

# Saint Mary

ON THE HILL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## *News and Notes from Fr. Jerry*

### Community Has Provided the Opportunity to Witness Presence of God in Our Midst

Dear Parishioners,

I can't believe that the time of farewell has arrived, and I will soon end my pastorate at St. Mary on the Hill. Being a parish priest has always been a real passion for me. Over the last 15 years in this faith community and 38 years as a priest, I have been honored, fulfilled and happy to serve in many parishes, but most especially here. St. Mary on the Hill has become a home and its people my family. I will head off on Aug. 1 to what Fr. Dave Arnoldt has called my "twilight tour" at St. Michael's on Tybee Island. I will give the parishioners at Tybee my heart as their pastor. But I will keep my condo here, so that I will always have a place to call home. God willing, one day I will return to spend a happy and active retirement with you.

One of the wonderful experiences of being a priest is the blessing of being involved in the personal milestones of God's people. I have been part of births and baptisms, education and Confirmation, faith formation, First Communions and Confessions, weddings, family celebrations, and sicknesses. To celebrate the Eucharist

is the greatest gift of a priest. We have all struggled and cried together in the darkness of life through hurt, tragedy and death. Yet, my treasure has been to see the Light of Christ in your faith. I will dearly miss these moments and all of you in this faith community.

Already, I've been blessed and embarrassed by the many gracious compliments that so many of you have shared with me in the past few weeks. I know the parish staff and leadership are planning a farewell reception on Saturday, July 29. I enjoy a good party, but I get uncomfortable when the spotlight is on me. So, hopefully, we will be able to keep things simple on that night and just have some fun together as a faith community. My ministry as a priest has always been about building a deeper sense of community so as to more clearly see the presence of God in our midst.

So, never forget that for the last 100 years, the glory of St. Mary on the Hill is not about its buildings, its music, its traditions, its school, or even its pastors. It's about God. It is about following Jesus, who shows us the

#### Mass Schedule

**Sunday**, 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,  
12:15 p.m. and 5:30 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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# Columbarium Will Keep Loved Ones Close to St. Mary on the Hill

*“One woman picked the spot closest to the church because she felt that she would hear the prayers and they’d be closest to her.”*  
– Barbara Kareis, Consolation Ministry Coordinator

On July 25, St. Mary on the Hill will dedicate something unique to area Catholics – a columbarium specifically meant to hold the ashes of deceased parishioners and loved ones.

“Since our church is landlocked on a hill, there is no place for a cemetery, so it’s very unique for us to have a place right at the church,” says Consolation Ministry Coordinator Barbara Kareis.

A columbarium is a structure similar to a mausoleum. The word itself dates to the Roman era, when the Latin term ‘*columba*’ referred to a sectional housing structure for domesticated doves and pigeons. Inside St. Mary’s columbarium are 400 sections, referred to as niches, that will each house one or two urns.

Until this point, the cremated remains, or cremains, of deceased parishioners have been kept in a special place at the church, in keeping with Church doctrine. In addition to providing an alternative to traditional burial, Barbara explains that the columbarium’s presence will also serve to clear up the common misconception that Catholics aren’t permitted to be cremated.

“The Church itself does allow cremation,” she says. “The doctrine is that the ashes should be treated with the same respect that you would a body, so they can’t be scattered, or split up among family members. They’re to be kept together and inurned in some way.”

Barbara, who helps with the sale of niches, says the location between the parish hall and the sanctuary will be a quiet place with a fountain and benches where loved ones can sit in quiet visitation. “One woman picked the spot closest to the church because she felt that she would hear the prayers and they’d be closest to her.”

Fourteen cremains will be inurned when the columbarium is dedicated on July 25 during the

9:15 a.m. weekday Mass. After Father has blessed and dedicated the structure, each urn will be placed inside a niche as its final resting place. Barbara says family members of those being inurned plan to be in attendance and a short reception will follow.

“The Consolation Ministry will be there to spearhead and direct the proceedings,” Barbara explains. “It’s open to the entire parish, but we have sent formal invitations to those family members who have people to be inurned.”

For those who may be interested in purchasing one of the available niches, please contact Barbara Kareis at the Church office at 706-733-6627.



Please contact Barbara Kareis at the parish office at 706-733-6627 for more information.



# A Look Back on Our First Communion Celebration

*We offer our congratulations to our students who received the  
Sacrament of First Communion this spring at St. Mary on the Hill!*



# Remembering Parishioner Maria Stair

*“And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.” – Luke 17:15-16*

Cicero, the famous Roman senator and orator once wrote, “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” The virtue of gratitude is the ability to express our thankful appreciation in word or deed, to a person whose actions have benefited us in some way.

As a stewardship parish, St. Mary on the Hill is aware that gratitude is at the very heart of stewardship. We have so much for which to be grateful, especially the people who are our parish family. Sometimes, we must recognize particular parishioners and thank them for a gift or gifts beyond compare. One such parishioner is the late Maria Stair. Maria passed in September 2015, but in her will, provided a stewardship gift to the parish – a gift that is truly unique and worthy of appreciation.

Maria Schnellnegger was born in the Alps of Austria in 1925. She met her husband, Walter, during World War II, and they left Europe and returned to the United States. Maria and Walter were parishioners here for many, many years. The parish and her faith were in many ways the focus of her life, and that became even more obvious after Walter’s passing in 2006.

Pierre Wilkins of St. Mary on the Hill was Maria’s longtime friend and neighbor, and recalls her fondly.

“She had this deep faith and she lived by it,” Pierre remembers. “She prayed often, trusted completely in God, and led a simple life. My mother is from Germany, and she and Maria became instant friends. They spoke German to one another. When my mother died, it was natural for me to carry on her love and respect and caring for Maria. Maria’s main focus in life really was her faith, along with the parish and the Church.”

“When Maria died and I became aware of her will, I was a bit overwhelmed at her gift,” says Dori Thorstad, who serves as the Director of Finance for the parish. “She gave more than \$1.3 million to the people of St. Mary on the Hill. Because of the size and nature of the gift, Father and the parish leadership felt that her gift needed to be used for something special, something



*Maria Schnellnegger Stair was born in the Alps of Austria in 1925. She met her husband, Walter, during World War II, and they left Europe and returned to the United States. Maria and Walter were parishioners here at St. Mary on the Hill for many, many years. The parish and her faith were in many ways the focus of her life. Throughout the years, Maria and Walter were generous stewards of the parish and Church. We are so grateful for the gift she has left to St. Mary on the Hill.*

beyond the norm. It will definitely not be merely mixed in with general income. Father and the key parish committees are looking at particular ways that this incredible gift can be used, and that will be announced once it is decided.”

At the time of Maria’s death, Mary Davis served as Development Director. She, too, was involved with Maria and with her final stewardship gift to the parish.

“After Walter died, Maria read about planned giving in the bulletin, and she reached out to me because she wanted to make a gift to the parish in her will,” Mary

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# A Holy and Generous Woman

says. "I came to know her well and I became aware of her strong faith. She and Walter were never blessed with children, and her family was distant at best.

"I, like many others, became her friend," Mary continues. "She and Walter had always been generous to the parish and to the Church, and she continued to be so after his death. I was always impressed with the amount of faith she had and her love for the Church. She never wavered, and is a tribute to what stewardship really is. She understood that all that we have, and all that we are, are gifts from God. She knew that God gave us these gifts out of His great love for us. She really appreciated that she was merely the caretaker of her gifts, and it was out of love, justice, and gratitude that she returned gifts to the Church."

In her later years, Pierre became her legal guardian.

"I had the pleasure of taking her to Mass every Sunday," he says. "There are no words to describe what a wonderful and holy woman she was."

There are also no proper words of gratitude that the parish can offer for her gift. God bless you, Maria.

*"I was always impressed with the amount of faith she had and her love for the Church. She never wavered and is a tribute to what stewardship really is. She understood that all that we have, and all that we are, are gifts from God. She knew that God gave us these gifts out of His great love for us. She really appreciated that she was merely the caretaker of her gifts, and it was out of love, justice, and gratitude that she returned gifts to the Church." – Mary Davis*





# Getting to Know Andrew Barnick, St. Mary's New Music Director *"Music Transcends the Ordinary"*



*The Barnick family in 2016 – (from left) Andrew, Carl, Grace, and Jude*

**A**s a middle-school student, Andrew Barnick would sit in the back of the school bus with his headphones on unobtrusively listening to Mozart's "Requiem Mass."

"I have always loved sacred music," Andrew says. "Music transcends the ordinary and lifts us up. It is a more elevated way of expressing the truth of our faith."

This July, Andrew joins St. Mary's faith community as our new Music Director, and he brings with him not only his Catholic sacred music education, but also a deep-rooted passion for liturgical music.

"Throughout all of Church history, until the 1960s, the liturgy has always been sung in the Western and Eastern Church," Andrew says. "While studying in college, I remember reading a document Pope Pius XII wrote which said, 'Sacred music is the Church's greatest artistic treasure.'"

Andrew began studying music with his first piano lessons at the age of 11. Throughout middle school and high school, the California native was involved in marching band and concert band, and studied several instruments, including the violin, cello and guitar. Andrew started singing in his parish choir in 2010 after he was received into the Church.

In 2012, Andrew married his wife, Grace, and the couple moved to Steubenville, Ohio, where

Andrew pursued his Bachelor in Sacred Music with a concentration in organ performance at Franciscan University.

"It was providential that I went to Steubenville," Andrew says. "During that time, I worked as an Assistant Music Director at a church in Pittsburgh, and as soon as I graduated, I was offered a position as Organist and Choir Master at a parish in Steubenville."

A few years later, Andrew was browsing the job hotline for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and found that St. Mary's was seeking a Music Director. He was immediately drawn to the position.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to work with a larger parish, which has a larger organ and choir," Andrew says. "St. Mary's is a dynamic parish, and I want to be a part of the whole operation. Everyone I have met has been awesome."

Andrew, Grace and their two sons – Carl, 4, and Jude, 1 – are excited to become part of St. Mary's faith community. Andrew feels blessed to have this opportunity to share his experience and his love for sacred music.

"I am very honored to have been selected to serve in music ministry at St. Mary on the Hill," Andrew says. "I'm looking forward to getting started and to working with the community."

Let us welcome Andrew, Grace and their family as they relocate from Steubenville and become part of St. Mary's active community!



*Andrew Barnick at Our Lady Help of Christians Chapel in Buffalo, N.Y.*

## Community Has Provided the Opportunity to Witness Presence of God in Our Midst *continued from front cover*

depth of God's love for us. It has been about this faith community and moving ever deeper into the Mystery of God's love for us. It is good to celebrate what we've done together, but important to realize that moving forward there is still much work to be done in bringing the love of God to our world.

I pray that you will continue to grow in Christ with your new pastor. I ask that you give him the same love, encouragement and cooperation that you have given me. I know that you will support Fr. Mark Ross and recognize the unique gifts that he will bring

as your new spiritual father. I am so very grateful that you have treated me with such great love and respect during these last 15 years. All of you are in my prayers daily and will continue to be all the days of my life. Please pray for me. Please pray for all the priests of the Diocese. I love you all! Thank you! God Bless you!

In Christ,

Fr. Jerry Ragan

# Ad Placement

# Reflecting on 52 Years at St. Mary on the Hill



*Mount St. Joseph School kindergarten class of 1944. Anne Proctor is on the far right of the first row. Also pictured is retired diocesan priest, Fr. Michael Smith, second from the left in the first row.*

It has always been known – and is becoming even more evident as parishioners have been sharing their stories during this year’s Centennial celebration – that St. Mary on the Hill has been home to many families who have been a part of the parish for generations. Indeed, our faith community has such a long view of history that even parishioners who have been here for over 50 years may still think of themselves as fairly recent additions! Such is the case with Anne Proctor, who first came to St. Mary on the Hill immediately following her marriage in 1965.

A member of our parish for 52 years now, Anne laughs about this tendency to feel “new” when talking with some of our lifetime parishioners.

“I’ve been at St. Mary’s forever and I feel new sometimes!” she laughs. “People will say, ‘Oh, you moved into the parish.’”

Growing up, Anne had connections to several of the Catholic churches around Augusta. Her relatives helped to build St. Patrick (now Most Holy Trinity), but both sides of her family – the Mulherin and the Schweers sides – attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

However, as Anne points out, the Catholic community in Augusta was very intimate, and there was a great amount of interaction among all of the parishes. Some of her relatives on the Schweers side became parishioners of St. Mary on the Hill in the 1940s, and Anne herself attended Mount St. Joseph for school and came to our St. Anne’s Hall for youth group gatherings.

Another tradition that brought people together from the city’s various parishes is one that has been remembered fondly by many Augustans during our Centennial year – the annual May procession.

“The May processions to the Blessed Mother were a wonderful devotion,” Anne says. “Each parish had their procession on a different Sunday, so my family always came to the processions at St. Mary on the Hill, and then my cousins came down to Sacred Heart’s procession with us. Augusta was so small that if you were Catholic at the time, you were involved in all the parishes. It was just delightful. I still feel comfortable in any of the churches, and if I oversleep for daily Mass, I just run down to Holy Trinity at noon!”

Following their marriage in February 1965, Anne and James (Jimmy) Proctor moved to the Hill. About a

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*Senior girls at Mount St. Joseph School in 1957 – the school’s last graduating class. Anne Proctor is on the far right, sitting just above the very front row.*



# Parishioner Anne Proctor Looks Back with Thanksgiving and Ahead with Hope



*Anne and James (Jimmy) Proctor were married in Sacred Heart Church on Feb. 20, 1965. Following their honeymoon, the couple moved to the Hill and began attending St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church.*

week later, St. Mary on the Hill's pastor, Msgr. Burke, called Anne personally by phone.

"He welcomed me to the parish and asked for my address," Anne recalls, "so that I could get the communications and the envelopes. You didn't have to register in the parish back then."

Anne remembers the St. Mary on the Hill of that time as a very different church structure than the one we have today – in 1965, there were no stained glass windows and the walls were unfinished concrete blocks. Parish life was vibrant, however, as Msgr. Burke liked to have parish dances, and the Council of Catholic Women held many spaghetti suppers and other activities in the parish hall.

Anne and her husband, Jimmy – who converted to the Catholic faith thanks in large part to the promptings of Msgr. Burke – both became very active in parish life here, and their three children attended St. Mary on the Hill School and Aquinas High School. Anne taught CCD for years, and she and Jimmy began attending a weekly adoration hour when our perpetual adoration

first began about 25 years ago. Following Jimmy's passing in 1999, Anne and another parishioner formed the Forward in Faith Ministry, which continued until this past year. Currently, Anne heads up the Baptismal Bib Ministry, in addition to serving as a sacristan for the 7 a.m. daily Mass.

Participating actively in parish life has made our faith community a true home for Anne over the last half-century.

"There is a strong feeling of community and involvement here," Anne affirms. "The senior lunches are wonderful, [as are] the lunch bunch for women. There is also a feeling of camaraderie amongst the parents at both St. Mary's and Aquinas, and the schools seem to be doing well, so I take great pride in the academics that come out of those schools. There are just so many opportunities for parishioners to take advantage of at St. Mary's."

While St. Mary on the Hill looks back this year on the previous century of our history, we also look forward in great hope and anticipation of all the things still to come. Anne is excited about the planned addition of our bell tower as a symbol of the many advancements our parish has seen over the last 100 years, and of our bright future ahead.

For Anne, moving into the future means continuing to be a welcoming parish that makes all Catholics coming to Augusta feel that they have found a true home at St. Mary on the Hill.

"There is a lot more understanding, openness and hospitality now," she says. "For so long, there were so few Catholics in Augusta. So, that has been a change in my life, that we have been blessed with people moving here – with the medical college and Ft. Gordon – and I think the diversity is wonderful. I've met so many wonderful people from all over the country and the world who have settled here and felt welcomed and ministered to here at St. Mary's. We're not perfect, but I think we're getting there!"

# The Traits of the Christian Steward

Each day, we strive to live stewardship in our lives, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship profiler” who could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward, like on one of those television crime dramas. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward. It may not have the powers of a stewardship “profiler” or “mentalist,” but it certainly gives us some tangible things to think about.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

**Insight** – Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 39).

**Conscientiousness** – Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s Kingdom on Earth (40).

**Generosity** – Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40).

**Joy** – Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the profile of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.





# CONGRATULATIONS to our 2017 High School and College Graduates!



## 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

NAME	HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED	COLLEGE
Elizabeth Whitfield	Evans High School	
Madie McBride	Aquinas High School	GMC
Patrick Hodell	Lakeside High School	Augusta University
Kelly Boudreaux	North Augusta High School	University of South Carolina
Megan Gosney	Davidson Fine Arts School	University of Georgia
George P. Burdell	Grovetown High School	Georgia Tech
Kelly Boudreaux	North Augusta High School (Magna Cum Laude)	University of South Carolina
Charles Rimbey, Jr.	Evans High School	Augusta University
Hannah Cundey	Aquinas High School	Catholic University of America

## 2017 COLLEGE GRADUATES

NAME	COLLEGE ATTENDED	DEGREE
Andrew May	Auburn University	
Jennifer Purucker	Purdue University	BSME
Madison Rebecca Burroughs	Augusta University	B.S. in Health Information Administration (with high honors)
John-Christian Whyte	Augusta University	B.B.A. in Marketing (Dean's List)
Charles A. May, Jr.	Auburn University	B.S. in Building Construction
Nicholas Novajosky	Clemson University	Computer Engineering
Sarah Bowles	Georgia Tech	B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
Danielle Rosema	MCG/AU Health	Pediatrics

# Saint Mary

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## Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill

### St. Mary on the Hill Church

*In Memory of Monique Orliac Cordes*

Mary Burch Booth

Edward Holmes

Dr. and Mrs. Edward M. Crosland

Jeff and Barbara Adkins

Jim Farmer of Augusta Concrete  
Block Co.

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and Mr. and Mrs. William  
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Summerville Ladies Investment  
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*In Memory of Maureen Ann McGinty*

Renee J. Strunk

Estate of Helen "Nell" Callahan

### St. Mary's Bell Tower Fund

*In Memory of Monique Cordes*

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### St. Mary's Consolation Ministry

*In Memory of Betty Heslen Brand*

The Brand Family

### St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment Fund

*In Memory of Maureen Ann McGinty*

Renee J. Strunk



## Baptisms

**May 6**

James Owen Williams

*Son of Andrew and Margaret Williams*

Ward Wingfield Stewart

*Son of Daniel and Catherine Stewart*

**May 14**

Felicity Gabriel Thibodeau

*Daughter of Dennis and Marian Thibodeau*

Kalani Kaai-Villanueva Jones

*Son of Bobby and Kelly Jones*

Mary Catherine Nguyen

*Daughter of Phuc and Linh Nguyen*

**May 21**

Wyatt Neal Pannell

*Son of Jonathan and Kiersten Pannell*