

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Important Conversations About Our Faith

Dear Parishioners,

Forming the Family in Faith is our pastoral focus this year. I am excited that Pope Francis and the whole Church will consider the pastoral implications of the many different pressures that face family life during a special Synod this October. And I am very excited that a world gathering of Catholic families will be held in Philadelphia in late September of 2015. I am planning to be there and I am hoping that Pope Francis will also be there.

I have always been grateful that my parents gave me the greatest gift of all, the gift of faith. They taught me to pray and showed me the path that led to an intimate relationship with God. Their love brought me to a deeper awareness of God's love. But so much has changed since I was a boy. Families today face so many more challenges in living out their faith and passing it on to their children. A number of years ago, Notre Dame church historian Scott Appleby, in a presentation to Catholic media leaders, said this: "No

previous generation of American Catholics inherited so little of the content and sensibility of the faith from their parents, as have today's Catholic youth... The challenge of Catholic education and formation in our media-driven, cyberspace age is no less than this: older Catholics must be restored to, and younger Catholics introduced to, a sense of Catholicism as a comprehensive way of life."

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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.

Important Conversations

continued from front cover

I was born in 1953 and in the past 60 years, the societal and cultural institutions that once supported “Catholicism as a comprehensive way of life” have almost disappeared entirely. Sean Reynolds, who is the Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, notes the following changes:

- Our neighborhoods are, with few exceptions (perhaps the Glenn/Hillcrest neighborhood on the Hill and the Waverly neighborhood are the exceptions locally) no longer homogeneous ethnic Catholic ‘ghettos.’

- The media, which once reinforced conventional values about honesty, sexual morality, and the value of life, have been transformed into a vast, powerful and ubiquitous smorgasbord of relativism, conveying virtually every imaginable value system.

- The Catholic parish, which once functioned as the non-negotiable center of Catholic life, where Catholics went for entertainment, community, prayer, athletics, support, worship, wisdom and guidance for life, is now just one option among many.

- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, our extended and immediate families, which formerly were almost assuredly monolithically Catholic (with siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, and cousins virtually all Catholic) are now for many an amalgamation of religiosities, spiritualities, Christian denominations, and differing faiths.

Given this reality, Sean Reynolds humbly suggested that we should be having a conversation in our parishes around some very important questions:

- How can we make parent formation for Catholic child-rearing our highest priority, with the necessary commitment of energy, resources and talent?

- How can we ensure that our Catholic worship (especially Sunday Mass) is vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive of parents and youth, particularly by developing in them the “proper dispositions”?

- How can we partner with Catholic leaders of athletics and other extracurriculars so as to help them mentor our children in our Catholic faith?

- What will it take for us to maximize our use of electronic communications, social networking and virtual online communities as a means for discipleship, participation and growth?

- What will it take for our Catholic schools, especially our secondary schools, to better partner with parishes in developing young disciples?

I look forward this summer to having several conversations around these questions with the parish staff and with those parents who are involved with our Strong Catholic Families Initiative. I am also excited that we will try a new “family” approach to Vacation Bible School this year. Family Vacation Bible School will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, June 23-25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. It is my hope that our parish children and their parents will have the opportunity to explore their faith together through this new approach to Vacation Bible School. Through this unique program, the families of our parish will be able to grow closer to God, to each other, and to other families in our faith community. I think it will be a great way for us to realize that all of us are called to belong to one another in faith and that we’re all here to support one another. Please sign up for this new experience and help us make Catholicism a comprehensive way of life here at St. Mary on the Hill.

And whether it is through our Family Vacation Bible School, a few fun days at the beach, or a few quiet moments at the Adoration Chapel, I hope you will be able to enjoy the summer and find some rest and renewal.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

A Remarkable Life of Service

Parishioner Martha Scott

Parishioner Martha Scott has worn many different hats in her years of stewardship at St. Mary on the Hill. In fact, she was living stewardship long before it officially became understood as a way of life for us as a parish. She and her husband moved to Augusta in 1971 as young parents of two small girls. As she focused on raising her family, Martha was always open to the ways in which she could also serve her parish family. This humble willingness to serve as needed has led to one remarkable life.

"[Stewardship] strengthens my faith all the time," Martha says. "You don't realize what gifts you have and what faith you have until you have to stretch yourself. Whatever interests you, even if it is outside of what you think you can do, just try it. You'll never know what you can do until you try."

With young children and a background as an elementary school teacher, Martha quickly got involved in the CCD program at St. Mary's. She was soon asked to coordinate as the parish Religious Education director, overseeing the CCD, adult education and teen program of formation. She continued in that role until a third daughter arrived. Martha would also be commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a ministry that she cherishes several decades later.

Martha joined the Worship Commission in 1978 and remained involved for about eight years, serving one term as head of that commission. In 1985, she was asked to become St. Mary's first woman Parish Council President. Though hesitant, she accepted and enjoyed this new form of service very much.

"The more involved I got, the more people I got to know and the more our church came alive for me," Martha says. "It made me just want to get more involved!"

And that is exactly what she has done, serving on the Parish Life Commission, then on the very first Stewardship Committee, and helping extensively with the RCIA process in which she remains involved today. Martha also serves the senior members of our parish family, helping to put on the Senior Mass and Luncheon held in the Parish Hall each month.

In 2001, Martha saw a need to reach out to parishioners who were dealing with the death of a loved one. After receiving some training, she, along with Alvin Blount, launched the St. Mary's Consolation Ministry. That ministry blossomed and grew to its present form, which now includes assisting families in planning all aspects of the funeral Mass, a Bereavement Basket Ministry in which breakfast is delivered to the grieving family for the morning of the funeral, and the Apron Ministry whose members assist the family with the gathering held after the funeral. Though Martha no longer coordinates the Consolation Ministry, she presents workshops at other churches who would like to establish such a ministry.

For Martha, it all boils down to one thing: love. She sums up her life with a favorite quote of hers from *Les Misérables*: "To love another person is to see the face of God."

"I look back over the years and time and again when I got involved, wonderful friendships developed," Martha says. "Now this brings me so much joy."



"You don't realize what gifts you have and what faith you have until you have to stretch yourself. Whatever interests you, even if it is outside of what you think you can do, just try it. You'll never know what you can do until you try."

– Martha Scott

Contributing to the Dignity and Reverence of the Mass *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*

Our beautiful Catholic Mass has countless sublime attributes, including its order and dignity, allowing those in attendance to truly enter into the mystery that is being celebrated. For this to be achieved, a great deal of work goes on behind the scenes both before, during and after the Mass. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion here at St. Mary on the Hill play an important role in contributing to the dignity and reverence of our Masses.

Parishioner Patty Maleck coordinates the Extraordinary Ministers for the 5 p.m. Masses. She explains the meaning of the term “Extraordinary Ministers,” which might seem confusing.

“Bishops, priests and deacons distribute Holy Communion in virtue of their office as Ordinary Ministers of the Body and Blood of the Lord,” Patty says. “When the size of the congregation requires it, the celebrant may be assisted by Extraordinary Ministers – i.e., duly instituted lay people who have been designated for this purpose.”

Currently, there are about 190 parishioners at St. Mary’s serving as Extraordinary Ministers at our weekend Masses.

New ministers are commissioned each year on Corpus Christi Sunday and all others are re-commissioned every three years. Patty keeps records of this information and sends it to the bishop. The Pastoral Center for the diocese then sends certificates to the Extraordinary Ministers. Patty provides individual training for this important work.

“The Extraordinary Ministers arrive 15 minutes before their scheduled Mass, sign in, make sure that their whole team is present and then pray together,” Patty says. “At the appropriate time, they approach the altar and receive the Eucharist from

the priest or deacon. Then the priest or deacon will give them the proper vessel and they take their assigned spot to distribute Holy Communion.”

Typically, the Extraordinary Ministers serve once per month.

In addition, some ministers also bring Communion to the homebound and the hospitalized. Parishioners Linda Cook and Sr. Josephine coordinate these visits.

“When distributing Communion to the sick, the Extraordinary Ministers also pray with the person and read the Gospel with them,” Patty says.

Parishioner Katharine Colgan has served as an Extraordinary Minister at St. Mary’s for several decades. She first became involved when her children were young because she wanted to provide an example of service that they could see with their own eyes.

“It’s a pretty awesome responsibility,” Katharine says. “We pray ahead of time to be worthy of the privilege. It’s such a great feeling to be able to look people in the eye and offer them the Body and Blood of Christ. What a powerful thing – it’s hard to put it into words.”

For more information about this sublime form of service, please contact Patty Maleck at pmalek@knology.net. Please note that all potential ministers must first be approved by the pastor.



First Communion at St. Mary on the Hill

We congratulate all our young parishioners who recently made their First Communion!



Welcoming the Newest Members of Our St. Mary on the Hill Family

We extend a warm welcome all those who have entered into full communion with the Catholic Church here at St. Mary on the Hill. Pictured here are the newest members of our parish family with their sponsors.



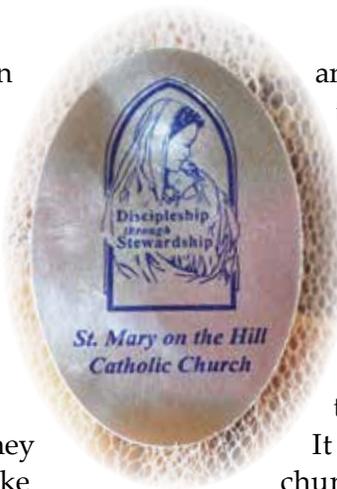
The Support of a Parish Family *Bereavement Basket Ministry*

One of the most important things we can do as a parish is to give our support to the members of our parish family when they have lost a loved one. Here at St. Mary on the Hill, our Bereavement Basket Ministry works to make sure that our parishioners feel the support of our entire parish during such a difficult time.

"It makes them feel like they are part of the St. Mary's family," says Rhonda Wallace, the Bereavement Basket Ministry leader. "They are having someone from St. Mary's come take the time to see them and support them. And also to let them know that the whole parish is praying for them is very comforting."

The Bereavement Basket Ministry is a part of the Consolation Ministry, an umbrella ministry composed of several components all focused on comforting and supporting the members of our parish who have lost a loved one. The purpose of the Bereavement Basket Ministry is to provide breakfast to the family of a deceased loved one on the day of the funeral.

There are around 45 volunteer members of this ministry. One of these volunteers is "on call" each week,



and they rotate throughout the year. When there is a funeral at the parish, the volunteer on call contacts the family to set up the delivery of a breakfast basket.

"The most important aspect of the ministry is that we have direct contact with the family," Rhonda says. "The volunteers call the family to set up a time to drop the basket by, and we offer them condolences from the whole parish.

It really personalizes that support from the church, the person that goes in their home representing St. Mary's. We are a large parish, so I feel it's important for them to feel that outreach with the Bereavement Basket."

The baskets have a number of different breakfast foods, including cereal, oatmeal, grits, coffee, creamer, jelly, juices, breakfast bars and more, and the volunteer who delivers the basket also purchases fresh fruits to add to the basket.

"This ministry is one of the only ones that you truly share your time, talent and treasure, because the person that delivers the basket adds the fresh items, which is usually about \$15," Rhonda says. "So you're not only sharing your time and talent, you're sharing your treasure as well."

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— Rhonda Wallace



Bereavement Basket Ministry

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Through the service performed by the members of the Bereavement Basket Ministry, the love and compassion of Christ is extended grieving families in our parish, and the volunteers themselves are blessed by the experience.

"It's allowed me to share my faith with others by going into the home and visiting with people and hearing their stories about their loved ones," Rhonda says. "I've been able to share my faith by supporting them and praying with them. I've met some wonderful people over the years. And I've enjoyed not only meeting people whose homes I go into, but also meeting the people in the ministry."

For more information about the Bereavement Basket Ministry, please contact Rhonda Wallace at 706-825-4350 or rhondawallace@comcast.net.



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Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill Church

In Memory of Mike Hagler

Pixie and John Frank

In Memory of Mary Alice King

Mr. & Mrs. F. T. Martin

In Memory of Rosemary Roper

Fran and Bill Agee

Katherine and Larry Babbitt

Kathleen L. Brittingham II

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Christine and Richard Faenza

Foodies Café and Catering (Jerry Crites)

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St. Mary on the Hill School

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Marcia and Michael Johnson

St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment

In Memory of Mike Hagler

Heidi and Benjamin Brewton