

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL

CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Don't Wait, Stewardship Starts Now

Dear Parishioners,

We begin this month of February with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on Sunday, February 2. Until about 40 years ago, this feast was considered the “official” end of the Christmas season that is now, of course, the Baptism of the Lord, which we celebrated on January 12 this year. Our Catholic Church is rich in traditions, and we need to always remember these, as well as make them a part of our daily lives. Part of our stewardship as good Catholics is having an understanding of our Church and its customs.

This Feast of the Presentation, which commemorates the presentation

of Jesus in the temple by Sts. Mary and Joseph as reported in the Gospel of Luke (*Luke 2:22-40*), occurs 40 days after the birth of Jesus. If 40 days sounds familiar, it should. Without even mentioning all the times “40” appears in the Bible, we know that it rained for 40 days during the Great Flood (*Genesis*); Moses spent 40 days on Mt. Sinai (*Exodus*); Jesus spent 40 days in the desert (*Matthew*); and there were 40 days between the Resurrection of the Lord and His Ascension (*Acts*). Of course, we all know that Lent is 40 days in length.

Lent this year does not begin until March. Yet, during this month of February, we have an opportunity to leap ahead, to solidify our faith, and to especially live out our lives of stewardship. Scholars tend to view 40 days as a test period, based upon the ways it occurs in Holy Scripture. The truth is that our stewardship is tested constantly — not just for a short period of time, say 40 days, but for our entire lives.

The readings for the second weekend in February speak of us as Catholics and Christians providing “light.” The Book of Isaiah reminds us that



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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Hospitality Extends to Our Family at Home and in Our Parish

As Catholics, we are members of two very important family units. First, there are our own families, which consist of our spouses and children. And as a parish community, we are members of a larger “family of faith,” along with our clergy and fellow parishioners. Of course, both types of units share in the Catholic faith, as we gather to celebrate Mass each Sunday.

Yet, all does not appear to be well. The modern media unfortunately seems to place a heavy emphasis on the destruction of both types of family units. Indeed, every day, we are bombarded with disconcerting stories about the various issues that threaten the vital bonds of the family — divorce, abuse, gay marriage and abortion, just to name a few. At the same time, the “families of faith” in our own parishes have also been threatened by a number of issues, from scandals and mismanagement of resources, to drops in Mass attendance and school enrollment.

All of these threats and issues most certainly promote a hostile environment for today’s American Catholics. In turn, we may feel that there is little we can do to counter the negativity that is so pervasive within our country towards those practicing the Catholic faith.

The good news is that finding the solution to such seemingly insurmountable problems often begins in the most simple and basic of places — at home. In this particular case, it begins in two homes — that of our own family, and in the parish home of our “family of faith.”

Certainly, we would like visitors in our own homes to feel welcome, whether they are extended family, familiar friends, or new acquaintances. Therefore, we do whatever we can to make these visitors feel appreciated — we might prepare them a homemade meal or serve a fresh cup of coffee, or we may initiate a friendly and insightful conversation.

Of course, this effort to make visitors to our home feel welcome is a wonderful example of providing *hospitality*, one of the four key pillars of stewardship.

So, if we consider our other family unit — the “family of faith” in our own parish — the same can be applied to those entering our church for worship and fellowship. Whether we make an effort to get to know some of the familiar faces we see at church each Sunday, reach out to someone who is new to the community, or extend a warm welcome to those visiting our parish, we are following Jesus’ example of hospitality at its most foundational and engaging level.

Of course, while hospitality serves to enhance worship and fellowship for the entire parish family, it also impacts our community on a day-to-day basis — if we foster a welcoming environment in our parish home and present the many opportunities to minister and serve, involvement will only increase throughout the community! Therefore, if hospitality continues to flourish throughout the parish and its many ministries, so will the stewardship way of life!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Daddy Daughter Dance

Friday, Feb. 7 - 6:30 p.m.

Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 4

6 p.m. in the parish hall

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule:

7 a.m., 9:15 a.m. (all-school Mass), noon and 6 p.m.

COMING SOON

Works of Mercy

Saturday, March 22

Have you ever wondered how to serve together as a family? Please join us on Wednesday, Feb. 26 to find out more about the opportunities to serve on Works of Mercy Saturday. Please see the bulletin for more details.

Retrouvaille

Learning Skills, Healing Marriages

For Karl and Sonia Quinn, a weekend's investment of time has turned into an ongoing source of satisfaction and support for their marriage. The Quinns are parishioners here at St. Mary on the Hill. They were married in 1982 with high hopes and expectations like all newlyweds. However, about 17 years into their marriage, they began to experience challenges as a couple.

Accustomed to a "double income with no kids" lifestyle, they moved quickly into life with two kids, with Sonia raising their young family at home. The change in dynamics and income took its toll and the couple realized they needed help. During Mass on a Sunday in 1999, they heard about a Retrouvaille Weekend for hurting marriages and decided to give it a try. Fourteen years later, they are still involved with the program and now serve as coordinators for the Retrouvaille Community in our area.

Sonia points out that while their struggles were not terribly dramatic, "Retrouvaille can help couples who have reached a point of no return in their marriages. We have even seen couples on the brink of divorce or already divorced come through the program and put their marriages back together."

While the program starts with a weekend, it consists of three parts.

The first part is the Retrouvaille Weekend. Held at a local hotel, a team of three couples and one priest offer a series of presentations during the weekend.

"Hurting couples can see how listening, communication, conflict management and forgiveness are healthy tools for building a stable relationship," Karl says.

"The tools they teach you are skills we lean on every day," Sonia adds.

The atmosphere is very private and there is no group sharing among the participating couples during this first weekend portion.

The second part of the program involves 12 post-weekend sessions. For the St. Mary's Retrouvaille Community, these sessions are held on six Saturday mornings.

"The degree of disappointment, deterioration and despair in hurting marriages cannot be healed in one weekend," Karl explains.

These sessions provide additional support as couples continue to

discuss concepts critical to a healthy marriage.

The third part, though optional, further builds on the weekend and post-weekend sessions. Called C.O.R.E., or Continuing our Retrouvaille Experience, this group meets monthly to provide continuing support and a sense of community to couples who have made a Retrouvaille Weekend. At St. Mary's, this is typically held in the evenings on the second Saturday of the month.

Sonia encourages any couple "needing to repair or simply wanting to improve their marriage" to consider making the investment in a Retrouvaille Weekend.

"Do not be ashamed of going," Karl says. "What you learn as a couple is reflected down to your children. Your kids benefit so much, too!"

For details on the next scheduled Weekend, please call Sonia and Karl Quinn at 706-737-0726. For further information, please go to Retrouvaille.org or HelpOurMarriage.com.



Karl and Sonia Quinn lead a C.O.R.E. meeting at St. Mary on the Hill.

*"Retrouvaille can help couples who have reached a point of no return in their marriages. We have even seen couples on the brink of divorce or already divorced come through the program and put their marriages back together."
— Sonia Quinn*

Scouting Builds

The Boy Scout and Cub Scout programs have a long-standing tradition of providing young boys with many important lessons and experiences that they can use throughout their lives.

“Cub Scouting teaches a number of skills that are good for them,” says John Lint, Cubmaster of Pack 8. “All the different Cub Scout organizations have religious medals and religion badges they can earn. Most of our boys are in the Catholic religion, so scouting definitely fosters what they call ‘Duty to God.’ It also teaches them to pitch a tent, build a fire, that kind of thing. And as they get older, they do more service projects. There’s also the family aspect with activities to foster an understanding of family and things of that nature.”

Our parish is the charter organization for two scouting programs, Boy Scout Troop 8 and Cub Scout Pack 8, providing the opportunity for scouting participation to boys from first grade until they turn 18.

Cub Scout Pack 8 has boys in the first through fifth grades. The pack is divided into dens by grade level, with one or more for each grade. During the school year, the entire pack meets once a month during the school year, and each den also has at least one den activity every month.

In addition to the monthly meetings, there are also several pack activities that take place every year, including two or three campouts during the school year and some summer activities like Scout Sunday and the

Blue and Gold Banquet, which celebrate the anniversary of scouting.

After boys finish the Cub Scouts, they can move on to the Boy Scouts, where they continue to learn and grow through new experiences and challenges.

“It teaches them life skills,” says Dan MacEachern, Troop 8 Committee Chairman. “It teaches them how to become responsible adults.”

Troop 8 meets weekly during the school year, and also participates in a monthly activity or campout.

One of the biggest differences between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is that the Boy Scout program is mostly led by the scouts themselves, as the boys make the plans and decisions for the troop’s activities. There are patrol leader councils in which the boys determine what they would like to do each month, and the adults make sure these activities take place under the Boy Scout guidelines.

“That’s a big movement and our troop has done really well with it,” Dan says. “We’ve had some really good youth leadership within the troop.”

The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts also take part in a number of service activities. The Boy Scout troop performs its service primarily through Eagle Scout projects.

“They give to community. That value that I have that in the kids. . . example — I try lot. They understand give back. It’s not it’s about others. when the shoe is and you’re the some help.” — Dan Troop 8 Comm



Getting ready to leave for 2013 Summer Camp at Woodruff Scouting Reserve in north Georgia.



Cub Scouts visit the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy.

Strong Citizens

To earn the rank of Eagle, the scout must complete a project of their choosing. Some of these projects included cleaning up old cemeteries, building carnival games for an annual school carnival and more. The new Rosary Prayer Ring at St. Mary on the Hill School was an Eagle project done by a scout from Troop 8. Many of the scouts also work in soup kitchens and other areas of service.

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"They give back to the community," Dan says. "That's a real strong value that I have and I try to instill that in the kids. And I do that by example — I try to volunteer a lot. They understand the need to give back. It's not just about me, it's about others. You never know when the shoe is on the other foot and you're the one that needs some help."

Through the meetings and activities, the scouts have a lot of fun while learning skills and gaining practical experience that will benefit them throughout their lives.

"In a broad nature, scouting fosters an understanding of faith and religion, skills and leadership, and family and service," John says.

For more information about the Boy Scouts, please call Dan MacEachern at 706-829-2339. For more information about the Cub Scouts, please call John Lint at 803-270-1964.



Eagle Project: Rosary Prayer Garden at St. Mary's School.



Troop 8 at Klondike in North Carolina.



Puma Patrol of Troop 8 holding the first place trophy at Klondike.

Fr. Lou Lindsey: *Servant of the Lord*

by Deacon Don McArdle

By now, most of you have seen and even met Fr. Lou Lindsey. He's been serving here at St. Mary's since being ordained a Catholic priest on Dec. 11, 2013. I'm sure some of you are wondering, "Who is this man who comes to us as a new priest at the age of 75, with a wife, children, and even grandchildren?" He is a man whom I consider a good friend and a fine example of discipleship for all of us. So I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about the man behind the collar.

I met Fr. Lou over 35 years ago. He and his wife, Jeanne, had recently moved to Augusta with their children. They left their beloved state of Oklahoma where Fr. Lou was an Episcopal priest and moved down south, because they felt the Lord was calling them to get involved in a particular ecumenical apostolate here.

Once in Augusta, Fr. Lou continued to serve as an Episcopal priest and pastor. He also got involved in the Kairos prison ministry and the local pro-life movement, trying as best he could to give his everything to God. Fr. Lou saw himself — and still does — as a servant of the Lord first and foremost.

That commitment led Jeanne and Fr. Lou to make another big change in their lives. They saw the Episcopal Church making changes that they thought were opposed to God's truth. Comfortable as they were in their roles therein, they felt God calling them to leave the Episcopal Church and serve Him elsewhere. They entered an Anglican community outside the structure of the Episcopal Church. Committed to serving God wherever He called him, Fr. Lou continued his ministry. He became an Anglican priest and pastor, and then later a bishop.

Fr. Lou and Jeanne loved the Anglican tradition — the beauty of the prayers and the liturgy — but they had a deep desire to be unified with Rome, to practice the fullness of faith under the authority of the Magisterium.

In 2009, the Vatican was asked to explore the possibility for individuals and groups of Anglican Christians to be received into the Catholic Church and still retain some of their Anglican rituals and pastoral structure. In response, Pope Benedict XVI wrote his Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum Coetibus*, making a way for an Anglican Ordinariate to be established. It



Fr. Lou Lindsey with his wife, Jeanne.

is part of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, and it functions much like a diocese with an ordinary who functions like its bishop. It is similar in structure to the Military Ordinariate, with which many of us are familiar. The Ordinariate has its own churches, and its priests, while Roman Rite Catholic priests, are permitted, when celebrating Mass for the Ordinariate, to use some of the prayers from the Anglican tradition. In this way, the Holy Father and the bishops in union with him are welcoming those Anglican Christians into the fullness of faith while enabling them to retain some of the goodness of their Anglican tradition with which they are so familiar.

With that, Fr. Lou and Jeanne knew right where the Lord was calling them.

Fr. Lou is incardinated in the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, with faculties in the Diocese of Savannah. He is serving as part-time parochial vicar at St. Mary's, as well as Parochial Administrator for the Ordinariate mission parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Savannah.

Welcome to our parish, Fr. Lou. I'm so glad you are here, and I am honored to serve alongside you.

Don't Wait, Stewardship Starts Now

continued from front cover

“light shall arise for you from the darkness,” and the Gospel from Matthew prompts us that “You are the light of the world,” and then expands that to speak of that lamp we are called to be: “Nor do they light a lamp and then place it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it provides light to all in the house.” This is Jesus who is speaking to us, and He more or less brings it all together by pointing out, “...your light must shine before others.”

Blessed Mother Teresa once wrote, “There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.” Jesus has called us, both me and you. He has called us to be disciples, to be good stewards of all

we have been given. We are ordinary people, but we have the ability to do extraordinary things.

I challenge you to respond to that call, to be a light to those around us, to live out our Baptismal call, and to be good stewards — not 40 days from now, but right now. If it seems that this call is the same as last month, and the same as next month, you are absolutely correct. It is never too late to begin living lives of stewardship, and for that matter, it is never too early either.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement

Saint Mary

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— GRACE Scholars — Please Act Now!

Please plan to redirect your 2014 Georgia state taxes NOW through the GRACE Scholars Program. Georgia state taxpayers can take a credit against their Georgia income taxes and “redirect” their tax payment for tuition assistance for students entering St. Mary School for kindergarten or from the public school system. It is a win-win situation, but we need you to act quickly for this year because the state cap will be met soon! There is a positive change for S corporations, LLCs, and partnerships. You can now claim a credit of up to \$10,000 of your tax liability.

Please call Mary Davis at the church office for more information, 706-733-6627.

Baptisms

Mary Elizabeth Barrett
 Will and Lisa
 Barrett

Jessica Nicole Burke
 Granddaughter of
 Peter Costello

Grady Robert Pollock
 Edwin and Jane Pollock

William Isaac Andrews
 Paul and Brook
 Andrews

Aaron Blake Stevenson
 Rusty and Sandra
 Stevenson