

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

May Is Time of Celebration and Stewardship in Action

Dear Parishioners,

May is a month of First Communions and graduations. However, our most significant celebration this month will be on May 19, which is my 34th anniversary of ordination, but more importantly this year, Pentecost Sunday. When the Spirit came upon the church on the day of Pentecost, the Christian community was endowed with different gifts so that there would be different ministries and different works. It is a good time to reflect upon how we are using our gifts to build up God's Kingdom

We know from reading Acts of the Apostles during this Easter Season that many Christian communities shared freely with those in need who were not part of the Christian community. This was a powerful witness in the early Church. Despite periods of harsh persecution, the witness of generations of Christians living the "new commandment" of Jesus to "love one another," helped the Church to grow and spread across the Roman Empire, and led many to proclaim, "see how they love one another."

For the early Church, this was where the words of Christ and the needs of the real world met. This practical spiritual-

ity is expressed by Peter when he says, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (1 Peter 4:10). The early Church was living a spirituality that emphasizes that it is not so much that we do things for others but rather God is doing something for others through us. Being aware of the difference between "for" and "through" changes, our whole understanding of what it means to "love one another" and be good stewards of God's grace. Stewardship is where faith and real life meet.

Stewardship is living out a commitment to be Christ-centered rather than self-centered, and it involves a conversion of the heart. Hopefully, it is a conversion that moves us beyond a private, personal piety to a transformation of our relationships with one another and our interaction with our world. Just as the early Church was a visible witness to the power of God's love working through them, we too can become witnesses in today's world by living Jesus' words "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

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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Cardinal Electors Surprise the World, Elect a Historic Pope

As the white smoke billowed from the roof of the Sistine Chapel on Wednesday, March 13, the world looked on with the eager crowd in St. Peter's Square to await the declaration: *Habemus papam* – We have a pope!

What happened next was a tremendous surprise to many – likely including the new Holy Father, Pope Francis.

According to a *National Catholic Register* article that ran on its website the day after the papal election, Pope Francis is being greeted by U.S. Church leaders with a wave of enthusiastic response. Catholic leaders around the nation are hailing Pope Francis as a man who will “advance the New Evangelization, inspire Latino Catholics, hold to the doctrinal pattern of his predecessors and be an efficient administrator, all while walking in humility and acting out of deep compassion and care for the poor.”

At parishes across the U.S., the historic election of the first pope from the Americas and the first non-European in more than 1,000 years is indeed expected to have a tremendous impact.

Prior to becoming Pope Francis, Jorge Mario Cardinal Bergoglio, S.J. was the Archbishop of Buenos Aires in his native Argentina. Hailing from our side of the world, our Holy Father strongly promotes the idea of North and South America as one American continent. The significance of this at the parish level in the U.S. is important, as we in America now have a pope with a similar frame of reference and one who understands the challenges of the Church in the Americas.

Of course, there is tremendous enthusiasm about the new Pope among the U.S. Latino community. Latino Catholics make up approximately 40 percent of the Catholic population in the U.S.



A man of deep humility, Pope Francis chose his name to pay homage to St. Francis of Assisi, a man who lived a life of simple poverty spreading the Gospel and serving the poor. Pope Francis's humble lifestyle has already garnered a great deal of attention from the world media. As Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he eschewed the episcopal palace and limousine, choosing instead to live in a small apartment and ride the bus.

A strong proponent of the new evangelization, it is likely that Pope Francis also chose his name to call to mind the great Jesuit St. Francis Xavier, who was one of

the great missionary evangelists in the history of the Church. Pope Francis is our Church's first Jesuit pope.

The new Holy Father will surely seek to bring the legacies of both of these great saints – humility and evangelization – to the fore during his pontificate. In fact, during his appearance from the window of St. Peter's Basilica on the night of his election, these features were already on display.

“You all know that the duty of the conclave was to give a bishop to Rome – it seems that my brother cardinals have come almost to the ends of the earth to get him,” the new Holy Father said, with a laugh.

At 76 years old, no one expected the cardinal electors would turn to Cardinal Bergoglio, who had received the second most votes to Cardinal Ratzinger in 2005. Nevertheless, given his reputation as a highly intelligent, deeply moral, and above all profoundly humble and holy man, perhaps Pope Francis is perfectly suited to guide the barque of St. Peter through the difficult waters the Church must presently navigate.

Please keep Pope Francis in your prayers as he takes up the heavy burden of leading the more than 1 billion Catholics on earth.

PTO Enhances Students' Education and Community

In any Catholic school, it is important for the parents and teachers to work together for the good of the children. This is exactly why we have the St. Mary on the Hill Parent Teacher Organization, or PTO.

"The St. Mary's PTO is an organization that works throughout the year to improve the communication and relationships between the parents, teachers, staff and parish," says Kyle McArdle, who has served as president of the PTO during this school year with his wife, Theresa.

The members of the PTO meet every two months during the school year to discuss recent developments at the school, as well as upcoming events and initiatives. Part of the ministry of the PTO includes raising funds to benefit the school in some way, and every fall they sponsor the School Carnival in order to raise money.

"We raise the capital and invest it back in the school in the way that affects the students in the most dynamic way," says Mike O'Neill, who will take over leadership of the PTO next year with his wife, Sarah. "We use the money to invest in our student body, especially in context of technology and things that aren't covered in the normal school budget."

But the work performed by the PTO isn't just about raising money or buying equipment for the school.

"This past year, we had our most successful School Carnival, which is the only fundraiser that the PTO and school provides each year," Kyle says. "But even as a fundraiser, our main goal with the carnival, as with any other event the PTO sponsors, is to enhance the community atmosphere of our parish school, much more so than to raise funds. For as a stewardship parish, our efforts are to provide a Catholic education to all active parishioners of St. Mary on the Hill and to help form these children into disciples of Christ."

As its name suggests, a major component of the PTO's ministry is building the relationship between the school staff and the parents whose students attend St. Mary School, and facilitating between them a continuous dialogue.

"We have really focused a lot on teachers this year, as far as providing lunches for them, snacks for them



during testing times during the year — just to make their lives a little easier and to show them that we parents do appreciate all that they do for our kids at the school," Theresa says.

The purpose of this dialogue is to foster discussion and develop initiatives that will enrich the educational and spiritual experience of the students. Over the last year, several new initiatives have been introduced. One such initiative will provide the school with 100 iPads to be used throughout the school beginning by the end of this year or the start of next year. The PTO is also considering the feasibility of installing a more enhanced surveillance system around the school that would include cameras and alarms on the doors. They are also adding holy water fonts at the main entrances and exits of the school, and are discussing other ways to improve the aesthetics of the campus.

While the PTO aims to connect all of the parents, teachers, staff and parishioners in order to provide the best for our children, the organization's work certainly extends beyond the confines of the PTO itself.

"It's such a wonderful thing," Mike says. "It's great to be on the PTO, but the true PTO is all the parents out there that come to the meetings, that make sure they are living the faith and raising their family in the Catholic tradition. It makes a huge difference to have parents that volunteer their time and give to the greater community."

For more information on the PTO, please call Kyle and Theresa McArdle at 706-267-0099.

Vacation Bible School: *Around the World in Five Days*

Summer is nearly here — and that means that it's time to climb aboard a hot air balloon and fly to far-off lands to explore the mighty love of God. Our weeklong Vacation Bible School program, *Around the World in Five Days*, will take you on voyage like no other. So get your passports ready and come meet the saints who will help us explore the virtues of faith, hope and love!

The first stop in this high-flying adventure will be Mexico, where the children will meet humble servant Juan Diego, who will teach us the virtue of faith. Each day thereafter, we are off to a new destination! Our next stop is Ireland, where we will meet St. Brigid and learn about a special cross she wove. When we reach Peru, St. Martin de Porres will tell us the story about mice in the monastery. In Myra, which is present-day Turkey, we will have the chance to meet none other than St. Nicholas. Our last destination, the United States, will introduce us to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks.

"There is something about the Vacation Bible School experience that works," says Michelle Ciamillo, whose sons, Parker and Preston, have participated in the program. "The first time we signed up was the first time I saw a large group of children singing about their faith and openly praising Jesus. It really impressed me and opened my heart."

Of course, there will also be crafts. Each day, the children will make and then take home a beautiful handmade craft — a tilma, a mitre, a rosary, a maraca, a headband, and more!

As in past years, music will be an important part of our journey. It allows everyone to participate, and is a tremendous tool to help us learn the themes that are being introduced throughout the week. For example, the song *We Won't Be Quiet* is about evangelization and getting excited about our faith, while *God's Love Is Big* reinforces the unconditional love of Our Lord. Then, there are songs like *The Sombrero Swing and Jump, Jump, Jump* that are so upbeat that they are sure to have everyone singing and dancing.



VBS keeps kids moving with fun outdoor games.



Children pray together during VBS.

For parishioner Jodi Acree, Vacation Bible School has become a family affair. While her two sons, Isaiah and Caleb, participate in the program, Jodi and her two older daughters, Lillian and Gabrielle, work as volunteers. And with the entire family involved, the themes learned during the week are discussed further at home.

"It's so good for kids to have fun celebrating their faith," says Jodi. "VBS does such a great job of focusing on the themes, while at the same time offering movement — by going to different stations, by dancing to the music, by making crafts — that there is no time to get bored."

The fun begins Monday, June 17 and continues through Friday, June 21 at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School. Each morning the elementary students and volunteers gather in the gym at 8:30 am for announce-

continued on back cover

Join Us for the 21st Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Golf Tournament

There are many ways to support our parish school, though some are simply more fun than others! The 21st Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Golf Tournament is indeed a fun event that provides a way to help support St. Mary on the Hill School with much-needed funds.

This year's golf tournament takes place Friday, May 17th, at Forest Hills Golf Club. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m., and all golfers are invited to step up to the greens and spend the day in fellowship and fun, while supporting a worthy cause.

The entry fee is \$125 per person, which includes lunch, dinner, green fees, a golf cart, and two mulligans

per player. Hole sponsors are still needed, and the cost for a hole sponsorship sign is \$150.

"This is a great event for school families, parishioners, and friends to gather for a day of golf and fun," says Mary Davis, Director of Development. "Not to mention that the money raised goes to the school endowment and in the end benefits our students. We are grateful to all of our tournament sponsors, hole sponsors, players, and volunteers who make this tournament better each year!"

To register or support the tournament through a sponsorship, please fill out the form below. For more information, please call Mary Davis at 706-733-6627.

Thanks so much for your support!

Thanks to our tournament sponsors!

Thomas Poteet & Son Funeral Directors, St. Francis Animal Hospital, Rhodes Financial Services, Pollock Company, Taylor Hyundai and Bullard Dental, Jonathan L. Bullard, DMD PC

Please complete the form below.

If you have already arranged for a foursome, please list all your players.

Singles will be paired with other participants, unless otherwise noted.

Please note: A new tournament scoring format will be used to make it more competitive.

Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City/St/Zip _____	City/St/Zip _____
Phone: (H) _____	Phone: (H) _____
(Cell) _____	(Cell) _____
True Handicap: _____ Club: _____	True Handicap: _____ Club: _____

Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City/St/Zip _____	City/St/Zip _____
Phone: (H) _____	Phone: (H) _____
(Cell) _____	(Cell) _____
True Handicap: _____ Club: _____	True Handicap: _____ Club: _____

Entry Fee: \$125.00 per player
(includes lunch, dinner, green fees, and golf cart)

I do not play golf but would like to make a contribution to the St. Mary School Endowment Fund in the amount of \$ _____

*Make checks payable to
St. Mary on the Hill School*

Please mail this form to:
St. Mary on the Hill Golf Tournament
Attn: Mary Davis
1420 Monte Sano Avenue
Augusta, GA 30904

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



*SPONSOR'S NAME AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON THE SIGN:

* _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Hole \$150.00 - Total \$ _____



ST. MARY ON THE HILL SCHOOL HOLE SPONSORSHIP

Every year we seek "hole" sponsors to help underwrite the expenses associated with the St. Mary School Golf Tournament, to benefit the endowment fund.

Hole sponsorships can be purchased for \$150.00 per hole. Last year the tournament raised over \$18,000 for the school's endowment fund. Patron signs will be provided to thank you for your generous sponsorship of this event. Your support of this worthy event is greatly appreciated.

Guests Invited To Reception

All participants, their family members, guests and sponsors are invited to join us at Forest Hills Golf Club after the tournament for the 19th hole reception (dinner will be provided) and awards presentation. This is a wonderful way to wrap up the Annual Golf Tournament to benefit St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment Fund. Please make plans to attend.

Patron Saint of Holy Fun

The Faith Journey of St. Philip Neri

Can a saint have fun on the way to attaining holiness?

Many would say that St. Philip Neri definitely fits that bill.

Born in 1515 in Florence, Italy, St. Philip Neri showed his fun side from the time he was a boy. One such incident almost cost him his life. Seeing a donkey loaded with fruit for market, the impulsive and spontaneous little boy jumped on the donkey's back. Surprised, the donkey lost his footing, and along with the fruit and young Philip, tumbled into a cellar. Miraculously, Philip was unhurt.

Philip's father struggled financially, so 18-year-old Philip was sent to work with an older cousin who was a successful businessman. During this time, Philip found a favorite place to pray in a spot upon a mountain that had been turned into a chapel.

During these hours of prayer, Philip is said to have decided to leave worldly success behind and dedicate his life to God.

Eventually, Philip went to Rome. In 1548, Philip formed a confraternity with other laymen to minister to pilgrims who came to Rome without food or shelter. The spiritual director of the confraternity convinced Philip he could do even more work as a priest. After receiving instruction from this priest, Philip was ordained in 1551.

As a young priest, Philip learned to love to hear confessions. Young men especially found in him the wisdom and direction they needed to grow spiritually. But Philip began to realize these young men needed something more than absolution — they needed guidance. So, Philip began to ask the young men to come by in the early afternoon when they would discuss spiritual readings, and then stay for prayer in the evening.

Philip understood it wasn't enough to tell young people not to do something — you had to give them something to do in its place. So, at Carnival time, when the worst excesses were encouraged, Philip organized a pilgrimage to the Seven Churches with a picnic, accompanied by instrumental music for the midday break.

After walking 12 miles in one day, everyone was too tired to be tempted!

Philip was known to be spontaneous and unpredictable, charming and humorous. He seemed to sense the different ways to bring people to God. One man came to the Oratory just to make fun of it. Philip wouldn't let the others throw him out or speak against him. He told them to be patient, and eventually the man became a Dominican. On the other hand, when he met a condemned man who refused to listen to any pleas for repentance, Philip didn't try gentle words. Instead, Philip grabbed the man by the collar and threw him to the ground. The move shocked the criminal into repentance and he made a full confession.

Humility was the most important virtue he tried to teach others, as he continually worked to learn it himself. Some of his lessons in humility seem cruel, but they were tinged with humor — like practical jokes — and were related with gratitude by the people they helped. His lessons always seem to be tailored directly to what the person needed.

Philip did not escape this spiritual mortification himself. As with others, his own humbling held humor. There are stories of him wearing ridiculous clothes or walking around with half his beard shaved off. The greater his reputation for holiness, the sillier he wanted to seem.

But Philip was very serious about prayer. He was so easily carried away that he refused to preach in public and could not celebrate Mass with others around. But when asked how to pray, his answer was, "Be humble and obedient and the Holy Spirit will teach you."

Philip died in 1595 after a long illness at the age of 80. His feast day is on May 26, just in time to kick off the season of summertime fun.



May Is Time of Celebration *continued from front cover*

My hope and prayer is that Pope Francis will lead us towards a new Pentecost for our Church and the World today. Worldwide research in religious growth shows that the fastest growing Christian groups in the world these days are those loosely called the Pentecostal churches. These Christians believe they are in direct contact with the Spirit of that first Pentecost. They are not afraid or inhibited when it comes to expressing what they believe is God's Spirit within them. As Catholics, we are more subdued in expressing our faith. Still, we are called to allow the power of God's Spirit to influence us and move us to change the world. Inspired by God's Spirit, we are to make a difference by sharing our gifts — the gifts given to us by God's Spirit with our Church and all humanity. I continue to be amazed at how God's Spirit is working in and through the lives of so many in our faith community. And I hope all members of our faith community will hear the call of Pentecost to allow God's Spirit to work through them.

And there is always work to be done. You can read in this issue about the exciting Vacation Bible School that is in

the works for June. But the Spirit seems to be slow moving when it comes to VBS every year. For whatever reasons, folks are not inspired to sign up to help until the last minute, after much cajoling. The mission of VBS is not to provide harried parents with a week of inexpensive child care — its mission is to lead our children deeper into the mystery of God's love, especially through the example of the Communion of Saints. I'd beg you to help keep the sanity of the parish staff — please, please, please sign up now to help out with this wonderful mission. And we welcome assistance from parishioners of all ages. My mom worked with her grandchildren's Vacation Bible Schools until she was well into her 80s. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement



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In Memory of Sonny Ramp

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Vacation Bible School *continued from page 4*

ments, songs and skits before rotating through the various stations (crafts, snacks, games, faith and Bible). Each day the children actively participate in Mass except Wednesday, and on that day is a special Adoration service. The Preschool program begins at 8:30 am in the Early Childhood wing of the school with the gathering and Bible teaching followed by Sing & Play, snacks, crafts and games.

Are you ready to meet new friends, make some fun crafts, learn new songs, and get excited about God's love? Come fly away with us as we travel the world learning about the timeless virtues of faith, hope and love.

The success of the VBS program is dependent on our wonderful volunteers. Last year, almost 100 volunteers selflessly performed skits, organized crafts or fixed snacks. This year, in addition to the many youth volunteers, the program is in need of more adult volunteers to help with supervision and leadership, as well as to help with set-up and clean-up. Registration and volunteer forms are available at the parish office. For more information on registering your child or volunteering your time and talent, please contact Joan Purucker at 706-825-2163.

21st Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment Golf Tournament

Friday, May 17, 2013

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