

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL

CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Keeping our Lenten Intentions this Season

Dear Parishioners,

Are you doing anything to grow to a deeper spiritual maturity this Lent? Anything? For those who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus, who want to understand God's love more deeply, there is no better time than Lent – which is to say, no better moment than right now. But I would caution you not to try to do too much. For example, I've never had as much success with a New Year's resolution as I've had this year, when I focused on only one intention. It is to follow the directives that St. Paul gave to the Ephesians, which can be found in chapter 4, verse 29 of his letter to the Ephesians:

"No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear."

Ever since I left the crew of the dredge (talk about salty language) that I worked on in the summer of 1972, I really haven't had much of a problem with foul language. But there are times in thought or word when I can have a sharp, critical, even sarcastic tongue, especially with those who are close to me. Now I am hoping that most of you will be thinking, "Oh, Fr. Jerry, that can't be true." But unfortunately, too often it is. And I want to change. I want to move beyond simply observing the rules of being a good Christian. I want to move

towards a more intimate relationship with Jesus and say only the good that will build people up and help them to more clearly see the grace of God's love in their lives.

Focusing in on just one simple intention is really helping me move towards it. At least I am more conscious than ever of when I'm being too sharp with my tongue. So, I'd suggest that you focus on just one extra spiritual practice this Lent. During the season of Lent, Catholics traditionally devote special efforts to deepen their relationship with the Lord in three areas: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.

To gain a greater spiritual maturity, you might want to consider a spiritual practice in each area. But by the time you read this, most likely we'll already be a couple of weeks (Ash Wednesday was March 1) into the Lenten season, so if you've not done anything special for Lent up to this point, let's keep our expectations realistic. Choose one of the following ideas or one of your own choosing and stick with it through Holy Week.

Hopefully these few ideas will inspire your own thoughts. If you are serious about keeping your Lenten intention, it could truly be life changing. (Hint: a Lenten journal may help in noticing and recording your growth.)

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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"The Need for Values in Young People's Lives Does Not Stop After Eighth Grade"

St. Mary on the Hill Presents \$100,000 Gift to Aquinas High School

Fr. Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ began his career as a Jesuit priest as a teacher of literature and psychology to high school students at Immaculate Conception School in Santa Fe, Argentina. Of course, we know Fr. Jorge better as Pope Francis, but many feel he learned how to communicate and how to structure his message of hope in those early years as a Catholic high school teacher.

Our pope certainly developed a great love and respect for Catholic schools and Catholic education. Speaking to Catholic students and teachers recently, he said, "Catholic school is one of the educational environments where one grows by learning how to live, how to become grown-up, mature men and women... Following what St. Ignatius teaches us, the main element in Catholic school is learning to be magnanimous... This means having a big heart, having a greatness of soul. It means having grand ideals, the desire to achieve great things in response to what God asks of us and, precisely because of this, doing

everyday things, all our daily actions, commitments, and meetings with people well. [It means] doing the little everyday things with a big heart that is open to God and to others."

We are blessed here in Augusta to have a quality Catholic high school – Aquinas. Established in 1957, the school has faithfully served the area for 60 years.

"More than half our students come from St. Mary on the Hill, and our affiliation with them through the years has been one of the major reasons for our success," says Mrs. Maureen Lewis, Principal at Aquinas. "Their commitment to us for \$100,000 for the 2017-2018 school year is an incredible act of support. What is really important about this wonderful gift is that it is such a strong indication to the families of our area that St. Mary on the Hill Parish believes in Catholic education, and that they recognize that the need for values in young people's lives does not stop after eighth grade."

Aquinas is funded mainly by tuition, but the additional support provided to the school means that tuition is kept at an affordable level.

"Nevertheless, we also recognize that even that can be a challenge and a sacrifice on the part of many families," Mrs. Lewis says. "Although many of the eighth-graders from St. Mary came to Aquinas, there were more than we would like who could not come for financial reasons. We approached the Councils at St. Mary

to see if there might be a way to address this issue. The result was this great contribution which will be used to assist families from St. Mary in sending children to Aquinas."

In addition, as an official diocesan high school, Aquinas also receives support from the Diocese of Savannah, as well as grants and funding from other sources. In some dioceses, parishes are mandated to support diocesan high schools, but that is not the case in the Diocese of Savannah.

Mrs. Lewis is very positive about the future of Aquinas and proud of what the school stands for now.

"At Aquinas, our students have the opportunity to develop their intellect, challenge their physical limits and, most importantly, cultivate their Catholic and Christian faith," she says. "Catholic schools are different. We provide an excellent education – our students have a high level of college attendance and acceptance, and their SAT and ACT scores are higher than both state and national averages. But the real key is that our mission is to develop Church leaders by emphasizing moral/ethical standards of spirit, mind, and body, and to promote Christian service among our students and our entire community. We believe a positive, active spiritual life must permeate everyday living. We are proud to use this quote from Pope Saint John Paul II as one of our standards – 'Catholic schools are the single greatest ministry in the Catholic Church.'"



If you would like more information on Aquinas High School, please contact the school office at 706-736-5516.

Celebrating 100 Years

The 1960s and the Early 1970s

With the many building projects' completion – Catholic St. Joseph's Hospital, Aquinas High School and St. Mary's on the Hill Grade School (plus 1964 junior high and 1965 Convent and Chapel additions) – life settled in to a different pace for parishioners. St. Mary's School had 600 students enrolled. The parish census gradually increased.

But on the larger world stage, Vatican Council II, convened by Pope John XXIII in 1963, ushered in the greatest liturgical reforms in over 400 years. Over this decade, the Holy Eucharist, traditionally said in Latin, was celebrated in English. At St. Mary's on the Hill, changes in the sanctuary were made in 1969. A new altar of Italian marble was installed with the celebrant facing the congregation. The Altar of St. Joseph was covered to be a beautiful Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament with its tabernacle of hand wrought bronze from Ireland. The new pulpit made of Italian limestone was added, and the Baptismal font was placed within the sanctuary.

Also in 1969, the parish celebrated its Golden Jubilee, 50 years from when the first Masses were said in the original 1919 church – now the Parish Hall. The simple elegance of the new church was greatly enhanced by the installation of stained glass windows! The windows represent the Mysteries of the Rosary, 14 along the nave aisle windows with the 15th, depicting the Coronation of our Lady, placed on the large western balcony window – above the current choir loft. Three windows were mounted in the Baptistry that later became the Sacristy. These windows today reside in the Day Chapel.

Changes instituted by Vatican II resulted in cultural thought changes, as well. The domestic Church was about to begin the transition of the religious clergy – priests, nuns and brothers – executing all matters of the

parish and its outreach to utilizing lay members to “extend the Hand of Christ.”

Msgr. Burke also led the charge to sponsor the formation of a new parish, St. Teresa of Avila in west Augusta in 1968. The rapid growth St. Mary's parish experienced during the 1950s and 1960s drove this decision.

In 1970, Msgr. Burke was transferred to Blessed Sacrament Parish in Savannah. He possessed an uncommon intellectual capacity to harmonize the traditionalist and progressive viewpoints of the Vatican Council II changes, and this went a long way to smoothing the way of ensuing changes. He convened a Parish Council that adopted a “constitution” that provided

for the election of nine parishioners to assist with parish administration and policy-making toward parish activities and functions.

The 1970s continued a time of change in the parish, nation and universal church. Many long-held traditions were challenged, and Catholics were called to a greater awareness of the social responsibilities.

Msgr. Marvin LeFrois began his pastorate in September 1970. Soon after his arrival, another event in downtown Augusta – to some parishioners, perhaps more devastating than the Fire of 1916 – affected St. Mary's. In 1971, the three downtown parishes – Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart – were combined by the bishop into one parish, Church of the Most Holy Trinity. The closure of Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart devastated their members. Many Sacred Heart members already had close ties to St. Mary's through family or friends, and our parish became their new spiritual home.

While Sacred Heart closed, the loyalty of its many members would one day play a prominent role in its resurrection – as a citywide cultural center!



Faith, Fellowship and Service - The Ladies Ancient

Tis the season to celebrate all things Irish! And while many Augustans will be doing just that during this month of March, there is at least one group of Catholics in town who are committed to honoring their Irish heritage all year long. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernian, or LAOH, is a group of women from various area parishes – including St. Mary on the Hill, St. Theresa, Our Lady of Peace, and St. Mary Help of Christians – dedicated to celebrating the Irish history and culture while also promoting fellowship and Christian charity, and fostering loyalty to the Catholic Church and America.

At the end of 2016, our local LAOH had 26 active members, and the group is always looking to grow even more! Practicing Roman Catholics who are at least 16 years of age and Irish by birth, descent or adoption are eligible to join this group, as well as the wives and mothers of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The women in this group are drawn together by a common faith, a love of the Irish culture, and a dedication to service in the community.

Estelle Duncan, a parishioner at St. Mary on the Hill who served as president of the LAOH for four years, enjoys the opportunity to gather with other women who are committed to honoring Irish customs in a uniquely Catholic way.

“We have eight business meetings a year, and they all involve some form of Irish history or culture,” Estelle says. “There are also certain holidays that we are

“It’s an opportunity to support each other. And you have a group of like-minded ladies who want to focus attention on and promote our own histories. We are weaving our ancestral story with our current story, and making sure that our children understand that connection and the power of where you come from.” – Estelle Duncan



Estelle Mulherin Duncan presents a check to Sr. Janet Roddy. The proceeds from the annual LAOH Evening in Ireland were donated to Catholic Social Services.

supposed to celebrate. In January, it was the feast of St. Brigid, so a group of us went to Mass at St. Mary’s together and prayed a novena to St. Brigid. The next holiday is St. Patrick’s Day, and we’ll gather at Holy Trinity to go to Mass together as a group, and we’re also hoping to have a float in the parade this year.”

Other holidays celebrated by the group include the Fourth of July, the feast day of Our Lady of Knock on Aug. 21, and the Feast of the Holy Innocents on Dec. 28. To honor the feast day of the Holy Innocents this past December, the LAOH did several special things throughout the month. They held a cookie swap and bagged a portion of the cookies for Sr. Janet Roddy, the group’s chaplain, to bring to Catholic Social Services in recognition of the day. In addition, the women put together a large basket of baby items for an expectant mother in need. But these ways of reaching out to the community are just the tip of the iceberg for this active group!

Committed to helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community, the LAOH holds two big fundraisers each year. Next month, they will raise money for Catholic Social Services with their annual Ladies Celtic Tea, held in the parish hall at 2 p.m. on April 30.

- With a Distinctly Irish Touch!

Order of Hibernians



"At the Tea, we gather to spend time together and we have some form of Irish entertainment," Estelle says. "In years past, we've had a harpist, we've had Irish dancers, and different forms of Irish music and culture that are presented during a portion of the tea. All of the members of the organization bring items to share – we have tons of food, tea, punch, and desserts. There are raffle baskets and door prizes. It's just a fun afternoon. We've started encouraging people to really dress up – wear the hats, wear the gloves. Last year, we had about 60 people in attendance, and everyone seemed to really enjoy it."

This year's second fundraiser – which will give attendees the experience of an evening at an Irish pub – is tentatively scheduled for late September, so keep an eye out for more information about this fun event in the parish bulletin this summer!

In the meantime, the ladies hope to see you at their Celtic Tea next month – and would love to welcome more women into their group! Joined by their Catholic faith and shared Irish heritage, the LAOH provides parishioners at churches across Augusta, North Augusta, and Aiken a truly unique opportunity for fellowship in the faith, service to the community, and the celebration of a shared culture.

"There is certainly a camaraderie in the group," Estelle says. "When members [are sick or in need], we send out prayer requests, lift them up, and check if there is anything we can do for them. So, it's an opportunity to support each other. And you have a group of like-minded ladies who want to focus attention on and promote our own histories. We are weaving our ancestral story with our current story, and making sure that our children understand that connection and the power of where you come from."

Are you interested in learning more about the upcoming Ladies Celtic Tea or becoming a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians? Contact Estelle Duncan at eduncan081954@yahoo.com.



Each table at the LAOH Ladies Celtic Tea is set and decorated by a different member of the organization.



Virginia Martin and her family enjoying the annual LAOH Celtic Tea.

"A Great and Powerful Way to Advocate for All Life" Students Attend the 2017 March for Life

Hundreds of thousands of pro-life advocates descended on Washington, D.C. this past Jan. 26 to march through the city and give a voice to the voiceless and most vulnerable of our society – the unborn. Among them were 45 youth from Aquinas High School and 10 adults who chaperoned them. They joined the enormous crowds as a way to take action against the greatest human rights injustice of our time.

"We face the greatest evil in history, and most people don't even think twice about it," Aquinas High Campus Minister Mike Lammers says about abortion. "It is our responsibility to do something about it. We need to take action – every one of us."

Mr. Lammers has been bringing Augusta youth to the annual March for Life for six years, and each year, he is moved by the way the youth are affected.

"Being there in that atmosphere and seeing kids so passionate about ending abortion is an experience to be had," he says. "It's incredible."

"The March for Life is a great and powerful way to advocate for all life – conception to natural death," adds Stephanie Hayes, an Aquinas student who attended the march this year.

Mr. Lammers says it a privilege to attend the march and to have the opportunity to take the youth. He says that, apart from sending a message to today's politicians, you never know how it will impact the kids.

"If I can help to get even just one kid passionate about pro-life issues, it will be worth it," he says. "He

or she could be the one to pass the law to end abortion. You never know!"

As exciting and hopeful as that thought is, this year's march brought the hope for the future of the pro-life movement to life. The massive crowd gathered at the Verizon Center in the heart of D.C. early in the morning, where they began the day celebrating Mass together. From there, they made their way to the National Mall to listen to speakers, including Vice President Mike Pence, Kellyanne Conway, an adviser to President Donald Trump, and more. Then, they marched through the city chanting positive pro-life messages of love and praying and singing together.

"The message of this march was one of life and love, and all the words uttered throughout it were said in a gracious loving manner," Mr. Lammers says. "It was full of so many youth, and everyone was so joyful. They were yelling happiness. It was great!"

Aquinas student Campbell Johnson attended the march and echoes Mr. Lammers' sentiments, exclaiming, "All lives matter!"

At the conclusion of the March for Life, the Aquinas group loaded their buses and made their way to the Winter Place Ski resort in West Virginia, where they spent all day Saturday and Sunday morning skiing before they headed home.

"We've dubbed it the 'Ski for Life'," Mr. Lammers says. "And we're looking forward to doing it all again next year!"



Holding signs at the March for Life.



Students with a cardboard statue of Pope Francis.

Keeping our Lenten Intentions this Season *continued from front cover*

PRAYER

- Participate in an extra community prayer activity weekly: perhaps a daily Mass, or the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, or the Rosary on Monday afternoons.
- Dedicate yourself to an extra 10-15 minutes of daily Scripture reading.
- Find an online prayer source (www.sacredspace.ie is a good example) where you can spend 10-15 minutes of prayer at your computer during each busy day.
- Sign up for a weekly hour of Adoration (truly life changing).

FASTING

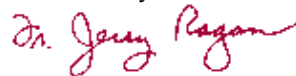
- Fast from negative thoughts of others. Be conscious of mean or petty mental messages.
- Perhaps fasting from all screen time would prove impractical. But set yourself a limit. Sacrifice some aspect of Internet browsing, television watching, or texting, and do something constructive with the time saved.
- Refraining from food or drink is often a fasting choice. Make sure you're doing it for the right sacrificial reasons and perhaps donate the money saved to a charity.

- Fast from the need to always be right. Spend more time listening to or reading the opinions and ideas of those with whom you may not think you agree.

ALMSGIVING

- A wise man was asked, "How much should I give?" His reply: "More." Stretch your charitable giving this Lent. Sacrifice a need or want to give more money to the offertory collection at Mass.
- Set aside a few hours of Lent to be with the poor, to accompany them on their journey. Serve at the Master's Table or Golden Harvest or Catholic Social Services. Promise yourself you will enter your "discomfort" level sometime this Lent.
- Check out your closet. Resolve not to add to it during Lent, but instead find things to give to a charity. A real challenge: don't just give away the clothes of which you've tired. Part with something you still love!

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement

Saint Mary

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Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross, Friday's at 6:30pm

Parish Mission, March 6,7,8 @ 7pm

Women's Small Faith Sharing Group, Sunday's @ 7pm

Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill Church

In Memory of Sharon Pinkerton Wolfe:

Michael Rucker

In Memory of Margaret Polonus:

Michael Rucker

In Memory of Marilyn "Peachie" Meehan Fleming:

Michael C. Eorio

Mrs. Mildred R. Peskin

Susan and McKinne Hardwick

Judge and Mrs. J. Carlisle Overstreet

Mack Hardwick

Tucker Long, P.C.

Law Offices of William J. Sussman, P.C.

Tom and Bonnie Allgood

Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia

Charles R. Sheppard

Judith F. Ruffin

Tenth Judicial Administrative District

Sadie and Sam Maguire

Mr. and Mrs. F. Madison Barrett, II

Dr. & Mrs. Paul McDonough

St. Mary on the Hill School

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Rice

Baptisms

Jude Anderson Willis

Son of Samuel and Ashley Willis

Andrew William Davis

Son of Andrew and Sarah Davis

Brady Michael Howerton

Son of Michael and Julie Howerton, Jr.

Frank Fremont Fisher, IV

Son of John Brendan and Ashley Fisher

Mary Virginia Jones

Daughter of Cody and Anna Jones

Virginia Emma Dexter

Daughter of Gregory and Maria Dexter

Lucas Sebastian Maxwell

Son of Bryan and Diana Maxwell