

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Becoming More Deeply Involved in Our Faith Community

*"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;
There are different forms of service but the same Lord;
There are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.
To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."
- 1 Cor 12: 4-7*

Dear Parishioners,

These words of St. Paul are still true today. Our Faith Community is called to share the Spirit of God's love in countless ways. This month, we will sacramentally celebrate God's loving presence in the lives of our First Communicants and our high school graduates at special Masses. But the Feast of Pentecost on May 15 calls all of us to reflect upon the presence of God in our daily lives and how we are called to use our spiritual gifts to build up His Kingdom here and now.

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon those followers of Jesus who had gathered together in Jerusalem. What happened on the first Pentecost continues to happen to Catholics in May of 2016, though usually not in such a dramatic fashion. We rarely get a heavenly wind and tongues of fire anymore. Nevertheless, God pours out the Spirit upon all who put their faith in Jesus Christ and become his disciples (see Romans 8:1-11).

Pentecost presents us with an opportunity to consider how we are living each day. Are we relying on the power of God's Spirit? Are we an open channel for the Spirit's gifts? Are we attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Is the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, etc.) growing in our lives? Most Catholics I know, including me, live in the presence and power of the Spirit, but only to an extent. We are limited by our fear, our sin, our low expectations, and not to mention our tendency to be distracted from God's work in us. Pentecost offers a chance to confess our failure to live by the Spirit and to ask the Lord to fill us afresh with his power.

The Feast of Pentecost offers an opportunity for me as your pastor to ask you to become more deeply involved in your faith community. I praise God that so many of you already are. But I'd like our parish to initiate several new ministries and I hope to find some parishioners who can help give these new initiatives some good energy and leadership. If you see yourself as having the interest and

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

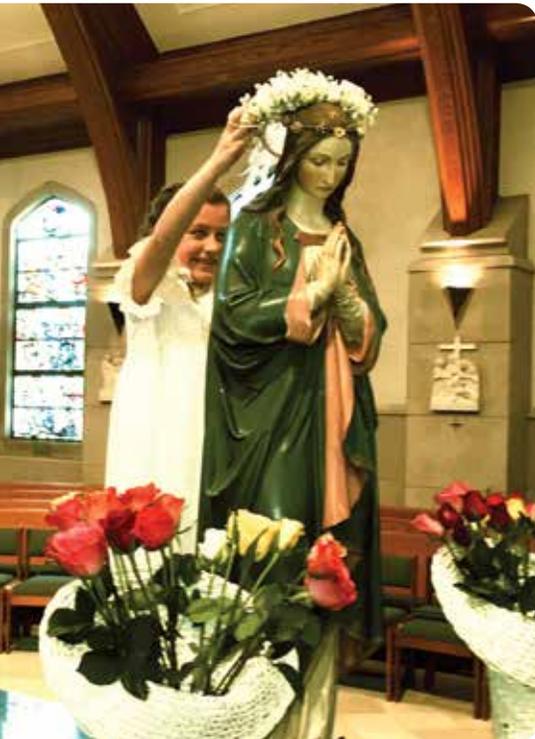
Chapel is located at the corner of
Monte Sano and Bellevue.

continued on page 7

Honoring Mary, Queen of May at Our School

Here at St. Mary on the Hill, we have a special place in our hearts for our patron saint, the Blessed Mother! We see her image in the beautiful fountain statuary outside of the parish office and in the brilliant colors of the coronation window in the sanctuary. A group of parishioners meets weekly to pray the Rosary. And during the month of May – with the tradition of the May Crowning and the feasts of the Visitation and of Mary, Queen of the Apostles – there are many opportunities for us to honor Mary in a special way.

While the students and staff at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School celebrate and honor Mary throughout the month, the Blessed Mother is an important part of school life throughout the year, even with the youngest of students.



St. Mary on the Hill student Millie Gladd crowned Mary with a wreath of flowers during last year's May Crowning Mass.

Kathlene Wilkinson is one of our devoted teachers who says she has always enjoyed teaching her kindergarten classes about Mary.

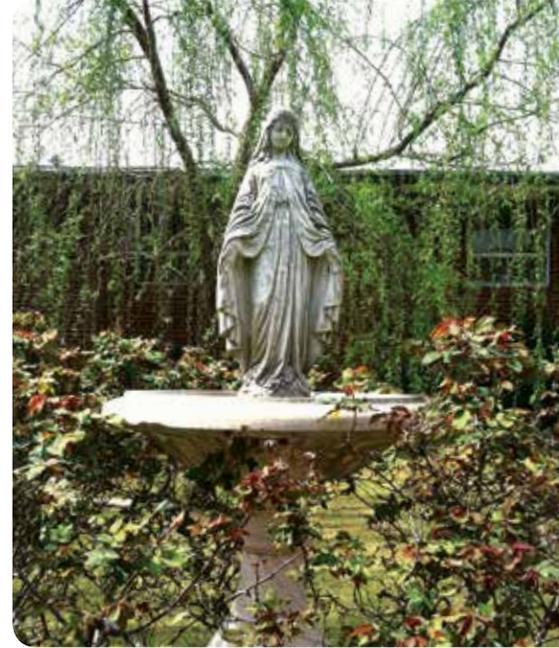
"When you say 'Jesus,' the kindergarteners usually think of baby Jesus first, so they think of Mary as this wonderful, comforting, sweet lady," she says. "So, when we talk about Mary and Jesus, I can see in their eyes that they're thinking of their own mom and how they associate her with love and kindness and nurturing. Older kids may think of her in more abstract ways – as the queen of heaven, and so on. But for the kindergarteners, she was Jesus' mommy. I just love that!"

The kindergarteners even have their own small rosaries that they hold when the school says the Rosary for a special intention or when they go to the adoration chapel. The children learn early on that "Jesus' Mommy" is there for them, too, offering love and comfort in times of trouble.

"The kids are very passionate about Mary – they feel like she's 'ours' because there is a statue of Mary out in the courtyard and one in front that they look at and that we take a picture with every year," Mrs. Wilkinson says. "I think all the kids [know] she's our patron, she looks out for us, and she's there for us."

What a great gift to remember during this month of May and throughout the year – Mary is always there for us, as our comfort, our hope, and our greatest intercessor! We continue honoring this month in several other very special ways.

Our parish school is continuing the annual May Crowning tradition this year at the "first Friday" all-



A statue of Mary in the courtyard of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School.

school Mass on May 6. Students in the second grade, who will make their First Communion on May 7, will participate in the Mass by reading, carrying up the gifts, and placing a crown of flowers on the statue of Mary. The school chorus will also contribute to this special Mass by lifting their voices to sing "Magnificat."

For students at our school, the May Crowning Mass is only one of the ways in which they are honoring Mary this month. Students in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades have converted their prayer corners into altars for Mary by adding a statue of Mary, a rosary, flowers, and candles. They have also made small pocket rosaries to pray daily during the month of May. Eighth-grade students are busy researching a Marian title or apparition of their choice for an expository essay assignment. Their finished essays will be displayed around the school.

“A Life-Changing Experience While Maintaining Your Catholic Beliefs and Morals”

Financial Peace University at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Community

Ten years ago, in an effort to help St. Mary’s parishioners cope with the challenges of managing and handling money, an effort was launched to provide specific lessons and plans in order to meet these challenges. One of those involved in this endeavor is Dan McCabe, who currently serves as the facilitator for the Financial Peace University program offered by the parish. Tom Fuller and Sonnie and John Pulaski join Dan in providing leadership for this ministry.

“Through the years, we have been looking for a program that would provide the greatest benefit and insights to the participants,” Dan says. “We feel Financial Peace University is the best program to meet the needs we have identified. Money and finances are, of course, an important part of our approach to stewardship – we are not talking about giving money, although that is part of it. We are talking about handling and planning money for individuals and couples and families, how to approach it in a Catholic Christian way, in a way that gives you both satisfaction and security. Our feedback from participants has been very positive. There is no question that if you live by the precepts of Financial Peace University

and abide by what it teaches, it can be a life-changing experience while maintaining your Catholic beliefs and morals.”

Christian economist and financial planner Dave Ramsey developed this system, and as he has noted, “We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University teaches God’s way of handling money. It presents biblical and practical steps to get you from where you are to where you have dreamed you could be. This is a plan which will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more.”

“The program involves nine weeks of 90-minute sessions,” Dan says. “We hold one session in the fall and one in the spring. We have just completed our spring 2016 sessions and people will be able to see the announcement of the fall schedule beginning in September if they read the bulletin and other parish publications. This program is filled with how-tos – how to control and handle credit cards, how to budget, setting financial goals, etcetera. We offer two sessions a week, and people can attend either one. They are on

continued on page 5

DAVE RAMSEY'S
FINANCIAL
peace
 UNIVERSITY



“It’s a Blessing” First Communion Preparation Strengthens Family

Just over a month ago, our commemoration of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday was a powerful reminder of how blessed we are as Catholics to share in the Eucharist at each and every Mass. As we receive Holy Communion, we unify ourselves to Christ and strengthen the bonds of His kingdom here on earth by sharing in this sacrament as a community of believers. How exciting and awe-inspiring it will be to see so many children of our parish receive their First Communion on May 7!

Leading up to the big day, Kristen and Ricky Elliott have enjoyed watching their daughter, Elizabeth, prepare to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

“Elizabeth [is] very excited,” Kristen says. “She has watched her brothers go through it, so she has very much been looking forward to it for quite some time.”

The Elliotts appreciate how well the CCD program at St. Mary on the Hill prepared Elizabeth for the experience through their regular Sunday sessions, First Reconciliation, and other special activities, such as a family adoration service.



Clare and Greg Boulus with their children, Gregory, Pierce and Vaughan. Pierce has been looking forward to receiving his First Communion on May 7.

“[The catechists] do a good job of teaching the children that they’re not simply going to church anymore, but that it is important for them to now become a participant in the Mass,” Kristen says.

“I’ve definitely seen Elizabeth growing in her faith and understanding the importance of the Eucharist. That’s been fun and exciting to see.”

Kristen has noticed that when a child is preparing to receive a sacrament, the process often becomes a blessing for the whole family.

“Every time we have gone through [First Communion preparation], it brings us all closer to the sacraments,” she says. “It helps us all to get back to what’s important and how special and sacred the sacrament is. It’s so exciting to see it through their eyes because it doesn’t ‘make sense’ – it’s faith. So, it’s wonderful explaining it to them and seeing their eyes get so wide!”

Clare and Greg Boulus had a similar experience as they watched their son, Pierce, prepare to receive Holy Communion.

“We’ve all been including it in our prayers and talking about it,” Clare says. “I think anything that the kids are studying in religion class – or anything else – helps to strengthen my own faith, as well.”

“Every time we have gone through [First Communion preparation], it brings us all closer to the sacraments. It helps us all to get back to what’s important and how special and sacred the sacrament is. It’s so exciting to see it through their eyes because it doesn’t ‘make sense’ – it’s faith. So, it’s wonderful explaining it to them and seeing their eyes get so wide!” – Kristen Elliott

g for All of Us” mith of First Communicants and Their Families



Clare was also impressed with how well the second-grade teachers at St. Mary on the Hill School prepared their students for First Communion.

“The church gave us a wonderful packet that was very informative and gave us a lot of talking points,” she says. “It was really helpful. At the school, he is getting daily exposure to it, in their daily prayers at school and discussions in the classroom. I think it’s great.”

For all of the First Communicants’ families, witnessing their children receive this Holy Sacrament has, in turn, been a great opportunity to renew their own faith and commitment to the Church.

“It’s a blessing for all of us because it draws us in a little more, and we’re thinking and talking about it more,” Clare says.

The parishioners of St. Mary on the Hill extend our congratulations to all of our First Communicants! May God continue to bless each and every one of you and your families!

Kristen and Ricky Elliott with their children, Drew, Elizabeth, Carter and Reid. The whole family enjoyed helping Elizabeth prepare to receive her First Communion.

Financial Peace University *continued from page 3*

Wednesday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoons beginning at 3 p.m. This program is ideal for everyone, from young individuals and couples, to families, and those in their retirement years.”

Stewardship is, of course, about recognizing all of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully, sharing them with others, and returning them in gratitude with increase to the Lord. Traditionally we speak of those gifts as time, talent and treasure. Stewardship has to do with how we live our complete lives — not just how we handle our finances, but the financial aspects are important. Financial Peace University is one way to better understand and learn how to manage and use our treasure.

“The whole issue of money is one that most are reluctant to discuss or face, and yet it produces more conflicts and concerns in marriages and lives than almost anything else,” Dan says. “We do not ask people to share any financial information in this program, nor is that kind of information requested or shared. People learn and use what they learn privately and on their own.”

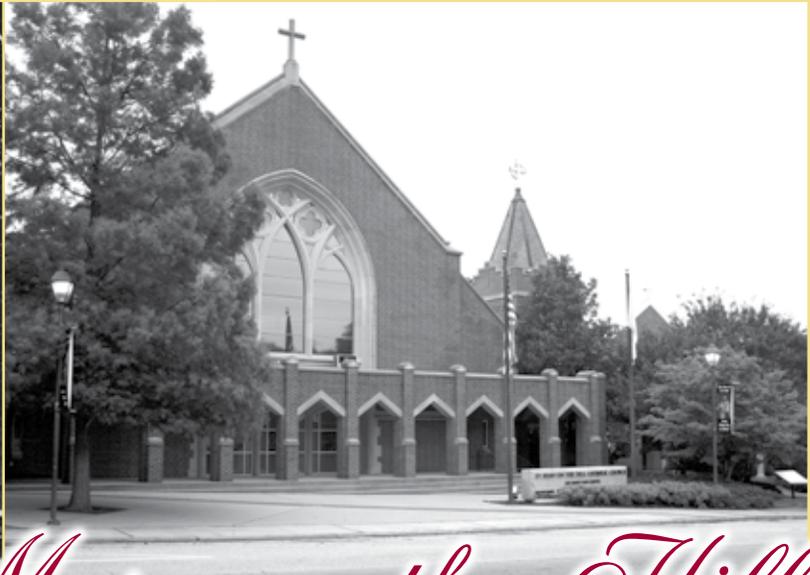
For more information on St. Mary on the Hill’s Financial Peace University, please contact the church office at 706-733-6627.

100th Birthday

The Rectory



The Parish Hall



of St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill will celebrate a significant milestone next year – one that will culminate in a large, elegant meal commemorating the setting of our parish’s cornerstone on **Friday, Dec. 8, 2017**, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mark your calendars **now** for this historic event!

Also planned for the year leading up include a three-night mission featuring three priests’ perspectives on their service at St. Mary on the Hill – none other than Bishop Emeritus Kevin Boland will lead off with his impressions of an associate pastor at St. Mary on the Hill (with his wicked

sense of humor), followed by Msgr. P. James Costigan recollecting his 20-plus years as pastor, and finally, Fr. Pablo Migone sharing those experiences as a parishioner that contributed to him entering the seminary to become a priest! These three will present during the **Lenten Mission March 6, 7 and 8, 2017**, with refreshments served afterwards each evening.

In the fall of 2017, our parish will host a formal Ladies Tea for Deanery women, their daughters and granddaughters to highlight the many special contributions through the decades.

Programs are being developed for our CCD students, St. Mary on the Hill and Aquinas students to bring awareness of the strong commitment of our parishioners over the years to building our large parish, schools and St. Joseph’s Hospital. Ours is a beautiful story of ambition, success, community and honoring God’s glory – worthy of sharing and teaching!

There are so many interesting facets and historical tidbits in our parish’s history. *The Marianite* will feature a number of stories capturing the unusual events and the parishioners behind them.

Becoming More Deeply Involved in Our Faith Community

continued from front cover

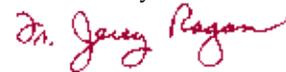
the energy to be involved in one of the following ministries, please let me know.

The first initiative is in the area of Family Life. We'll begin this new ministry by trying to develop our own program to help our parents and their junior high-aged children face the challenges of a society that in so many different ways does not understand or appreciate the beauty of our vision for human sexuality. For the next school year, we will turn to the Family Honor program, but I think we have the human resources to develop our own program. The new program will be called Growing up: Learning to Live in Love. The pope's new exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, will give great encouragement to our efforts. The section on education in sexuality is very expressively entitled "Yes to sex education." The need is there, and we have to ask "if our educational institutions have taken up this challenge...in an age when sexuality tends to be trivialized and impoverished." The Holy Father reminds us that sound education needs to be carried out "within the broader framework of an education for love, for mutual self-giving."

In this Year of Mercy, our Holy Father has asked us to go out to those on the peripheries to share God's loving presence. So, there are two other initiatives that I would like our faith community to work towards in serving two groups of people who are on the "edge" of our community. I believe our parish needs to be more welcoming to our local undergraduate and graduate students, so I want to encourage the resurrection of a Campus Ministry at AU and MCG. I also believe we can be more supportive of the families with special needs children in our faith community. Our CCD program is very good in this area, but perhaps on occasion we can be more inclusive of these children and their families in our liturgies. Or perhaps you might have ideas as to how we can better reach out to those with special needs in our parish.

Veni, Sancte Spiritus – Come, Holy Spirit!

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

First Communion – May 7, 10 a.m. • **Aquinas Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation** – May 15, 2:30 p.m.
Eighth Grade Graduation Mass – May 17, 7 p.m. • **Mass for High School Graduates** – May 22, 12:15 p.m.

Ad Placement

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Augusta, GA
Permit No. 475

1420 Monte Sano Avenue
Augusta, GA 30904
Phone 706-733-6627
www.stmaryonthehill.org

Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill Church

In Memory of Philip Moran
Michael Rucker

In Memory of Charles Scavullo, Sr.
Brian T. Mirshak

In Memory of Ann Christian Williams
Katherine and Larry Babbitt

In Memory of Brian Mulherin
Carol K. Shehan

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Sanken, III
Mariann and Tex Maxwell
Mental Health America – Augusta Chapter
SHRM Augusta Area Chapter

In Memory of Clare Schweers McCall
Mrs. Doris Rea
Michael Rucker

Roger Ray, Eileen Schweers Ray and Family

In Memory of Tony Price
Peggy and Herman Brittingham
Michele and Bruce Janiak
Sam and Virginia Cunningham
Fern Kowalczyk
Michael and Marcia Johnson
Mary Ellen and Paul Zielinski
Barbara and John Drew
Janet and Earle Lovering
Dr. and Mrs. T. Barrett Trotter
Bequest from Brian Mulherin

St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment Fund

In Memory of Thomas Edry
Stacie and Mark Laplante
Philip and Kay Jesse
Committee and Membership of Clembake Golf Group
David and Evelyn Williams
Catherine and Mark Espitallier
Brigid M. Stewart
Walter and Marilyn Moore
Ronald Molar and Susan Steinberg
Johnny and Susan Harris

In Memory of Tony Price
Edward and Debra Cates

St. Mary on the Hill Columbarium Fund

*In Memory of Robert W.
Szalkowski*
Michael and Marcia Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. William M. Johnson
Walter and Marilyn Moore

In Memory of Bob Boerner
Patricia Boerner

St. Mary on the Hill School

In Memory of Virginia Long
Rick and Neisha Cundey

Baptisms

Redmond James McArdle
Ryan and Christy McArdle

Scarlett Grey Malonjao
Reynaldo and Jennifer Malonjao

Allison Michelle Malonjao
Reynaldo and Jennifer Malonjao

Autumn Nikole Malonjao
Reynaldo and Jennifer Malonjao