

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Giving the Gift of Faith to Our Children

Dear Parishioners,

N*emo Dat Quod Non Habet*. That is an ancient Latin phrase which, loosely translated, means, “No one gives what he doesn’t have.” It’s one of those truths that have universal application, but especially in matters of faith. I am excited about the Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth (SCF/SCY) Initiative that will be starting in the fall. I worry about a “lost” generation of Catholics whose faith formation was so lacking that they have no real lived experience of what it means to be Catholic. I am concerned for parents who send their children to our fine Catholic schools and Religious Education program without personally practicing the faith or instilling that practice in their children.

Every August when the kids come back to school, I see several faces that I didn’t see for most of the summer. Of course, many people go on vacations. But when vacation time is over, many of those faces still don’t darken the church doors!

Nemo Dat Quod Non Habet. As the Spiritual Leader of this Faith Community I feel so very blessed by the number of parents who get the meaning of that Latin phrase — who have a living faith to pass onto their children. Blessed are

those parents who know that children are more than “hungry mouths to feed” — they are hungry souls to feed, as well! Souls need concrete, regular virtuous practices in order to mature as human beings and children of God.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all the families of St. Mary on the Hill rose above the standard of our secular society by entering into a living relationship with the Trinity? For Catholics, this lifelong endeavor is built on the devout reception of Holy Communion and Reconciliation. Parents, the Church relies on you as the first and best teachers of your children to “see that the divine life bestowed on them is to be kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow ever stronger in their hearts” (*Rite of Baptism for Children*).

“You can’t give what you don’t have.” My hope in beginning the SCF/SCY Initiative is to form a partnership between the parish and our parents that provides a strong foundation to give the gift of faith to our children.

Children and young people know instinctually whether something is real or not. The faith of parents must be real. And if faith is to be real, it must be based on a relationship with Jesus Christ. How does one develop a relationship with

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.

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Keeping in Touch with the Holy Father: *There's an App for That!*

“If only everyone could experience the joy of being Christian, being loved by God who gave his Son for us!”

These parting words from Pope Benedict XVI weren't delivered during a homily in St. Peter's or in a speech from St. Peter's Square — nor were they written in a papal bull or apostolic letter. Rather, they were delivered in an instant to millions of Catholics around the world through the pope's very own Twitter account.

The technology of communication has perhaps changed more in the past century than in the previous 20 combined. And with these developments the Catholic Church — led by our Holy Fathers from Blessed John Paul II through Pope Francis — strongly encourages that the faithful adopt and adapt these resources for the all-important task of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Just as St. Paul used every convenience at his disposal to spread the Gospel throughout the far reaches of the Roman empire, today's evangelists are using every resource available to them. Examples of Catholic figures using the new media with great success abound.

Only a few months into his pontificate, Pope Francis has taken the Vatican's social media efforts to a whole new level. Earlier this spring, the Vatican released The Pope App, which features a live webcam from the Vatican, along with quotes, news, images and videos of all the Holy Father's latest doings.

Following the pope's lead, bishops, priests and apologists are taking the technological gifts at their



fingertips and utilizing them to spread the Gospel throughout the world in a variety of ways.

One great example is Fr. Robert Barron of the Archdiocese of Chicago, whose Word On Fire Ministry has produced wildly popular YouTube videos discussing everything from controversial Church teachings to movie reviews from Catholic perspective. His website also includes articles, interviews and his weekly homilies. Word On Fire also recently released a critically acclaimed, monumental DVD documentary series simply titled *Catholicism*.

Independent Catholic bloggers and Web-based media are also well-established and provide their audiences and readership with Catholic news and cultural commentary.

Here in America, parishes, Catholic schools, dioceses and even the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are utilizing these tools as well, creating first-rate websites, maintaining Twitter and Facebook accounts, and more.

All of these resources are geared toward a wide variety of audiences, from the unchurched and fallen-away Catholics to active parishioners.

Being knowledgeable about the new media tools available to us as Catholics is a great way to be more effective in our universal call to evangelization. Take some time to see what media resources your parish, school and diocese are using, and be sure to pass them along to those in your sphere of influence!

Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth

For anyone who has ever been around a child, you are probably aware that children will mirror whatever it is that you are doing – whether that be repeating certain words, learning to throw the baseball, or mimicking certain behaviors of those adults around them. But this mirroring – the repetitious behavior on the part of the child – is never more important than when it comes to our Catholic faith. This is where a new ministry at St. Mary on the Hill – Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth – becomes such an important part of the life of Catholic parents.

This fall, Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth will kick off its inaugural year here at the parish. For Youth Minister Michael Lammers, co-coordinator of the ministry, this is a dream come true that was a long time in the making.

“For years, I have wanted to find a ministry that really provides parents with the tools and the resources to be the primary teachers of the Catholic faith for their children,” says Michael. “This program is exactly that.”

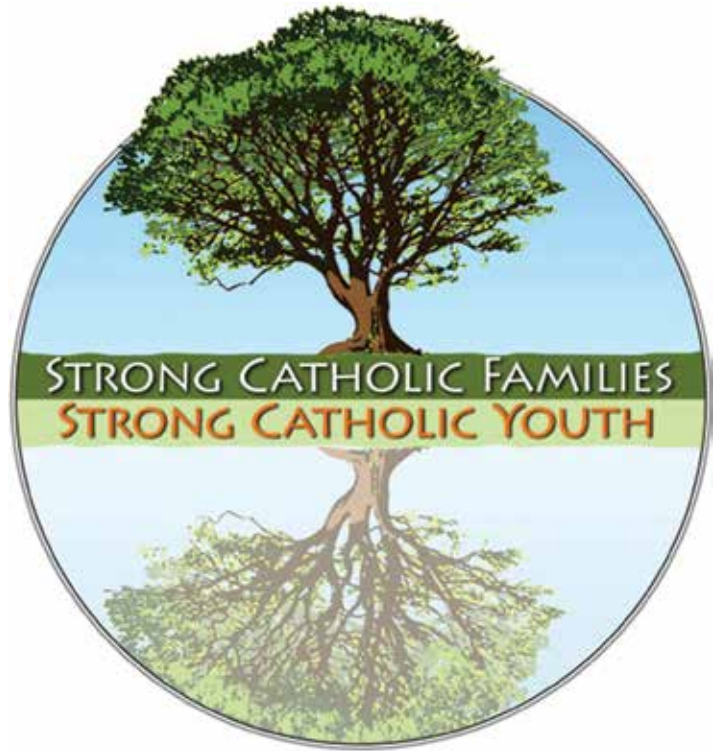
The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule” (CCC 2223).

Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth is a national ministry that is based upon solid research and has had amazing results in other parishes throughout the country.

This coming fall, the ministry – led by Michael Lammers and Joan Purucker – will host a Parent Night. During this meeting, participating families will be asked to take a Family Faith Inventory and to develop a Family Faith Plan – steps they can take as parents to put faith into action in their own homes.

But it doesn't stop there.

The ministry will then ask parents, “How can we help you, and what tools do you need?” Parents will have an opportunity to brainstorm and talk together about different ideas and needs they have concerning the faith formation of their children and what is needed from our Church community to support them in this task.



The ministry leadership team will then review these needs and create resources and opportunities to allow the parents to put faith into action and to witness the support of their faith community.

“It is about the daily infusion of our faith”, says Michael. “We want to get families more involved in the faith lives of their children, because that is the way it should be.”

While children also receive formation in other areas, this ministry strives to emphasize the primary and essential role that parents perform in forming their children's faith.

“It is the parent's job to teach the faith to their children, but nowadays this responsibility gets shifted to the Catholic Schools to educate them,” says Michael. “This ministry will help to really change that dynamic and support the parents as the primary faith educators of their children!”

If Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth sounds like a ministry that would benefit your family, please be sure to keep an eye on the bulletin for more information about the Parent's Night coming up this fall.

2013 High School Graduates

Name – High School attended – College

Jennifer Purucker <i>Greenbrier</i> Purdue University	John Christian Whyte <i>Aquinas</i> GRU	Isabel Hasting Brooks <i>Aquinas</i> Auburn	Josh Matzek <i>Aquinas</i> GRU
Jas Rempala <i>ARC/IB</i> Ohio State University	Tabatha Bowles <i>Westside</i> GCSU	Zachary David Cundey <i>Aquinas</i> GCSU	Jonathan Mysona <i>Aquinas</i> Clemson
Joseph Guy <i>Westside</i> undecided	Nicholas Novajosky <i>Aquinas</i> Clemson	Joseph Dallard Ardrey <i>ARC</i> UGA	Taylor P. McCutcheon <i>Augusta Prep</i> Sewanee, The University of the South
Pawel Kraj <i>Aquinas</i> Mercer University	Sarah Bowles <i>Lakeside</i> Georgia Tech	Will Doss <i>Aquinas</i> Young Harris College	Joseph Jackson, III <i>Davidson Fine Arts</i> Mercer
Stephen Joseph Angelo <i>Greenbrier</i> Florida Southern College	Nick Burwinkel <i>Aquinas</i> Clemson	Mary Grace Watwood <i>Aquinas</i> GRU	Kathryn Craw <i>Westside</i> UGA
Ivey Wright <i>Aquinas</i> GCSU	Kaitlyn Gilmore <i>Lakeside</i> UGA	Graham Donovan Klebba <i>Aquinas</i> GRU	

2013 College Graduates

Name – College attended – Degree

Joel Joseph <i>Emory University</i> Neuro Sciences & Economics	Ian T. Jesse <i>Appalachian State</i> BS in Psychology	Caroline Bowles <i>UGA</i> BS in Landscape Architecture
Matthew M. Angelo <i>Florida Southern College</i> Psychology	Kayla M. Barksdale <i>GCSU</i> Bachelor of Arts	Carolyn Turner <i>Kennesaw State</i> BSN in Nursing
Danielle N. Rosema <i>UGA</i> Chemistry	Katelyn M. Leszczynski <i>Georgia Southern</i> BS in Nursing	Joshua Mysona <i>Georgia Tech</i> BS Chemical Engineering
Martha Lenz <i>Texas A&M</i> Business	George W. Andrews, IV <i>Georgia Southern</i> BS in Biology/Minor in Chemistry	William J. Collins <i>UGA</i> BA in Political Science
Joe Campbell <i>GRU/ASU</i> Mgmt. Info Systems	McKenzie J. Dicks <i>GRU/ASU</i> BS in Nursing	Matthew Duncan <i>GRU/ASU</i> BA in Criminal Justice

Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education

This year marks a very special achievement for St. Mary's — 100 years of Catholic education in our community. This accomplishment is especially significant as it coincides with the Year of Faith.

"The pope declared that this year would be the Year of Faith," says John Scherer, chairman of the 100 Years Celebration Committee. "We've been using the last 100 years to teach the faith and keep the faith alive for all the students who have come through our schools — that's the cornerstone. Part of our way of keeping our faith alive and vibrant in our community has been through our Catholic schools."

The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet started Mount St. Joseph School here in Augusta in 1913. Since that time, Catholic education has been a major component in our parish's history.

On Oct. 19, there will be a special Mass of thanksgiving, followed by a reception at the school, to celebrate this momentous milestone. Bishop Emeritus J. Kevin Boland will be invited to this celebration, since his first assignment when he came to America in 1959 was to St. Mary's.

Part of the celebration will include a collection of memorabilia and artifacts from parishioners on display to remind people of their time in the history of Catholic education in our community.

Parishioners are also encouraged to help give the celebration a more personal quality, instead of focusing on the dry historical facts, simply by finishing the sentence, "I remember..." and sending it in to the church office. We are asking for "I remember..." comments from students, faculty, staff, and families involved with Mount St. Joseph, St. Mary's, CCD, and Aquinas.

"I would encourage parishioners to send those in so that we can personalize the history and make it so we look back — not just at things like when the school was built and who was where when, but the personal things about the history," John says. "What were people's times there like? What were some good things that happened, or some humorous things? What makes their time at St. Mary's so enriching for them? I think if people come up with a good number of thoughts like that, it will bring the history a little more alive than just talking about who did what when, or when another building was built."

"I remember..." entries may be mailed to the parish office to the attention of Martha Kearns, or emailed to martha.kearns@knology.net. Parishioners may also call John Scherer at 706-664-6879, or Sr. Laura Ann Grady at 706-667-8272 and submit their entries over the phone.



"We've been using the last 100 years to teach the faith and keep the faith alive for all the students who have come through our schools."

— John Scherer

The Assumption of Mary: *A Time to Celebrate!*

Can a pile of bones really be that exciting?

Every year, tens of thousands of pilgrims visit St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, eager to glimpse the spot in which the alleged bones of St. Peter, our first pope, remain to this day.

The relics of saints have been venerated throughout the ages in every corner of the world, yet the bones of the very first Christian, the Mystical Rose, are nowhere to be found. Where are the remains of the Queen of all Saints?

When it comes to the day, manner, or year of the Blessed Virgin Mary's death, nothing is certain. No account is given in Scripture. The Church turns instead to Tradition for an answer.

Since the birth of the Church, no Marian relics have ever been venerated nor can they ever be, because her body was *assumed*, or taken up, into heaven. There exist, therefore, no remains of the Blessed Virgin's body on this earth. She lives, right now, body and soul, in heavenly glory.

Although the particular dogma of the Assumption cannot be found in the writings of Scripture, if we look at many other writings by the early Christians, it is clear that the Church has always held this dogma to be true. Even more, though there is no statement of fact in the Bible itself that Mary was assumed body and soul, the truths that we do know about Mary from Scripture simply serve to back up the reality that she was assumed into heaven. She gave herself wholly to the Lord and followed His will for her life, perfectly, to the end.

The Assumption of Mary reveals that the promises of the Lord – including the resurrection of the body –



were fulfilled in Mary. She shared most intimately in the life, death, and resurrection of her son, and was free from original sin and its effects — including corruption of the body at death.

It was no surprise, therefore, in 1950 when Pope Pius XII declared infallibly the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a dogma of the Catholic faith with these words: “The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven.”

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is observed on the liturgical calendar as a solemnity — of higher importance than a feast. On August 15, this wonderful celebration is accompanied by great hope in the resurrection of the body and everlasting union with God in heaven.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI during his homily Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary in 2006: “Mary is ‘blessed’ because — totally, in body and soul forever — she became the Lord’s dwelling place. If this is true, Mary does not merely invite our admiration and veneration, but she guides us, shows us the way of life, shows us how we can become blessed, and how to find the path of happiness.”

Alongside Catholics throughout the country, be sure to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption on Aug. 15. This is a declared Holy Day of Obligation in the Church and a great liturgical feast. Mark your calendars!

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— Pope Benedict XVI

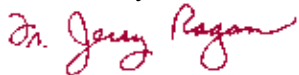
Giving the Gift of Faith *continued from front cover*

Christ? The good news is that Jesus is anxious to have a relationship with all of us, but He won't force it. We have to be open. And a good place to create such openness is in the home. Children are very visual and tactile. Creating a Catholic home environment is not an expensive project, but the overt presence of articles of faith in the home can teach children — and adults — about the importance of faith to the family without saying a word. Here are some questions to ask in order to create a faith environment:

- Does your home have a crucifix displayed prominently?
- Do you receive a Catholic newspaper or magazine?
- Is the Bible or other books of faith available?
- Are there candles that can be lit to set a mood for prayer?
- Are there pictures or statues of Jesus and Mary visible?
- Are there story books of the lives of saints available?
- Is there a holy water font in the home?
- Is Catholic or Christian music played in the home?
- Is there a place for prayer in the home?
- Are movies about faith on DVD shown in the home?

If I walked into your home, would I know immediately that it was a Catholic home? It always gives me great joy to be invited into the homes of the parish. I am blessed to be able to walk the journey of faith with so many good Catholic families. I pray that we will continue to encourage each other to live the faith in an everyday way so that we will have the gift of faith to pass on to the next generation.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

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Annual Golf Tournament

The 21st Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Golf Tournament was held on Friday, May 17, at Forest Hills Golf Club. There were 92 players who participated in this year's tournament, and more than \$17,000 was raised for the St. Mary School Endowment that helps meet the school's greatest needs.

Thank you to our tournament sponsors — Thomas Poteet and Son Funeral Directors, Rhodes Financial Services, The Pollock Company, St. Francis Animal Hospital, Bullard Dental and Taylor Hyundai — and to Brynwood Swim and Racquet Club for donating Tee Gifts for the tournament. We also extend thanks to our 45 hole sponsors, and to all who participated in the tournament and made it such a success!

Baptisms

Olivia Rose Tambon

Luke & Rachel Tambon

Jackson Thomas Sonnier

Daniel & Patricia Sonnier

Madelyn Taylor Rhodes

Jimmy & Kerry Rhodes

Nicholas Russell Mirshak

Brian & Valerie Mirshak

Elijah Alexander Singh

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