

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

We Should Embrace Opportunities to Grow in Faith as a Family

Dear Parishioners,

I've been fascinated by a new evangelization effort that I have experienced in our faith community – and it is an effort that also seems to be a growing reality in other parishes. It seems that in some families, faith practice has skipped a generation. But now, I notice teens and young adults who are on fire with the Faith. As teens experience Christ through youth service projects and conferences, they are sharing what they're learning with their parents. Teens and young adults who are looking to grow spiritually are now bringing their parents along for the ride.

Earlier this year, we had Michael Theisen with the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry come and talk with some of our parents who were interested in the Strong Catholic Families (SCF) initiative. He pointed out that since many parents stop receiving religious education at Confirmation, some feel they lack the knowledge or tools to pass on the Faith. But surveys show that, more than ever, young people yearn to have their parents rooted in the Faith. So, there is at times an evangelization from below, through which parents are discovering their own desire to become

more connected with the Faith as they see their children grow in a desire to grow closer to God. It is through the Strong Catholic Family initiative that parents can learn the grace-filled ways through which they can make the Faith come more alive in their families.

These are some of the suggested practices that the SFC initiative offers to grow the Faith in your family:

- **Make Meal Time Sacred** – Establish days of the week that are set aside as “family meal nights,” and ask that all family members commit to working their schedules around these sacred times. Use these meals to pray together and share joys, hopes, disappointments, and sorrows. Help bring to life the connection between your home table with the Lord's Table by celebrating the Eucharist together weekly.

- **Share Your Cross Moments** – “Cross moments” are a simple and meaningful way to focus on significant experiences during family meal nights or other family gatherings. Invite each person to share a time in the recent past – day, week, month – that their lives intersected or crossed with God. In other

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.

continued on page 7

LIVING ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL

Forming a Conscience and Moral Code

As Christians, it is important to recognize the difference between right and wrong – both morally and ethically. Sometimes, though, this line can become blurred.

Many situations we encounter in our lives include variables that can leave us internally conflicted and unsure of how to move forward, in accordance with God's will.

So how do we work through these moral conundrums? One way is to develop a solid Christian conscience.

A moral conscience exists in the heart of every individual. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking. Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed" (CCC, 1777, 1778).

Think of your conscience as the "angelic" version of yourself sitting on your shoulder, giving you sound advice.

While everyone is blessed with a conscience, each individual has a responsibility to develop this conscience from the time they are young. Parents obviously play an important role in developing their children's consciences. As the primary educators of their children on ethical issues and the Catholic faith, parents have a responsibility to teach virtue to their children and help

them to avoid fear, selfishness and pride. As we grow older, we take on the lifelong challenge of continually forming our own consciences, and establishing a moral code that enables us to make the proper judgments.

One valuable tool in forming a conscience is the practice of introspection. "It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience" (CCC 1779). In contemporary society, where there are so many distractions and routines, it is extremely important that we take the time to look inward and truly listen to what our inner voice is telling us.

Another way to ensure we are developing a good moral code is by conforming to the mind of Christ. God the Father gave us Christ, physically present on this earth and recorded in Sacred Scripture, as the ultimate example of what to do and how to behave according to God's will. As Bishop Donald W. Wuerl aptly states in *The Teaching of Christ*, "To conform to the mind of Christ is to conform to the mind of the Father" (p. 244). In other words, when we act in loving imitation of Christ, we are certain to make practical judgments of conscience.

The next time you are faced with a moral dilemma, take some quiet time to look inward, weigh the positive and negative outcomes, and listen to the voice of your conscience. Read the Gospels for examples of Christ's teaching. By making this a regular practice, you will find that the voice of your conscience will come in louder and more clearly than you may have initially expected.

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Sharing the Faith on the Air

St. Paul Catholic Radio

For the past two years, St. Paul Catholic Radio has been bringing God and the Catholic faith to the people of our community.

"This is Augusta's Catholic radio station," says John Prohaska, president of St. Paul Catholic Radio. "It's not my station. This is our community's radio station. I don't own it. We are doing it because we believe our faith is so beautiful, and this is an outstanding platform in which to share the beauty of our Catholic faith."

In January 2008, John was participating in a men's group that was focused on the encyclicals of the popes. In one of Pope John Paul II's encyclicals, he spoke about social media, TV and the radio as the new way to meet people where they are and bring Christ to them. After praying in the St. Mary on the Hill Adoration chapel one night, asking the Lord to use his talents to bring Him to people in our community, John was listening to the radio as he drove home. The program host was talking about how easy it is to start a Catholic radio station. John called the host the next day and learned that a radio station in Greer, S.C. had just applied for a noncommercial FM license, and that he would need to talk to the president of the station.

"I called him up and said, 'I'd like to bring Catholic radio to Augusta and I understand that your application might service this area,'" John says. "He said, 'Yes, and I think God is providing you to make this happen.' And I said, 'Good, I think He's calling me to it.'"

Thus, the process of raising funds for the station began, and over the next four years, enough money was raised to get the station up and running. Broadcasting commenced on March 12, 2012.

St. Paul Catholic Radio broadcasts on WKER 91.1 FM, and listeners can also hear the programming online at www.saintpaulradio.org, or on the TuneIn Radio smartphone app. The station's tagline is "911 For Your Soul," and the "KE" in WKER stands for *Kyrie Eléison* — Greek for "Lord have mercy."

"Every time you hear 'WKER,' that's a prayer to God asking Him to bless those who are listening to the station," John says.

St. Paul is a talk format station, with programs running 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. These programs

include discussions about all things Catholic, and listeners are encouraged to call in to ask questions or give their own comments on the subject at hand. At high feast times like Christmas and Easter, the station also broadcasts programming from the Vatican. The station has also broadcast Aquinas High School's football games, including its first ever State Championship season.

As a nonprofit, St. Paul Catholic Radio is primarily supported by listeners, and it relies mainly on donations to stay on the air.

"We want to do these kinds of things to help build community, but in order to keep doing those things, the community needs to support the station," John says.

St. Paul Catholic Radio is also in need of volunteers.

"All people who work at St. Paul Radio are volunteers, and we need more," John says. "I'd love to see St. Paul Radio added to the ministry card, because there's people out there that have voice talent to make announcements, that have administrative talents to help run the station. We'd like to have more volunteers to make the station grow and become fruitful for generations to come."

For more information about St. Paul Catholic Radio, to donate or volunteer, call the station at 762-218-3911 or visit the website at www.saintpaulradio.org. To listen, tune in to St. Paul Catholic Radio at 91.1 FM or on the website.

Altar Servers Perform Key Role in the Mass



In a summer 2012 address to young altar servers on pilgrimage to Rome, Pope Benedict XVI told the boys and girls how blessed they were to be “particularly close to Christ Jesus in the Eucharist. You have the enormous privilege of being close to the altar, close to the Lord.” He went on to pray that being an altar server would help them to deepen their friendship with Christ, and he encouraged them to share God’s love with their friends and families.

Here at St. Mary on the Hill, a devoted group of young parishioners share the privilege and responsibility of serving at the altar during our Masses. Michael and Stephanie Bussey, parents of five boys, are the coordinators of our Altar Server Ministry. Michael oversees the training of the servers while Stephanie is in charge of the scheduling. Their two oldest sons are current altar servers, while their three youngest eagerly anticipate the day they will be able to serve.

Boys and girls in the fifth through 12th grades are eligible to participate in this ministry. “We even have some servers who have graduated high school and offer to serve when they are home from college,” Stephanie says. “The older ones with all their experience are a blessing and such a good example to the younger ones.”

New servers are required to attend a training session during which Michael explains the various parts of the Mass and the servers’ duties both before, during and after the Mass. Current servers are also encouraged to periodically attend these training sessions.

“[During the training] we remind them that they are very visible to the congregation,” Stephanie says. “We

try to encourage them to think about ways to express reverence during the Mass.”

The children are also given a booklet summarizing their responsibilities.

The servers are then assigned to a team and typically serve once a month. Each team has a lead server who ensures that all the tasks are covered by the team. The new servers start with smaller jobs and the more experienced servers help them along. In addition to the weekend Masses, servers also have the opportunity to participate in other liturgies such as Stations of the Cross during Lent, the Holy Week services and parish funerals.

This ministry is a great help to our priests and deacons, and is a hands-on way for our young people to give back to the parish. As both a parent and coordinator, Stephanie observes tremendous benefits to the servers themselves as well.

“These kids really get to know the Mass,” she says. “They get to know all that is happening on the altar in detail and they develop a real love of the Mass because they get to see how things work from the inside out. They also get some one-on-one time with our priests and deacons as they prepare for Mass and help out afterward. How wonderful is that!”

Danny Conner, a sixth-grade altar server, has appreciated being able to serve in this way.

“The most special thing is knowing that I am an important part of the Mass when I serve,” he says.

Training sessions will be held once the school year is in full swing. Please check the bulletin for details, or contact Stephanie Bussey at 706-306-2313 or sbussey7@yahoo.com.



Looking Forward to the New Academic Year at St. Mary on the Hill School

A new school year begins this month, and as always, students will be getting much more than an academic education at St. Mary on the Hill School.

“St. Mary School offers an exceptional education in a Catholic atmosphere that helps students and families thrive in their faith, family and foundations in education,” says Mary Beth Mitchell, assistant principal of St. Mary on the Hill School.

The beginning of a new school year is a busy time. The first day of the 2014-2015 school year is on Monday, Aug. 11, but the year begins with preplanning days for the teachers on Aug. 7 and 8. During that time, the teachers gather for meetings and retreats to prepare for the students and the upcoming year. One of those preplanning days is spent with the faculty at Aquinas High School. Other events include meet-and-greets for this year’s three kindergarten classes and an orientation meeting for new school families.

“We are most excited to welcome new families to the St. Mary family,” Ms. Mitchell says. “We are anxious for new faces to feel part of the community and make it their own.”

There will also be Back to School Nights for all school families on Aug. 13 and 14, and students will

have Picture Day and progress reports will be issued on Sept. 12.

The new academic year also brings along a few changes to our school community. For one, the school will be working on implementing the new Diocesan Social Studies Curriculum. In addition, the writing process will begin for a new Study Skills course for students in grades four through eight, and continue with the second year of writing their Diocesan Math Curriculum. The school is also continuing to research and implement iPad carts in the classrooms.

“The changes and improvements serve to illustrate that though St. Mary’s is a school steeped in Church tradition, we are also constantly evaluating our programs and teaching so that we best meet the needs and goals of our students,” Ms. Mitchell says.

We are also welcoming several new teachers and staff members this year, including a part-time marketing director, a new kindergarten teacher, Spanish teacher, computer teacher, and media center/library teacher.

Along with the grade school, the Mother’s Day Out and Preschool program also starts on Aug. 11. The Mother’s Day Out program is for children 6 months old to 2 years old, and the Preschool includes programs

for 3 and 4-year-olds. These programs are held Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and there is also a before and after school program offered from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The 4-year-olds also go to Mass every Thursday and on Holy Days.

During these sessions, the children learn about letters, numbers, colors and shapes, also enjoy snacks and time to play outside. They also learn about our faith.

“We teach the Catholic faith, and that’s where it begins,” says Gina Craw, director of Mother’s Day Out and Preschool program. “Birth is where it begins and we start them at a young age. They say their blessing at lunch time and they say their prayers in the morning. As they get older, we teach them how to genuflect at church and those kinds of things. The kindergarten teachers can tell our children from children from other preschools because they do know their prayers, and the priests come and visit so they’ve seen priests before. It’s important to start learning the Catholic faith at a very young age.”

For more information about St. Mary on the Hill School, Mother’s Day Out or the upcoming school year, please call the school office at 706-733-6193.

THE FAITH JOURNEY OF *St. Genesis*

Being a performer and a comedian may sound like a fun way to make a living.

St. Genesis, an outstanding actor, playwright and comedian in late Imperial Rome, certainly did have some fun for a while. But his career and life came to an abrupt end when his work ultimately led him to Christ.

Genesisius was a comedian of some renown, but in the fourth century, Christians were often discouraged from becoming actors because ancient Roman comedy was highly sexual, crude and offensive.

In the year 303, Emperor Diocletian launched what would be the last great Roman persecution against the Christian Church. So, Genesisius used the persecution as an opportunity to write a comedy about Christianity. He thought it might attract the attention of the Emperor, increase his fame, and make him some money in the process.

Genesisius approached leaders of the Christian community in Rome and presented himself as a catechumen seeking baptism. He was then invited into a period of instruction in the faith, in order to learn the beliefs of the Christians. He was particularly taken by the idea of baptism. But at the time, he had no plans to convert to the faith – it was all just a part of his plan to research new material to use for his comedy.

But a strange thing happened to Genesisius as he began to work on his play, which was to be a comedy

on baptism. As Genesisius began teaching the other actors about baptism, he began to believe, and a desire to be baptized grew within his heart.

The opening night of the play was a great success, with Emperor Diocletian in attendance. But at some point during the play, the Holy Spirit touched Genesisius. He was no longer acting.

“You fools, I wish to die a Christian,” Genesisius said. When the other actors asked him why,

he said, “All my life I have been a fugitive, and only today have I found God.”

Everyone, especially Emperor Diocletian, laughed as Genesisius spoke. Genesisius, standing in a pulpit designed to look like the goddess Venus, began to preach to the audience. He told the crowd how he once hated Christians and enjoyed insulting them. He told the crowd how he deserted his own family as a child because they were Christians.

From there, Genesisius addressed Diocletian, stating that he wrote the play to mock Christians, but had been converted on the spot during the course of the play, by the power of Holy Spirit. “I now know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God, the Light, the Truth and the Mercy of all who have received his gift of baptism,” Genesisius said. “O great Emperor, believe in these mysteries! I will teach you, and you will know the Lord Jesus Christ is the true God.”

Diocletian was furious and stopped the play, having the troupe arrested and beaten, while Genesisius was condemned to torture. Through all of his sufferings, he continued to confess that Jesus was God. When this failed to break his spirit, Diocletian ordered Genesisius be beheaded. His final words were, “Our Lord Jesus Christ is God and we shall have life in His name.”

St. Genesisius is the patron of comedians and actors. His feast day is Aug. 25.



AUG. 25

SAINT
GENESIUS

We Should Embrace Opportunities *continued from front cover*

words, where did they see evidence of the presence of God in their life or in the world recently?

- **Choose Wisely** – The top two memories of your children and teens will include how much love was in your home and how much time you spent together as a family. When contemplating schedule or activity additions or changes, ask yourself, “Will doing this activity or turning on this screen strengthen or weaken our family life?”

- **Fill Your Home With Faith Images** – Go shopping at a religious store and invite each person to select an item of faith they would like to see displayed at home. Also, be sure you have family and youth-friendly Bibles at home and in each person’s bedroom (for a list of recommended Bibles, visit the Strong Catholic Family website).

- **Model God’s Love and Forgiveness** – Marital love is reciprocal, parental love is intergenerational: love is passed on and modeled for successive generations. In our homes, our love for one another should mirror God’s love for all people and all ages, races and cultures. Be sure that moments of family forgiveness and reconciliation are made visible to the family. Do not

“hide” apologies – let the family members who witness family conflict know that the conflict has been worked out. Commit to participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a family, especially during Lent.

- **Connect With Other Parents** – Seek out other adults and parents who share your commitment to Catholic parenting. Learn from their stories, strategies and life lessons.

Family prayer and worship are central to building a strong Catholic family. Keep in mind that the goal of individual, family, or communal prayer and faith sharing is to make the “God connection.” When we share faith with others, we are trying to answer the questions: “Where is God in all of this?” and “What is God saying to me today?”

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement

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