

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Kindness, Compassion, and the Law of Love

Dear Parishioners,

We are in a period of transition. My departure to St. Michael's on Tybee Island will come all too soon on Aug. 1. Before I go, we will welcome Laura Webster as our new Principal for our parish school and Andrew Barnick as our new Music Director on July 1. We've already said goodbye to Alvin Blount, and we are in the midst of expressing our deep, deep gratitude to Joe McBride for the outstanding work he has done as leader of our Catholic School.

Fr. Gonzalo Meza will be moving west this month to join the pastoral team at St. Teresa of Avila in Grovetown. I am grateful for his good work among us for the last year and half. Fr. Vernon Knight, who served with us as a seminarian intern a few summers ago, will begin his work as our new Parochial Vicar on June 14. And Peter Lanshima, who is completing his Pastoral Year with us, will be headed to Nigeria at the beginning of July for a well-desired home visit before he returns to St. Vincent DePaul Seminary at the end of the summer. I think Peter is going to be a great priest.

I've had many joys as your pastor, but one that I really cherish is creating a place of welcome for priests in retirement, priests in transition, and priests just beginning in ministry. There have been challenges along the way, but far more blessings. And I am so very grateful for the help of this faith community in creating that place of welcome. Moving forward, I doubt that I'll have the same opportunities to share in the formation of seminarians and priests that I've had here. But if I did, I would like to offer this little bit of wisdom that I've learned over the years:

1. Open yourself up to a wide range of pastoral experiences. You'll only have a short time as a parochial vicar, so take in as much as you can. I know that in some parishes there are associates who think that celebrating Mass and hearing confessions are their only real commitments as a priest. But I've always encouraged priests and seminarians to develop a "ministry of presence." In a large parish, it's almost impossible to attend every parish and school event, but give it a good effort. And make visiting the sick a priority.

2. Don't make sweeping judgments about people. People are complex. Not every Catholic who likes to sing the *Agnus Dei* in Latin wants the parish to celebrate the entire Mass in Latin. Some feel called to contemplation in the Adoration Chapel, while others feel called to service at the Master's Table. Some find a balance of both. Don't assume that you

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.

continued on page 7

St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Welcomes

Though undoubtedly a profession, the role of a teacher goes much deeper than simply earning a salary. This is especially true of Catholic educators, who have the unique ability to use their God-given talents for the eternal good.

“Catholic education isn’t just about book education – it’s a unity of nurturing the mind, heart and body,” says Mrs. Laura Andrews Webster, new Principal at St. Mary on the Hill School. “We are cultivating the soul, and to me that’s the most important part. We’re helping people become Christ-like.”

Mrs. Webster was attracted to the vocation of teaching from a young age. As a child, she could frequently be found “teaching” her brothers and sisters in their playroom at home. Her love for teaching only grew as she matured under the influence of excellent teachers. Inspired by their example and motivated by a desire to have a lasting effect on others, she felt increasingly called to pursue a career in education.

“I have always loved teaching,” Mrs. Webster says. “I love being around people – I love to inspire others and see that moment when somebody gets it. When really looking at the gifts God has given me, many of them pointed toward the education field. Finally, over the years, I had many teachers who inspired me and taught me about the art of teaching.”

Since first embarking on her professional journey, Mrs. Webster has spent over 20 years in the educational system. She has a bachelor’s in English Education from the University of South Carolina Aiken, a master’s in Special Education from the University of South Carolina (USC), and finally a master’s in Education Administration from Augusta State University. She has worked in both the public and



Feeling that Catholic education serves a higher purpose, Mrs. Webster is deeply grateful to begin the next chapter of her professional and spiritual journey as principal of St. Mary on the Hill School.



One of the Webster family’s favorite pastimes is going camping. Mrs. Webster, her husband, Scott, and their three boys enjoy a camping trip in Maine.

Catholic sectors, most recently working as an Assistant Principal and English I teacher at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic School in Aiken, S.C.

Taking as her unofficial motto St. Teresa of Calcutta’s words, “I am only a pencil in the hand of God,” Mrs. Webster strives daily to be the Lord’s instrument to her husband, children, students, and colleagues. To her, this is a central part of the Catholic faith and the vocation of teaching.

“I believe that an educator should always be looking at the individual students, should always be examining their own God-given gifts, and working their hardest to help the students perform to their fullest potential, so that one day they will become strong Christians and positively transform society,” Mrs. Webster says.

Though Mrs. Webster didn’t necessarily foresee becoming a principal when she first started out as a

New Principal **Laura Andrews Webster**

teacher, part of being that instrument has been continually evaluating her gifts and seeking His will for her career and family. And, thanks to the encouragement and mentorship of many veteran teachers, Mrs. Webster eventually felt called to pursue a principalship.

"I never said 'no' to a leadership position," Mrs. Webster says. "And then my current principal, who was also my principal in the public school, gave me more and more leadership opportunities. I guess she saw something in me and I'm so grateful to her for cultivating the gifts in me that I will now use as a Principal."

After spending the past year discerning and preparing for this next step, Mrs. Webster is deeply grateful to God for leading her to St. Mary on the Hill for the 2017-18 academic year, where she hopes to continue helping students, parents and teachers grow to their "fullest potential." Looking back on the journey, God's hand has been so evident in her professional life and she is very excited to continue "growing her own Catholic faith while working to help others grow in theirs."



Mrs. Webster with her high school English teacher, Collette Miller, who first inspired her to enter the field of English education.

"Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops." – Henry Brooks Adams



Thank You, Jane Eubanks!

We would like to thank Jane "Big Jane" Eubanks for 44 years of dedication to the Senior Mass and Luncheon. What a true inspiration she is to us all, with her warm, welcoming way!

Lisa Shuford Reflects on Her Family's History at

As we continue to celebrate our centennial anniversary here at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church, it has been so much fun to hear parishioners travel down memory lane as they recall some of the people and events that were a part of early life in our parish! We are blessed to have such a rich history, and many parishioners whose roots at our church often trace back several generations. One of the "founding families" that has been a presence at St. Mary on the Hill since the very first days of the parish is the Erbelding family.

As parishioner Lisa Shuford notes, her maternal grandparents, Henry and Alice (McAuliffe) Erbelding, were a part of the St. Mary on the Hill parish family as early as its founding in 1917.

"I've been told that my grandfather served the very first Mass at St. Mary's," Lisa says. "My grandfather's family had moved to the Hill from downtown – there had been a fire and a flood, and things had been tough downtown, so they moved up here. My grandmother's family lived two blocks away from him, and after they got married, they lived on the Hill and several of their siblings were all within a few blocks on Monte Sano."

The McAuliffe-Erbelding family maintained strong ties to the parish throughout their lives. Before her marriage to Henry Erbelding, Alice McAuliffe had attended Mount St. Joseph School as a girl. And later in life, Alice's sister, Ruth McAuliffe, served as the church historian at St. Mary on the Hill for many years. Alice and Henry spent their married life within walking distance of the church and remained active parishioners until their deaths in 1982 and 1993, respectively.

Alice and Henry Erbelding had one child, Alice, who married Stuart Shuford and went on to have four children of her own – Lisa (who is the fourth-generation Alice in her family), Ruthie, Bill, and



Henry and Alice Erbelding

Rosemary. While Ruthie and Rosemary currently live in Atlanta, Lisa and Bill are still parishioners at St. Mary on the Hill. In addition to being active in the parish, Bill and his wife, Jennifer Shuford, have sent their children, Henry and Anna, to St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School.

Clearly, the descendants of Alice and Henry Erbelding have maintained strong ties to our parish, and much of their closeness to church life has its roots in their childhoods spent in the St. Mary on the Hill community.

"I grew up in a neighborhood that was almost entirely Catholic, and that was pretty cool," says Lisa, who still lives within blocks of the house her grandfather Erbelding grew up in on the Hill. "I myself was walking distance from the church and school. On the street I grew up on, almost everyone went to St. Mary's, and I loved that. It was really special."

Lisa still has many fond memories of her days at St. Mary on the Hill School. Some of the people that stand out in her memory are Sr. Mary Gerald, the Principal during Lisa's time at the school; Mrs. Kearns, the school

"St. Mary's gave me a foundation for my beliefs, and I've never wanted to go to church anywhere else. I feel like even though the church has expanded, the school and church is still really a family. We continue to grow, but we maintain those same values and that sense of togetherness. Growing up on the Hill, the church and the school were part of the fabric of our lives. That was just life, and it was a wonderful one." – Lisa Shuford

St. Mary on the Hill



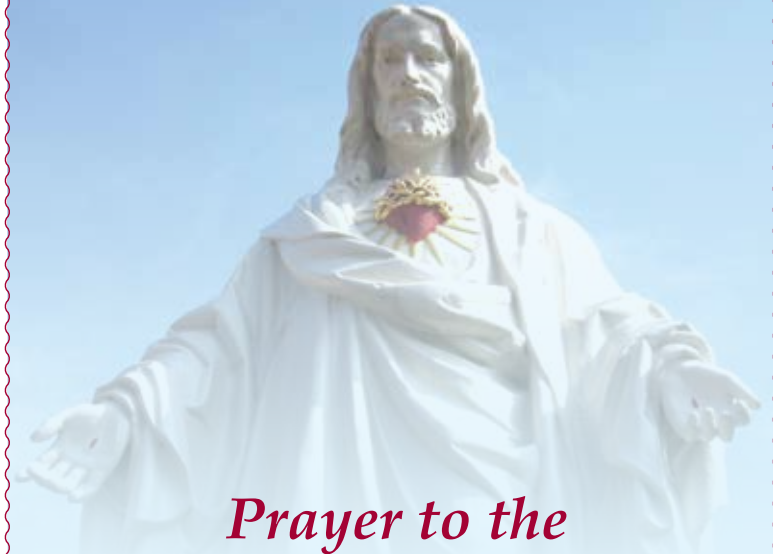
The Erbeldings' daughter, Alice, with her children; (front, from left) Alice Erbelding Shuford, Ruthie Shuford, Bill Shuford; (back, from left) Lisa Shuford and Rosemary Shuford

secretary and “jack of all trades”; and Miss Mulherin, who worked in the cafeteria back when fish was served every Friday.

At the church, an annual highlight for young Lisa was always the May Procession, held on the afternoon of Mother’s Day. The girls would dress in white, the children sang in the choir, and all the families in attendance would raid their gardens to bring flowers to the Mass. Lisa is thankful not only for the great education and faith formation she received at the school and church, but also for the friendships formed in those years that continue to endure today.

Reflecting on the church community that she “inherited” from her grandparents and looking toward the future of the parish, Lisa finds that blessings abound.

“St. Mary’s gave me a foundation for my beliefs, and I’ve never wanted to go to church anywhere else,” she says. “I feel like even though the church has expanded, the school and church are still really a family. We continue to grow, but we maintain those same values and that sense of togetherness. Growing up on the Hill, the church and the school were part of the fabric of our lives. That was just life, and it was a wonderful one.”



Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

We offer the following prayer for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 23.

*O most holy heart of Jesus,
fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you,
and with lively sorrow for my sins,
I offer you this poor heart of mine.
Make me humble, patient, pure
and wholly obedient to Your will.
Grant, Good Jesus,
that I may live in You and for You.
Protect me in the midst of danger.
Comfort me in my afflictions.
Give me health of body,
assistance in my temporal needs,
Your blessing on all that I do,
and the grace of a holy death.
Amen.*

100-Year Anniversary Celebration Events 2017

June 4 – Church Picnic at Mistletoe State Park,
11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mass at noon

Summer Series – Talks & Dinner

*See feature at right for information on this
upcoming formation opportunity!*

Sept. 1 – All-School First Friday Mass, 9:15 a.m.,
followed by 100th Anniversary Reception
Parish Hall

Sept. 17 – CCD 100-Year Celebration, 9 a.m. in
the Church, reception to follow in the
Parish Hall

Oct. 10 – Dr. Richard Elliott, Mormon Tabernacle
Senior Organist, Organ Recital in the Church
at 7 p.m.

Oct. 21 – Summerville Tour of Homes featuring
our Church, 12-3 p.m.

Oct. 22 – Summerville Tour of Homes featuring
our Church, 2-5 p.m.

Nov. 15 – Perpetual Adoration 20th Anniversary
Benediction, 7 p.m., with reception to follow in
Parish Hall

Dec. 8 – 100th Anniversary Mass at 6 p.m.
Inaugural ringing of the 100th Anniversary
Carillon Bells, followed by Gala Ball in the
St. Mary on the Hill School Cafeteria



You Are Invited to Our Summer Series!

*Please join us for our Summer Series talks
on the following Wednesdays:
June 21, July 12 and July 26. The talks
begin at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The
featured speakers and topics include:*

June 21 – Dr. Allen Hunt

*“Why One of Every 10 Adults Is an
Ex-Catholic”*

July 12 – Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB

*“The Parish Community in the Mind,
Heart and Teaching of Pope Francis”*

July 26 – Sr. Laura Ann Grady, CSJ

“A Seed Is Planted...”

*Also, you are invited to join us for
the Summer Series Dinners, which
immediately follow each of the talks, at
Sheehan’s Irish Pub, located at the corner of
Central Avenue and Monte Sano. The cost
of the dinner is \$37, including entrée, salad
and dessert, as well as tax and gratuity.
Tickets can only be purchased at the parish
office. This is limited to 45 guests.*

Kindness, Compassion, and the Law of Love *continued from front cover*

know everything about a person based on very few facts. Once we've called someone a "bleeding heart liberal" or "right wing radical," we have compartmentalized them and they can be dismissed. There is a great diversity of charisms, talents and experiences in our faith community. Be open to it all for the glory of God.

3. Be kind and compassionate. I have yet to meet the perfect Catholic (although I have met many people who think that they are). Remember, "The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you" (Mt. 7:2). Honest self-reflection is related to this. Sometimes, the priest has to stand firm even when everyone disagrees with him. Sometimes, when everyone disagrees with him, he may be wrong. A wise person can tell the difference.

4. Seek out the lost sheep. I have heard some priests over the years dismiss Catholics who are marginal in their practice of the faith. Some of the best experiences in my priesthood have been "walking" with people to the point that they return to a regular practice of the faith. Obviously, the faith can't be watered down, but everyone is made by God in His image and is deeply loved by God. Look to the Good Shepherd for guidance. He didn't say, "Read this *Catechism* and fully believe it all, then come and see!" These marginal Catholics are the prodigal sons, the

lost coins, the woman at the well. The liturgy tells us that Christ thirsts for their faith. As Pope Francis so beautifully says, don't just tell them about the faith. Go out and meet them, walk with them, teach them, love them. Pope Paul VI eloquently summed up this idea 40 years ago, saying, "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41).

5. Follow the law of love. Love is sometimes viewed as weak and "soft Catholicism." Yet, "love is the fulfillment of the law" (Rm. 13:10). Loving another means that we are patient and kind towards every person regardless of who they are or what they believe. The person who loves is neither arrogant nor a gossip. Love doesn't call other people derogatory names. Love ultimately unites rather than divides. Love is of such great importance that the Lord reminds us that we only will be recognized as His follower by our love for one another (Jn 13:35). God is love. If love is not present, we are not allowing God to be present. Where there is love, God is there.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

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Baptisms

April 22
Clarissa Annabel Elise Pantin
Daughter of Jeremy and Tessa Pantin

April 23
Anna Rose Goldberg
Daughter of Adam and Megan Goldberg

April 29
Marin Gregory McGraw
Daughter of Devin and Margaret McGraw

April 30
Beatrice Ruth Douglas
Daughter of Palmer and Molly Douglas