

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Finding Holiness Through Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

As I prepare and look forward to this Easter, it has occurred to me that last Easter was the first for our Holy Father Francis as our Pope. You may recall that he was elected on March 13 and inaugurated on March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph. Traditionally the Pope, after he has celebrated Mass on Easter Sunday, goes to the balcony in St. Peter overlooking the plaza below, and delivers what is known as his "*Urbi et Orbi*" message followed by a blessing of all. Thus, only 12 days after officially becoming pope, Francis stood on the balcony to speak to us.

"*Urbi et Orbi*" means "for the city and the world." The significance of that is for us to realize this message is for the people of Rome, but also for the entire Catholic world, including each of us. The impact of Pope Francis is obvious to many of us, but we need to remember this happy and holy man standing on that balcony last year and beginning his discourse proclaiming, "Happy Easter! Happy Easter! I would like Easter to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good

News: Jesus is risen; there is hope for you; you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil. Love has triumphed; mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs."

Pope Francis has shown us through the love he has spread and the holiness he has represented what it means to be a good steward. For many years, the Easter Sunday Mass was done inside St. Peter Basilica and then the pope processed to the balcony for the *Urbi et Orbi* proclamation. Pope Francis opted for an open-air Easter Mass; however, so rather than the few thousand who might attend inside, it would be possible for literally one hundred thousand or more outside. He wore simple plain white, unadorned vestments. He celebrated alone, without the scores of Cardinals normally with him. And, after the Mass, he moved through the crowd in an open Popemobile without protection or bullet-proof glass, pausing frequently to shake hands, embrace people, and make direct contact with them.

Are we not called to that same kind of simplicity and that same

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Mass Schedule

Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Friday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m.,
5:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Chapel is located at the corner of
Monte Sano and Bellevue.

Palm Sunday

Will You Carry Christ on the Journey?

As we continue our Lenten journey this month, we celebrate Passion Sunday, also known as Palm Sunday, on April 13.

The readings will focus our attention on two major events in our salvation history. In our Palm Sunday reading, we hear of Christ's triumphant journey into Jerusalem where He is joyfully greeted by the crowds. People throw down palms and cloaks in His path as they shout "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mt. 21:9)

Yet Christ does not come with the splendor often surrounding royalty.

Christ chose to make his glorious entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem riding a donkey – Christ calls this humble animal into service on his bittersweet journey that by the week's end will lead to the cross on Calvary.

Likewise, Christ has chosen each of us to carry Him during our life on earth. Like the donkey, we often don't feel fit to carry out the work of the King of Kings. We often think our gifts are not good enough for the King or that they are not needed.

Nevertheless, He calls us and He eagerly waits for our response.

Christ's journey into the Holy City continues today. We are walking with Christ now and He asks us to humbly offer ourselves in service to Him. This journey with Christ will not always be easy. Remember how the shouts of approval greeting Christ on Palm Sunday are quickly replaced with jeering mockery on Good Friday.

As we each respond to Christ's call to serve the Church, we will likely experience times when our feeling of victory and triumph are replaced with sacrifices that sometimes seem too much to carry. But we must be steadfast in our response to Christ. We must be committed to carrying Him on our journey here on earth as we live out our lives as disciples.

Holy Thursday, April 17

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 p.m.
Adoration after Mass until night prayer at 11:45 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18

Stations of the Cross: 12:00 p.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 19

Easter Vigil: 8:00 p.m.

Easter Resurrection of the Lord, April 20

Sunday, April 20: Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
10:45 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Holy Week Schedule

A Journey to the Catholic Faith

Every Easter, we as a parish family are blessed with the addition of new members to the faith family. They are the candidates and catechumens of our St. Mary's RCIA process — in this year's group, there are 29 participants — and their journey to the Catholic faith enriches the faith of our whole parish. Gary Morgan is no exception — he is in the process of completing his formation to enter the Catholic Church and will receive the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday at St. Mary on the Hill.



Gary Morgan

Gary grew up in a military family. He has lived in Augusta for the past 11 years and considers it home. He serves as a correctional officer for the State of Georgia and works at the Augusta State Medical Prison.

"Growing up, I was never raised with Christ in the household and was led to make my own decisions regarding religion," Gary says. "We would occasionally say a prayer or two at family gatherings, but religion wasn't something we practiced."

Gary's quest towards faith in Christ began during his freshman year of college. He began to attend the non-denominational International Church of Christ and was baptized there on Easter of 2011.

Then, Gary began dating a girl who shared his interest in religion. They would often discuss and study church and religious topics.

"I had always wondered about the Catholic faith, especially since the group I worshipped with was very anti-Catholic."

Subsequently, Gary started to attend both Mass and services at his previous church.

"I realized that while my church was great when it came to the personal relationships, it really lacked the passion and praise found at the Mass," he says. "We attended church on Sunday and Wednesday, but both were essentially just Bible studies. I started to feel that while study is important, there should be more praise of the Lord in church."

From there, Gary's journey quickly began to move forward.

"As I started to attend Mass more, I also started to study Catholicism as I was encouraged to look for answers

as to why the Catholic faith was wrong," he says. "All I found were answers as to why the Catholic faith was right! At that point, I decided to tread the path back to the Apostles and to the traditions that Jesus established in the New Testament."

Reflecting on who has been his greatest influence in embracing the Catholic Church, Gary says, "I believe it was the Lord Himself. He made me who I am, and led me to believe what was in my heart. Once I started to follow that, I was led into the grace of the Church.

"The RCIA process is great," he continues. "It is awesome to see so many people seeking to learn about our faith and the lifestyle that Jesus laid out for us."

Currently, Gary is looking forward to the Easter Vigil. "What I most look forward to is that I will finally be in communion with the true Church and the true teachings of Christ," he says.

As a parish, we offer welcome and congratulations to Gary and all the new members of our Catholic family!

"As I started to attend Mass more, I also started to study Catholicism as I was encouraged to look for answers as to why the Catholic faith was wrong. All I found were answers as to why the Catholic faith was right! At that point, I decided to tread the path back to the Apostles and to the traditions that Jesus established in the New Testament." — Gary Morgan

“We’re a Family”

Welcoming New Parishioners to St. Mary on the Hill

Every Easter, we celebrate both the Resurrection of our Lord and the entrance of new members into our beloved Church. Yet, regardless of the liturgical season, new parishioners are welcomed at St. Mary on the Hill, our ever-growing parish, on a weekly basis.

Though we are all called to extend hospitality and create a welcoming environment, the Newcomers Welcoming Ministry exists to greet new parishioners and host fellowship gatherings throughout the year.

“Typically, because of the size of our parish, newcomers can feel overwhelmed and a little lost,” says Jennifer Shuford, a parishioner of St. Mary for more than 40 years and one of the new coordinators of the Newcomers Welcoming Ministry. “We just want

them to feel welcome at St. Mary’s.”

While a Newcomers Welcoming Ministry has existed at our parish for years, Bill and Jennifer Shuford and Matt and Melissa Johnson recently became co-leaders of this ministry and coordinated their first welcome reception.

This reception took place in February at the parish rectory on a Sunday afternoon. The ministry leaders and priests greeted new members and shared light refreshments. It was also an opportunity for the new members to find out more about our parish and the many ministries available to them.

“Melissa and I are just getting our feet wet, but the idea is to host meet and greet receptions throughout the year to welcome newcomers to our parish,” says Jennifer.



The Newcomers Welcoming Ministry Coordinators. (From left) Matt and Melissa Johnson and Jennifer and Bill Shuford.

“The ministry members would then follow up with an email or phone call to see if they have any questions or concerns. We’d also like to highlight our new parishioners at our annual parish picnic.”

These receptions and the relationships that spring from them will offer an opportunity to extend the hospitality of

the parish to new members, welcoming them and demonstrating the extension of the Body of Christ.

“People yearn for validation,” says Jennifer. “They need to know that they count, even among many. We want our new parishioners to feel like they are a part of our parish family.”

“Typically, because of the size of our parish, newcomers can feel overwhelmed and a little lost. We just want them to feel welcome.”

— Jennifer Shuford, coordinator

For more information about the Newcomers Welcoming Ministry, contact Jennifer Shuford at jennifershuford@bellsouth.net or Melissa Johnson at melissaj24@comcast.net.

Hospitality During Families' Critical Times of Need

Parish Ministry Provides Outreach at Chavis House

One of the things we Augustans take pride in is the top-notch medical facilities in our community which serve not only those from the southeast, but people from all over country. One such facility is the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital, the largest burn unit in the United States. And when the best medical services are combined with another point of pride — our Southern hospitality — something special emerges.

That is the case with the Jeffrey Vaden Chavis House, located on the campus of Doctors Hospital. Established by the non-profit Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation, the Chavis House serves as a guest house where burn patients' family members may stay free of charge while their loved one receives treatment. It can accommodate up to 40 people and provides a home-like environment near the Burn Center so that family members can participate in the care and support of their loved one undergoing treatment. In addition to the lodging offered at Chavis House, volunteers from area churches bring a meal each day for the guests to enjoy.

St. Mary on the Hill has recently begun participating in this worthy outreach. Parishioner Agnes Mirshak is coordinating the new ministry.

"As a parish, we will be responsible for providing a meal for the guests of Chavis House three times each year," Agnes says. "We have been asked to provide enough for 24 people. While the house has a microwave and a refrigerator, the meals should be fully cooked and ready to serve."

Agnes hopes to have enough volunteers from the parish to form a team of cooks who could divide up the responsibilities. For example, three people could prepare a main dish with eight servings, three others could do salads, and so on. So far, there is a wide age range of folks who have signed up to participate, and Agnes looks forward to getting to know them.

As Agnes points out, serving in this way provides a wonderful opportunity to live out stewardship.



"When I visited Chavis House for the first time, I was struck by how worn out and exhausted the guests looked. The strain of having a loved one in the Burn Center must be enormous. This is a way to reach out to guests of our community who are suffering and provide some comfort to them."

— Agnes Mirshak

"When I visited Chavis House for the first time, I was struck by how worn out and exhausted the guests looked," she says. "The strain of having a loved one in the Burn Center must be enormous. This is a way to reach out to guests of our community who are suffering and provide some comfort to them."

Agnes will deliver the meal to Chavis House and be available to visit with the guests and provide support. Volunteers must simply be willing to prepare a portion of the meal and bring it to Agnes so that it may be taken to the house.

When we work together as a parish — even in small ways — we can do so much to bring the love of Christ to those in need. If you would like to play a part in this loving outreach, please feel free to contact Agnes Mirshak by phone at 706-736-4772 or by e-mail at agmirshak@gmail.com.

Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII to be Canonized April 27

Recognizing the heroic virtue and unwavering faith of two 20th century popes, Blessed Pope John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII, Pope Francis announced in September that he would declare his two predecessors saints at a single ceremony on April 27.

“To celebrate them together is a sign of appreciation of the holiness of two popes who paid witness to our time,” the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said during a news conference.

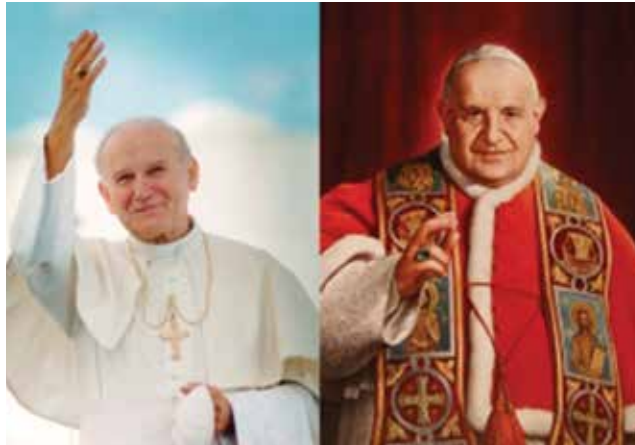
Blessed John Paul served as pope from 1978 to 2005 and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Mercy Sunday, May 1, 2011.

Blessed John XXIII, who is known particularly for convoking the Second Vatican Council, was pope from 1958 to 1963; Blessed John Paul beatified him in 2000.

The Catholic Church’s process leading to canonization involves three major steps. First is the declaration of a person’s heroic virtues, after which the church gives him or her the title Venerable. Second is beatification, after which he or she is called Blessed. The third step is canonization, or declaration of sainthood. Canonization is the culmination of a thorough process by which the Church investigates the life of the individual in question and seeks confirmation from heaven in the form of a verified miracle performed through the saint’s intercession.

This process often begins decades or even centuries after the saint’s death, but in the case of John Paul II, who died in the spring of 2005, this process has been a relatively quick one.

Born Karol Wojtyla in 1920 in rural Poland, John Paul II’s early life was one of successive hardships. He lost his mother, father and siblings at an early age. Left alone in the world, Wojtyla turned to his faith and developed a profound relationship with Christ during the Nazi regime at the time of World War II.



Ordained to the priesthood in 1946, John Paul II spent the next three decades as a priest and then as a bishop, ministering to the people of Poland who were under post-World War II Soviet rule. His experience of the oppression of the Polish people and the gross abuses of human dignity formed his unique philosophy and theology that went on to become the cornerstone of his papacy.

In 1978, at the height of the Cold War, the College of Cardinals elected Wojtyla as the first non-Italian pope in 455 years and the first Pole in the Church’s history.

John Paul II went on to become one of the most important figures of the 20th century, redefining the papacy in the mass media age and advancing the renewal of Vatican II. His travels around the world and his wildly popular World Youth Day events helped strengthen the unity of the global Catholic Church.

Blessed John XXIII was affectionately referred to as “Good Pope John.” Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli to a large and humble family of sharecroppers in 1881, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1904, and his efforts throughout the Holocaust during World War II would help save Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution. Roncalli was raised to the rank of Cardinal by Pope Pius XII in 1953. However, in October 1958, Pius XII would die suddenly from heart failure, and Roncalli would be elected pope.

John XXIII’s papacy was initially perceived as a “stop-gap,” due to his advanced age. Yet, John XXIII announced in 1959 his intention to call a general council — and in October 1962, the Second Vatican Council was opened. However, he would not live to witness the remaining periods of the Second Vatican Council, as he died from illness in June 1963.

Pope Francis took the rare step of waiving the requirement of a second miracle for Blessed John XXIII, paving the way for his imminent canonization.

Finding Holiness Through Stewardship

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loving approach to those around us through stewardship? Stewardship, sharing and using our gifts to glorify God, is an act of love. We often state that we are all called to holiness. The truth is that Jesus did not just call us to holiness; He commanded us. Stewardship and holiness are not an ideal; they are not impossible for us; they are within our reach, but we must make that effort to act. As we complete our Easter foundations, and as we rejoice together on this holiest of days, Easter, let us model our lives after Christ. Let us be stewards with love and thanksgiving.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

P.S. – I know many of you will be out of town for Masters Week, and I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable time. I pray that all will be refreshed and ready to celebrate Holy Week the week following Masters. These are the most important days of the year for us as Catholics. The three-day observance known as the Easter Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper Holy Thursday (April 17 at 7 p.m.). It continues through Good Friday (April 18 at 7 p.m.) with the celebration of the Passion of the Lord, and reaches its high point on Holy Saturday (April 19 at 8 p.m.) in the Easter Vigil. There is no better way to protect and nurture your faith than to take part in these celebrations. I pray that all parishioners will take seriously their obligation to participate in the liturgies of the Triduum. It just won't be the same without you. I look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter with you.

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22nd Annual Msgr. Costigan Golf Tournament Coming May 2

The 22nd Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan St. Mary on the Hill Golf Tournament is Friday, May 2, 2014 at Forest Hills Golf Course. We are proud to announce that this tournament has raised more than \$190,000 for the St. Mary School Endowment. Thank you to our school families, alumni, parish families, friends and corporate sponsors for making this tournament a huge success each year! Thanks to our 2014 Tournament Sponsors: Bullard Dental, Pollock Company, TaxSlayer.com, Taylor Hyundai, and Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors.

Send this form in if you are interested in being a part of the tournament:

_____ I would like to be a hole sponsor at the \$150 level. Please put the following on the sign:

_____ I would like to play in the tournament at \$125 a person.

Please make your check payable to St. Mary School and mail it to 1420 Monte Sano Ave., Augusta, GA 30909. Please call the church office at 706-733-6627 if you have any questions.

Baptisms

Osehobo Joshua Aluya
*Son of Aluya and Justina
Oseghale*

Angeline Lili Mendoza
*Daughter of Carlos and
Michielle Mendoza*

Evelyn Claire Fealko
*Daughter of Robert and Caitlin
Fealko*

George Samuel
Nicholson, Jr.
*Son of Sam and Anne Marie
Nicholson*