- once month on rotation basis
5:00 - 6:00 am	Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
6:00 - 7:00 am	Wednesday
7:00 - 8:00 am	Tuesday
9:00 - 10:00 am	Sunday, Saturday
10:00 - 11:00 am	Saturday
11:00 - 12:00 noon	Sunday, Thursday
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm	Tuesday, Thursday
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Monday, Thursday, Saturday
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Sunday, Friday, Saturday
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Friday
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Thursday, Saturday
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Wednesday, Saturday
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Wednesday, Saturday
9:00 - 10:00 pm	Friday, Sunday
10:00 - 11:00 pm	Friday, Saturday
11:00 pm - midnight	Saturday

WE HAVE NO ONE:

2:00 - 3:00 am Friday
3:00 - 4:00 am Monday

BIG NEED FOR A PARTNER:

4:00 - 5:00 am Wednesday once a month, need two

Perpetual Adoration needs a strong boost in adorers. Please prayerfully consider adding an hour of adoration to your week. Call Paul or Mary Ellen Zielinski 706-228-5115 to sign on and begin enjoying a life filled with more blessings and peace. God truly does give back abundantly to those who spend time with Him.

WEDDING BANNS

Venus Morris

St. Mary on the Hill, Augusta, GA

and

Louie Hanneh "Hank" Griffin,

Augusta, GA



ENGAGED COUPLES

*Mandatory Marriage
Preparation Retreat*

The next Engaged Couples weekend will be at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church on **January 17 & 18.** This certification is required to get married in the Catholic Church.

Advance registration is required to attend. Please remember that this certification is mandatory. For more information or registration, call the Parish Office at (706) 733-6627.

FAMILY PLANNING

Are you looking for a natural and reliable method of family planning? Interested in learning more about effectively avoiding or achieving a pregnancy or just learning more about your reproductive health? If so, contact us at fertilitycareaugusta@gmail.com for more information about Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System and NaProTechnology.

RETROUVAILLE ("RE-TRO-VI") A LIFE LINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

*Without attention and care, marriages wither and eventually die.
Is your marriage tearing the two of you apart? Have thoughts or words of separation or divorce entered your life? Has it been too long since you have known the joy of a loving relationship?*

Retrouvaille has been helping couples rebuild a loving relationship since 1977.

Our next Retrouvaille Weekend will be February 7-9, 2014 in an Augusta Hotel.
For additional information or to register call (800) 470-2230. More info at www.retouvaille.org.
Space limited. Register early.

COMMUNITY

SENIOR CENTER

SEQUENCE

Monday December 16 10:30 am
Join us for this easy board/card game.
We'll teach you how to play.

WEDNESDAY BRIDGE

December 18

Bring a covered dish to share.
Play your usual game of bridge & stay for the party.
If you'd like, you may bring a "staple" for CSS. Some suggestions are socks, stocking cap, blankets, tooth paste, tooth brush, deodorant, shampoo, etc.

\$\$\$ BINGO \$\$\$

Thursday December 19 10:30 am

TUESDAY'S MUSIC LIVE

If you want to go on **January 7**,
I MUST collect \$10 before December 18.

NO AEROBICS CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S WEEKS.

**Senior Center Calendar for
January is available in the Narthex.**

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The bulletin deadlines for the following bulletins are:

December 29, 2013 bulletin is
noon on Tuesday, December 17, 2013

January 5, 2014 bulletin is
noon on Friday, December 20, 2013.

Information may be sent to the church office via mail, fax,
or email at smbulletin@knology.net.



ADVENT CANDLES

Advent candles are available at the church
office for \$5.00 (set of four).

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members
to our Parish Community:

Anthony Wagner and Lisa Ruggiero-Wagner

Kaden and Lindsay Jacobs

Sam and Allison Hardy

Wuil and Ji Kim, Daniel and Nathan

Gage and Neisha Smith, Adylene Knighton and Maximus Smith

Maher and Hania Naber, Sam and Cassidy

COLLEGE VISITATION

This is a very simple program in which the priests of the parish visit college towns in the region and take our parishioners who are studying there out for a decent meal. It is a good meal at a good restaurant with no strings or tough questions attached. What is not to like? Dinner is usually fairly early (6:30 pm normally) so it doesn't interfere with either studies or extra-curricular activities. It is simply a chance for the priests of the parish to say, "Hey, we haven't forgotten you."

Please pass this information onto your son or daughter who is away at school. If you are attending college and would enjoy a free meal with one of your parish priests when they come to Milledgeville, Atlanta, Statesboro, Columbia, Clemson, or Macon, please call the parish office and leave your name and cell phone number.

NURSERY

**The nursery is available on the weekends during the
10:30 am and the 12:15 pm Sunday Masses.**

It is open to children from 6 months to 4 years of age. We ask that if you use the nursery that you volunteer once every 6 weeks. Call for more information at 706-262-2659 and ask for Gina Crow or email gina.crow@knology.net.

Abuse Hotline Number: To report sexual abuse of a minor by a Diocese of Savannah employee or volunteer, call the abuse hotline number at 888-357-5330 or the Office for the Protection of Children and Young people, 912-201-4073/4. To read the diocesan policy on sexual abuse of minors, go to www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection.

NOTES FROM THE PARISH OFFICE

- The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Friday, December 27, 2013 for Christmas. For New Year's, the Parish Office will close at noon on Tuesday, December 30, 2013 and will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2014.
- If you are new to the parish, please call, 706-733-6627, or stop by the church office. It only takes a minute to register and we would love to hear from you. Registration forms are also online at stmaryonthehill.org/registration.htm
- If you are going to move, have a change of address or change your phone number, please contact the parish office. You can help save us return postage.
- If you have an emergency and need a priest after hours, please remember that the emergency phone number is on the front cover of the bulletin.
- When you reach the age of 18 and/or are no longer a dependent of your parents, you should register with the parish. If you are asked to be a sponsor or godparent, then the parish will be able to issue a certificate that you are an active, registered member of the parish.
- If you have a loved one on the prayer list, please call the office when their name can be removed.

MAKE 2014 THE BEST YEAR YET - NOW!!



No more watching and waiting - Send in your form, and check or credit card information to GRACE NOW and they will do the rest for you in January 2014.

ALSO... ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS... if you are a S Corporation, LLC or Partnership, you can now claim a tax credit of up to \$10,000!

Please call Mary Davis in the Church Office for assistance, 706-733-6627.

FAITHFUL READERS BOOK CLUB

Our current book selection is *7: An Experimental Mutiny Against Excess* by Jen Hatmaker. From barnesandnoble.com: 7 is the true story of how Jen (along with her husband and her children to varying degrees) took seven months, identified seven areas of excess, and made seven simple choices to fight back against the modern-day diseases of greed, materialism, and overindulgence. This may be a great read as we head into the Christmas season! For more information contact Jodie Silva at 706-364-3533 or jodiesilva@gmail.com.

SCHOOL NEWS

This week at St. Mary School:

- Students in grades 4 - 8 will have semester exams throughout this week to test their mid-year progress.
- On Monday our basketball teams will play in our gym versus both Curtis Baptist and St. Mary School, Aiken.
- On Tuesday afternoon the School Commission will meet at 5:00 pm.
- On Thursday evening our Jr. High students will celebrate the Advent Season (and the end to their exams) with a dance from 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the school cafeteria.
- Friday marks the end of the 2nd quarter. **School dismisses at 11:50 am Friday** and Christmas Break begins. Classes will resume on January 6th.

ELIJAH CUP AT THE 6:00 PM MASS

The Elijah Cup program is a ministry to foster and support priestly and religious vocations. The Elijah Cup is a chalice that is presented to a family, couple, or individual each Sunday at the offering of the gifts. The chalice is taken home and used as a focal point while praying for our current and future priests, deacons, and sisters. The chalice is returned the following Sunday. **The Elijah Cup will be at the 6:00 pm Mass now until December 29.**

Sign up in the Narthex or contact Miriam Cortez-Cooper at (706) 414-8007 or by email: mcortezcooper@gmail.com.

SERVICE

THE ANGEL TREE IS BACK!



A favorite Advent tradition has returned to St. Mary on the Hill. Please visit the Angel Tree in the Narthex where you can select an angel ornament and envelope. Donations and prayers are requested for our Saints Overseas Ministry. Through this ministry our parish family has "adopted" St. Justin's Catholic School in Goala, Ethiopia. This school serves children who are orphaned, or soon will be, due to the AIDS epidemic. It is run by the Religious Teachers Filippini. We hope to establish a friendship with these young children in great need of love and assistance. A small donation goes such a long way in Ethiopia! Please keep the angel as a reminder to pray for the children and if you wish, return the envelope with a donation to the offertory collection. We will update you after the holidays on how the children are doing and how the money will be used to help with their needs. For further information contact Katie Conner at (706) 737-2182.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE

As we prepare to remember and celebrate the gift of Christ's Coming among us and Christ's saving presence with us, please put Catholic Social Services on your Christmas List. Whatever gift you give will be gratefully received and will help a struggling individual/family to know Christ's love, His loving providence, and His saving presence anew this Christmas.

Mail your donation to
Catholic Social Services,
811 12th Street,
Augusta, GA 30901

Thank You!!

YOUTH EVENTS

December Calendar:

Wednesday (18th) – No HS Girls/Guys Group
 – No MS Youth Night
 Thursday (19th) – Youth Holy Hour

High School Youth Nights & Small Groups

- Typically Wednesday Nights in the Youth Center (corner of Arsenal & Central Ave.)
 6:30 - 7:30 pm - Girl's Small Groups;
 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Girls & Guys - Eat, Play, Hang;
 8:30 - 9:30 pm - Guy's Small Groups

Nursing Home Visit - St. Mary's Youth will start visiting a nursing home every first Saturday (Next one - January 4th) of the month from 10:00 - 11:00 am. Please contact Michael for more info. 706 394-6447

Master's Table Soup Kitchen -

Usually every Second Sunday (January 12). Come Serve at the Master's Table Soup Kitchen (behind the Civic Center). To serve, please email Belinda at belwat630@comcast.net Call Michael for more info. 706-394-6447.

Words for the Week

"An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!" ~ Pope Francis

EVOLVE

National March For Life (For High School) - January 20 - 23, 2014

Location: Washington, DC; we will be staying at host parish- to be announced.

Activities Include: Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine, Youth Rally @ Verizon Center, Holocaust Museum and the National Mall, National March for Life

Get the sign-up sheet/waiver on St. Mary's website

Call Michael Lammers c- 706-394-6447
 or JoAnna Watwood 706 284-6504

Middle School Youth Night

Middle School Youth Night will be on the following Wednesdays:

January – 8, 29 February – 5, 19 March – 19

April – 2, 23 May - 7

Where: SMCS Gym

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm Fun & Prayer! 7:30 - 8:00 Food!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

We meet Thursday nights at 7:30 pm
 at 2561 Central Ave. in Augusta.

Email us at AugustaYAM@gmail.com

YOUNG ADULT ADORATION HOUR -

We are covering the adoration chapel every Sunday, 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

Come to pray and be with Jesus!

Augusta Y.A.M. is a Catholic ministry that seeks to bring all Christians 18-35 into contact with Christ and His Church through events, fellowship, speakers, and ministries in the Augusta area. We offer opportunities for young adults to meet others with similar values, make new friends, have fun, and grow in faith. Y.A.M. is affiliated with the Diocese of Savannah and is supported by the parishes of the Augusta deanery.

MOVIE RATINGS

The following movies have been evaluated by the Catholic News Service according to artistic merit and moral suitability. The reviews include the CNS rating and the Motion Picture Association of America rating. (see website www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm).

12 Years a Slave — L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling (R)
About Time — L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling (R)
The Best Man Holiday — O — morally offensive (R)
Black Nativity — A-II — adults and adolescents (PG)
The Counselor — O — morally offensive (R)
Delivery Man — L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling (PG-13)
Ender's Game — A-II — adults and adolescents (PG-13)
Free Birds — A-I — general patronage
Frozen — A-I — general patronage

Homefront — L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling (R)
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire — A-III — adults. (PG-13)
Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa — O — morally offensive (R)
Last Vegas — A-III — adults. (PG-13)
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom — A-III — adults. (PG-13)
Out of the Furnace — L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling (R)
Philomena — L — limited adult audiences, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling (PG-13)
Thor: The Dark World — A-III — adults. (PG-13)

PRO-LIFE

WEEKLY: Every Saturday Morning, 9:00

AM through 12:00 noon- At a Preferred Health Center, 2903 Professional Parkway, the West Augusta abortion clinic, for prayer and silent witness. Please contact George Vozniak at 726-1269 or Charleen Luther at 706-731-5904.

Every Wednesday 6:30 - 8:00 am, Prayer at Planned Parenthood.
Every Saturday Morning, 10:00 am Mass at Most Holy Trinity (prayer for pro-life issues and anyone touched by abortion).

MONTHLY: First Tuesday of each month - Pro-Life Rosary and Prayer - 11:30 am in front of Planned Parenthood, followed

by Mass at the Most Holy Trinity at 12:15 pm.

First Saturday of each month - Mass at Saint Mary on the Hill, 9:15 am, followed by a Pro-Life Rosary at Preferred Health Center (approximately 10:15 am)

First and Third Fridays of each month - Crosswalk, a family pro-life gathering, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at Planned Parenthood. Please contact Gary Garner, at 706-793-8090.

Third Monday, 7:00 pm, Pro-Life Committee, Conference Room at St. Patrick's Hall, Most Holy Trinity. Contact Paul Rowan, 706-650-5825.

Free Pregnancy Care Services

<http://diosav.org/socialservices-respectlife>

Abortion Alternatives:

Birthright of Augusta:
 706-733-LOVE;

Birthright National: 800-550-4900;
 Augusta Care Pregnancy Center:
 706-724-3733;

Care Net/Heartbeat Hotline:
 800-395-HELP.

Post Abortion Alternatives:

Rachel's Vineyard: 877-HOPE-4-ME.

AROUND THE DEANERY, DIOCESE, & THE AREA

MEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

December 20 - 21, 2013
Holy Spirit Church, Macon

Advent retreat for single men, 18 and up, to spend a Friday evening and Saturday open to God's grace. For more information visit SavannahPriest.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Under the Tuscan Moon
Aquinas Auction
Saturday, January 25, 2014 at 6:00 pm
Aquinas Grand Dining Hall
Tickets \$50
Silent & Live auction including fabulous trips, jewelry, golf memorabilia and more!

LOOKING FOR A SIGN FROM GOD?

This might be it. Attend the "Beloved of God Women's Retreat".
Sponsored by the Savannah Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Location: Sacred Heart Catholic Church
300 South Davis Drive, Warner Robins, GA
February 7 and 8, 2014
CONTACT: E. Willingham, SDCCW
Spirituality Commission Chair:
706-737-8616 evenings or
settingfoundations@gmail.com
Make checks payable to Savannah Diocesan Council of Catholic Women or SDCCW.
FOR: Beloved of God Retreat Include contact information. Mail to: 2225 Woodbluff Way Augusta, GA 30909

ATTEND ONE OR BOTH SESSIONS:
Friday Evening~ 6:00 – 8:30 pm Bring a memento of one significant woman in your life. Hotel accommodations may be needed for Friday. Note: *(Dinner Friday & Saturday breakfast on your own) Saturday: Main Session~ 8:30 am to 3:00 pm Lunch provided. Suggested donation for costs: \$15.00

SAVE THE DATE
LAOH/AOH presents
An Evening in Ireland
March 1, 2014

THE "NEW" ART OF BEING CHURCH, COMMUNITY & YOU

The new buzzword we are hearing is the "New Evangelization". This is synonymous with mission, requiring the capacity to set out anew, go beyond boundaries and broaden horizons. This is what we hope to do during our short time together:

- Challenge our status quo mentality and truly learn, love and live community life
- Learn some practical steps to engage in renewal
- Learn how to evaluate programs and activities in the light of their missionary character

Two opportunities!

Friday, January 17 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Presented in English
Focuses on Clergy and Staff

**Saturday, January 18,
9:30 am to 3:30 pm**
Presented in Spanish and open to everyone

Place: Sacred Heart Church
251 S. Davis Drive,
Warner Robins, GA 31088
Cost: \$10 includes lunch

Register online by January 13 at <http://diosav.org/oyyan-intercultural-awareness>

CELEBRATE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME JOURNEY TO ROME

April 27, 2014 - May 5, 2014

The Catholic Community of South Georgia and the Diocese of Savannah invite you to join a 10 day pilgrimage to witness the Canonization of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II. Fr. Doug Clark will lead you from the Vatican to the Shrines of Italy, the resting place of Padre Pio, The Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano, and The Holy House in Loreto. We will also celebrate mass in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Cost is \$3899.00 from Atlanta and includes airfare, accommodations, all airport taxes and fees, two meals daily, wine and mineral water with dinner. Call Yaritza or Sandra at 1-800-206-8687. For brochures or registration forms go to: www.pilgrimages.com/ccsg.

SAVE THE DATE!

The 10th Annual Ray Meneghello Ciao, Bella! Dance is coming up on **Saturday, January 25, 2014**. Make your plans now to enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing in the St. Mary's Parish Hall for only \$40 per couple. More information will be coming soon, but if you want to make reservations early, call Rich Dimenna at 706-855-5610 or send an email to: richdimenna@gmail.com

**NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IS
THE ULTIMATE MAKEOVER**
Join the Council of Catholic Women and get a "faith lift".
Contact your local CCW officers.
MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN.
ADCCW President,
settingfoundations@gmail.com

AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL PLACEMENT TEST

Tests are administered at Aquinas with a \$20 fee payable at the time of the test.

February 1, 2014 8:30 - 11:30 am

For more information, call 706-736-5516 or visit www.aquinashigh.org

TRINITY HOSPICE

Trinity Hospice is looking for motivated volunteers wanting to have a positive impact in their community. We offer support systems including patient care and administrative support. We also provide educational workshops to help our volunteers enhance their understanding of the complex needs of the dying and bereaved. Our hospice team is available 24/7 for continual support so our volunteers, patients, and families never feel alone.

Please come join the Trinity Hospice tradition of providing compassionate, high-quality care to patients and families in the CSRA for more than 30 years. We believe in our motto that patients can "live longer with loving care".

Contact our volunteer coordinator direct at (706) 729-6200 or brittani.wetherington@trinityofaugusta.com for more information.