

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Tip for a Happy, Holy Summer

Dear Parishioners,

Summertime...
Sunshine...
Relaxation...
Beach Days...
Cool Drinks...
T-shirts and Shorts...
And...heaven help
us... "I'M BORED!"

I love summertime! It gives most of us a chance to slow down a little, an opportunity "to be recreated." As a busy parish priest who is getting older, I find myself longing for boring days. But I realize how quickly our children get bored when they get out of the school routine. So, here are a few suggestions for the month of June to keep the kids in good spirits and rooted in their Catholic Faith.

Corpus Christi Procession - On Saturday night, June 9, join other families in the parish for a simple summer meal of hot dogs and watermelon, then we'll have a procession with the Blessed Sacrament from the Adoration Chapel down to church via Glenn Ave. This is a solemn celebration and procession extolling our love of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist that dates back almost eight centuries. In establishing a feast honoring The Body and Blood

of Christ, we proclaim the very heart of what makes us Catholic.

Vacation Bible School - I love pilgrimages, and this year from June 11-15, our children will be taking an imaginary journey to Rome. So make sure they don't miss the bus as they take a pilgrimage of the mind and heart on the Vatican Express. While taking a cyber tour of St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, our kids will get to know St. Peter and how he followed Jesus in getting the Church started.

A Fortnight for Freedom - The U.S. bishops have issued a call to action to defend religious liberty. "This is not a Catholic issue. This is not a Jewish issue. This is not an Orthodox, Mormon, or Muslim issue. It is an American issue," they said. "To be Catholic and American should mean not having to choose one over the other." The bishops also proposed that the 14 days from June 21—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to July 4, Independence Day, be dedicated to the theme of a "fortnight for freedom." Members of our Youth Group and Young Adult Ministry will be invited to a Prayer Vigil for Reli-

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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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.

The Faithful Readers Book Club

Only God knows the good that can come about by reading one good Catholic book.
—St. John Bosco

Have you read any good books lately? Or, more specifically, have you read any good Catholic books? For the women who participate in St. Mary's Faithful Readers Book Club, reading books that encourage a deeper analysis of our faith is what it's all about.

Jodie Silva, who has coordinated the ministry for the past five years, explains that the Faithful Readers Book Club meets every six to eight weeks to discuss a book that was selected at a previous meeting. The group mostly selects books by Catholic authors, but exceptions are sometimes made, such as the most recent selection, *The Robe* by Lloyd C. Douglas.

"We read fiction, nonfiction, self-help, biographies; it runs the gamut," Jodie explains. "When we gather, everyone offers a different perspective or viewpoint, which leads to lively discussions."

Over the years, the group has read an impressive number of books, including *The Restless Flame: a Novel about St. Augustine* by Louis de Wohl, *Confessions of an Ex-Feminist* by Lorraine V. Murray, *Jesus of Nazareth* by Pope Benedict XVI, *Extreme Makeover: Women Transformed by Christ, Not Conformed to the Culture* by Teresa Tomeo, and one of Jodie's favorites, *Sophia House* by Michael D. O'Brien.

"*Sophia House* was set in Warsaw during the Nazi occupation, and



Jodie Silva, ministry coordinator of the Faithful Readers Book Club

tells the story of a bookseller who hides a Jewish youth in the attic of his book shop," Jodie says. "During the cold, winter months, they discuss good and evil, sin and redemption, literature and philosophy, and their respective religious views. I loved the depth of these characters and the discussions they had regarding their views on life and death."

For long-time participant Ruth Prohaska, being part of the group has challenged her to never stop seeking and learning about our Catholic Faith.

"I just feel that one day God will ask me what I did to learn more about Him," Ruth explains. "Something like the book club helps me keep my spiritual awareness alive. It gives me a chance to talk about my faith and, honestly, with three boys, it gives me an intellectual break."

One of the books that Ruth cites as one of her favorites is *Unplanned* by Abby Johnson, the former director of Planned Parenthood who converted to the pro-life movement after assisting in an ultrasound-guided abortion. Ruth says that reading the book made her aware, for the first time, how the people who work at Planned Parenthood need our prayers just as much as those who go there for services.

"The book showed me that many people who work there aren't necessarily evil or bad; they truly believe that they are helping women," Ruth says. "And I never thought about it that way. It was a great book that helped me have a greater understanding on what they are thinking."

The group takes turns meeting in each other's respective homes, and new members are always welcome. Jodie explains there is no commitment involved, which makes it easy for members to select which discussions to join.

"It's very informal," Jodie says. "But we cherish being able to read these inspiring and thought-provoking books, and being able to get together for discussion and fellowship."

For more information on the Faithful Readers Book Club, or to get on the group's e-mail list, please contact Jodie Silva at jodiesilva@gmail.com or 706-364-3533.

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An Unforgettable Meal

The Feast of Corpus Christi — June 10

If you were to make a list of “famous people from history” to invite for dinner, there’s a good chance Jesus Christ would make the cut.

As a historical figure alone, the meal conversation would no doubt prove interesting.

Yet the thought of spending time with Christ personally ushers in additional ponderings that far exceed a mere “getting to know you” routine. Jesus Christ is the only human being in history who is also your Creator – He already knows you intimately!

You might then imagine that if Christ revealed Himself to you personally, then you would immediately love Him deeply and believe without doubt. You might think to yourself: “If I could just meet Him once... it would be easy to believe.”

There is a bit of truth in this thought. As human beings, we are affected by personal presence, and the most intense communication transpires through physical contact. Just ask the Apostle, doubting Thomas. The sight of Christ alone was not enough; Thomas required physical touch to be satisfied.

The beauty of the Gospel message is that it is universal. Just as the resurrected Christ invited Thomas to touch Him in the flesh, so too does Christ invite us – His disciples in 2012 – to meet Him physically in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

So, if you would like to share a meal with Christ, the time is here! You have already been given a perpetual, open-ended invitation to dine with Him, in His Father’s



house. Through the gift of the Eucharist, we are invited to share in the eternal banquet of heaven. This belief is the incomprehensible glory of our Catholic Faith.

We celebrate with great joy, therefore, the night on which Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Although “reenacted” at every Mass, we commemorate this event on two special feast days of the liturgical calendar: Holy Thursday and the Feast of Corpus Christi.

The joy of this “holy gift” cannot be adequately expressed on Holy Thursday, due to its nearness to Good Friday; therefore, the Feast of Corpus Christi – also known as the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – is given its own day on the liturgical calendar.

Throughout the rest of the world, the Feast of Corpus Christi is normally celebrated on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday, thereby mirroring Holy Thursday; however, the U.S. does not maintain this feast as a Holy Day of Obligation. It is considered a “moveable feast” and will be celebrated on the second Sunday following Pentecost, June 10, 2012.

On this glorious feast, take the time to thank Our Heavenly Father for the gift He bestows on us through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In the words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta: “When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then. When you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”

Broken Hearts are Best

by Katie Conner



We finally completed our last “post-placement report” for our adopted Bulgarian boy, Gabriel. The social worker who did our home-study to make sure we could provide a suitable environment for Gabe has been coming to our house every six months to check on him since we brought him home. Her final visit was a little milestone for our family, and it’s had me reflecting on our journey to, and now with, our beloved boy.

When our family first laid eyes on him from a photo on the Internet, we were drawn to him. It wasn’t just that we fell in love with him (we did)—he utterly broke our hearts. He had been diagnosed with Down syndrome and sent to an orphanage when he was five days old. It’s not that we pitied him. He was a tough little guy who had likely survived more difficulties in his three years than we had our whole lives. But he made our hearts melt with compassion for what he had been through and with pain at the thought of what his future held if he were not rescued from that orphanage.

We began researching the possibility of adoption with already achy hearts, having just lost a little one through miscarriage. Perhaps the Lord had softened us a bit already with this wound. The adoption ministry gave us the name that went with the face — he was Gabriel — “God’s messenger.” The thought of this beautiful child, this messenger from God, locked away in an institution for the rest of his life because of his Down syndrome was unbearable. So with broken, hopeful hearts, our family began the adoption process. It seemed a long journey, even agonizing at times. Somehow, from across the ocean, our bond with this boy grew, and so the cracks in our hearts grew, too. They got wider and deeper, as we waited and prayed and filled out forms day by day. I like to think I have good manners and a bit of patience, but I became downright pushy throughout that process, doing whatever I could to speed along his journey home to us. My heart was broken and I could not rest until he was here.

My husband teasingly calls me “hard-hearted Hannah” because I can sit through the most heart-wrenching scene of any movie without flinching. I’m just not a crier. But since I was a little girl, I have always teared up in the presence of folks with mental disabilities. It’s not from pity, just tenderness. The Lord must have put a soft spot in my heart after all, and I simply can’t help it. We all have broken places in our hearts, places that are tender and vulnerable for one reason or another. Perhaps the Lord created them as He was forming our heart, or perhaps they are the result of a loss or injury we have suffered in our lives — physical, emotional, or spiritual.

These broken places, these soft spots, are nothing to be ashamed of. Our Lord Himself allowed His own Heart to be broken — because He loves us and wants so much for us to belong to Him. In the month of June, we celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image associated with this devotion shows a picture of Jesus looking lovingly at us with His Heart revealed. The Heart has been wounded, and from the opening of that wound fall drops of His precious blood. It was that broken Heart that conquered sin and death once and for all, and in so doing, showed us what to do with our own broken hearts. I’m sure we can all think of examples of people with broken hearts reaching out to others — couples suffering infertility who are staunch advocates for the unborn, cancer patients reaching out to those who have been newly diagnosed, couples who have suffered marital difficulties mentoring other couples.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus teaches us what to do with the wounds in our hearts. From His loving glance in this image, He seems to say, “Don’t be ashamed. I love you in your broken places. They are beautiful to me — use them to reach out to others and bring them close to my Heart.”

SMS Golf Tournament a Success

Our parish would like to thank everyone who came out to support our 20th Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Golf Tournament, held April 20 at Forest Hills Golf Club. This year, 96 players, 58 hole sponsors, five tournament sponsors, and one tee sponsor helped us to raise more than \$18,000. We would also like to thank all the volunteers and those who attended the tournament.



(from left) Larry LaHatte, Terry Brogan, Ronnie McDonald, Msgr. Costigan and David Whyte at the Golf Tournament



Gould Hagler (left) stands with Msgr. Costigan at the Golf Tournament.



Buzz Poteet stands in front of one of the Hole-In-One prizes from Augusta Marine.



Some of the Aquinas golfers helped out at the tournament.



Signs for some of the tournament's hole sponsors

Tip for a Happy, Holy Summer *continued from front cover*

gious Liberty at the U.S. Courthouse on June 27. All are welcome. Check the weekly bulletin for details.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game – One of my favorite summertime activities is watching a baseball game with good friends. The play is slow enough that you can have great conversations with those folks sitting next to you while keeping an eye on the action on and off the field. Come as a family to St. Mary on the Hill night at the GreenJackets game. Keep an eye on the bulletin for the date and more details.

Make a Pilgrimage to the Cathedral – Rev. Mr. Jason Adams will be ordained a priest on June 30. Several of our young adults have been making this pilgrimage for the last several years and have found it to be an awesome experience. The soon to be Fr. Adams was our summer intern last year, so it is nice to have that personal connection.

Stop at a Shrine - When you travel across the United States, include a stop at one of the many beautiful Catholic shrines throughout the nation. Catholic Shrines USA (<http://www.catholicshrines.net/>) is a ter-

rific website that features a state-by-state list complete with photos and phone numbers.

TIP: Be sure to bring lots of single dollar bills with you to light candles for your intentions and for friends and family.

Don't Forget Sunday Mass - Even if you're on vacation, your obligation to assist at Sunday Mass doesn't go away. While you're scheduling your trip, be sure to include Mass. Mass Times for Travel (<http://www.mass-times.org/>) is an excellent site for finding Mass times around the world.

TIP: Be certain to call ahead, as schedules can change. And don't be surprised if the congregation stands or kneels in keeping with local customs.

Whatever you do – Have a great and holy Summer!

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement



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Baptisms

Kathryn Elizabeth Groves
daughter of Michael & Shirley Groves

Elizabeth Jane Williams
daughter of Andrew & Maggie Williams

John Aden Shoffner
son of Jonathan & Cecilia Shoffner

Jacob Andrew Shoffner
son of Jonathan & Cecilia Shoffner

Andrew Walter Spensley
son of Brian & Nicole Spensley

Madison Rae Booher
*Granddaughter of Daniel & Sharelle
Booher*

Landers Katherine Rhodes
daughter of Scott & Ryan Rhodes