

# Saint Mary

ON THE HILL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



*News and Notes from Fr. Jerry*

## Moving Beyond "Maintenance" With an Attitude of Mission

Dear Parishioners,

**T**hank you for your patience as we build our new columbarium – a structure of vaults between the Church and the Parish Hall in which are placed the urns holding the cremated remains of parishioners.

I'm excited about this project, which includes running a drainage pipe out to the Arsenal Avenue storm drain and then also repaving the parking lot. The repaving project will cause some temporary parking problems, but it is long overdue. Both the Finance Commission and the Pastoral Council have approved of this project before the Bishop gave final approval. The repaving will cost in the neighborhood of \$200,000 and is only possible because of the generosity of so many parishioners. Thank you!!

It is good as we move towards our 100th Anniversary to have projects such as building a columbarium, and order-

ing four new bells for our bell tower, and addressing some long-deferred maintenance issues. But the project that truly excites me these days is our Priority Planning Project, which I hope will move us from thinking solely about how we will maintain what was created here 100 years ago to a much deeper sense of mission. As we begin our next 100 years, how will we reach out to our neighbors, to our community, and to our world so as to share more effectively the Good News of God's love in and through the Gospel of Jesus Christ?



### 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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# Church League Basketball

## *Faith, Prayer, and Fun*

**F**aith and basketball? Prayers and layups? The answer to these questions is a resounding “YES!” as the youth of St. Mary on the Hill get ready for another exciting season of Church League Basketball.

“There is something about this league that works,” says Alice Hagler, who coordinates the basketball program. “My kids have always loved participating. Things are more relaxed – with less pressure – so everyone seems to be playing for fun. Of course, everyone likes to win, but there is a good attitude about it all.”

As part of the Augusta Christian Athletic Association, St. Mary’s Church League is open to boys and girls ages 7 to 18, with a developmental league called Mighty Mights for 6-year-olds. Alice says that, last year, with 18 teams in the U-7 to U-19 range and four teams of Mighty Mights, there were 185 students from the parish participating in the program. The league includes churches from the surrounding areas – Trinity on the Hill, Old Macedonia, First Baptist Church, Reid Presbyterian, Wesley UMC, Grace UMC, Church of the Good Shepherd – and because it is a church league, just before the ref blows the whistle to start the game, teams will first gather in a circle to pray.

“If we are the host team, we will usually pray a Hail Mary,” says Timothy Novajosky, a seventh-grader who has played Church League Basketball for the past five years. “Last year, even though I was old enough to play for St. Mary’s school, I still played in Church League because it’s always a lot of fun and gives me even more basketball practice.”

The wonderful part of the program is that since the parents volunteer as coaches, they have the perfect opportunity to not only get to know their child’s friends, but to also get to know other parents. Parishioner Joe Novajosky, who has coached all three of his sons over the past 10 years, says that Church League is ideal for busy families – that is, since everything takes place over



*Coach Rick Elliott (far left) and Coach Joe Novajosky (far right) with their U-11 team.*

the weekend, games and practices don’t interfere with jobs, homework, or other sport commitments.

“There is a different feel to Church League Basketball,” says Joe who, along with Rick Elliott, coached a U-11 team last year. “I like that the season is longer than with school sports, and because there are fewer players – usually 8-10 on a team – everyone gets a lot of playing time. It’s not just about a handful of players, but about the whole team. And there have been some close games. During last year’s season, our team was 4-4 and every single game except one was within four points, which made things tense and exciting.”

When it’s all said and done, with Church League Basketball, we see that faith and basketball really do go together!

“Church League Basketball is really a fun way to spend a Saturday,” Timothy says. “I get to talk strategy with my dad, see my friends, and play a lot of basketball.”

Please check the bulletin for registration information for Church League Basketball. If you have any questions about the program, or would like to volunteer as a coach, please call Alice Hagler at 706-833-4581.

# The Founding of St. Mary's on the Hill Parish

**A**pocalyptic circumstances attended the origins of the new parish on the Hill. War, fire, persecution, and an epidemic played their roles in shaping happy results. The first World War, the Augusta fire of 1916 and the anti-Catholic campaign of Tom Watson were the formative influences, with the influenza epidemic of 1918 a baleful accompaniment.

The failure of the Irish American Bank in 1915 cost the Sisters of St. Joseph their savings. The Sisters were forced to sell their handsome new school on Wrightsboro Road – where the VA is now – to a hotel company, which in turn sold it to the United States to be used as a Veterans hospital.

In 1916, the year of the fire, the Sisters purchased the rambling Queen Anne style house known as Chateau Levert for their convent, and the adjacent Filber House for their school, Mount St. Joseph's.

The "Big Fire" occurred the night of March 22, 1916, decimating 32 blocks of Augusta's finest residential section and 746 buildings. Many burned-out families chose to move to the Hill rather than rebuild downtown. There were only 2,200 Catholics in Augusta at the time, and the exodus to the Hill threatened both Sacred Heart and St. Patrick's parishes.

As most of the refugees resided east of 10th Street – within the designated area of St. Patrick's parish – their Pastor Rev. P.H. McMahon, with the approval of Bishop Benjamin J. Keiley, D.D. in March 1917, made an offer to the Baron family for



*The Sisters of St. Joseph purchased Chateau La Vert in 1916 and established Mount St. Joseph Academy.*

\$12,300 to purchase the property at the southeast corner of Monte Sano Avenue and McDowell Street. At the closing of the sale, Fr. McMahon said this parish would be known as St. Mary's on the Hill. The house on the property was at once converted in to a rectory and chapel.

World War I brought major changes to the Hill. The first detachment of 36,000 Pennsylvanians arrived at Camp Hancock (now Daniel Field) on Aug. 19, 1917. By April 1918, 60,000 soldiers taxed the facilities of the camp and our city to their limits! Bishop Keiley had anticipated these major changes and directed the priests of St. Patrick's to begin saying Masses in the residence on Sundays.

The first Mass was held in the Rectory of St. Mary's on the Hill in July 1917. The influx of soldiers from Pennsylvania and Maryland, many of whom were Catholic, required the priests to offer open-air Mass on Wrightsboro Road, near where Comfort Road intersects. These open air Masses were well attended by both the locals and the soldiers.

*Taken from an amalgamation of several histories written by Dr. Ed Cashin, Ruth G. McAuliffe, John B. Murray.*



*The rectory, purchased in 1917 as a mission by Fr. P.H. McMahon, Pastor of St. Patrick*

## An Annual Highlight The St. Mary School Carnival

The summer heat has finally been given way to the crisp, cool autumn air, and the school grounds will soon be filled with the sounds of children squealing with delight. Brightly colored game tents will dot the playground, and the smell of hot dogs and popcorn will waft over the exuberant crowd. No, this is not the description of just any day at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School – this is the St. Mary School Carnival!

For many years, our parish school carnival has been a highlight for families of the community, and this year's event – held on Saturday, Oct. 15 – promises to be one of the best carnivals yet! As always, there will be plenty of the traditional games to enjoy, such as putt-putt, soda bottle rings, and fishbowl toss, to name a few. And this year's theme is "Big Wheel on the Hill," bringing us a county fair-inspired event complete with a Ferris Wheel!

Amanda Battey, Co-President of the St. Mary on the Hill School PTO with her husband, Tom, emphasizes the importance of this annual event,

which also includes a "preview party" for the adults on the night before the family carnival.

"This is our only fundraiser that augments the school's budget," Amanda says. "Last year, the PTO financially supported the New Family Picnic, Grandparents' Day, St. Patrick's Day, the Junior High Dance, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, and the Turkey Bowl, among other things. We also purchased books for the library and classrooms, as well as iPads, white boards and projectors. It's a really good, fun time, with the purpose of raising these auxiliary funds for the school."

In addition to the fundraising aspect of the event, the St. Mary School Carnival is also about fostering fellowship among school and parish families by giving them the chance to get together outside our church and school walls.

"I think that it's a great way for everyone to get involved – parents, students, and teachers," says Carter Welsh, who serves as Co-Chair for this year's carnival with her husband, Tommy. "Everyone can get involved in some



*Kathlene Wilkinson and Pamela Cawthorne had their kindergarten class build a crafty cactus as part of the decor for the 2015 "Wild Wild West" Carnival*



*Items up for auction at the 2015 carnival included artwork, apparel, professional services, tailgate packages, and more!*



*St. Mary on the Hill School students enjoyed the 2015 carnival.*

# Fun in Our Community

## School Carnival

way, whether it's working a booth or just coming out and enjoying fellowship and listening to music, playing games, and eating food – just enjoying a beautiful day outside and being with your family. I think it really is enjoyable for one and all.”

As chairs of the carnival, Carter and Tommy have been thankful for the willingness of the many volunteers who help make this event happen.

“Without all the volunteers, we definitely couldn't get it done,” Carter says. “And the prayerful consideration of all the parishioners and parents and staff, and all those who put in their time and talent to get this thing rolling is so helpful. We are so appreciative of the giving everyone does to put this together year after year. It just does wonders for the school, and it's awesome to be a part of that.”

The adults-only “preview party” event held the night before the carnival offers an evening of food and drink, live music, games and prizes, and silent and live auctions. Mariah Sellers and her preview party Co-Chairs, Meghan Trotter and Andrea Donald, are excited about carrying this year's “fair” theme into the party.

“This year's preview party is going to be different,” Mariah says. “We're going to have the party on the playground, so the auction will be there. We'll also have the Ferris Wheel and a game trailer, and we'll have Joe Stevenson providing live music that night, as well. Being outside for the party will be a lot of fun!”

The live and silent auctions held at the preview party constitute one of the biggest fundraisers of the weekend. Rachel Cagle, this year's auction chair, feels blessed by the immense generosity the community has shown to our parish school in the form of donations and volunteer time.

“People never cease to amaze me,” Rachel says. “Businesses come to us, asking when they can donate. The response has been humbling. Even parents whose children have long since graduated and have children of their own continue to donate to the auction. Over 100 people come together to pull off the carnival and the party.”

Year after year, the preview party and carnival here at St. Mary on the Hill continue to be a tangible sign of the great value that our parish and school community places on the practice of good stewardship. During this special weekend, countless individuals and families give of their



*Tara Scheyer and the Mud Puppy Band are always a crowd pleaser at the annual carnival!*

time, talent, and treasure to reach two goals – raising funds for our school and providing an opportunity for increased fellowship in our community.

It comes as no surprise, then, that this event-filled weekend has remained a parish favorite for so long.

“I love it,” Amanda says. “I absolutely love it. I get an opportunity to spend time with my family, as well as some of the greatest volunteers, parents and school staff. Everybody puts their hearts and souls into it. And all the children just love it – it's wonderful to watch them have such joy and pride in their school.”

*We hope to see you at the adult preview party and the family carnival this year! Both events are being held on the playground at St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School.*

### **Preview party – Friday, Oct. 14,**

from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door.

### **“Big Wheel on the Hill” Carnival**

Saturday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Free entrance. Game tickets may be purchased individually, or a wristband for unlimited games may be purchased for \$20.

Questions? Please contact Amanda Battey at [amandabattey@yahoo.com](mailto:amandabattey@yahoo.com) or 706-339-8449.

## Pastor Letter *continued from front cover*

One researcher on parish growth did a study of a large number of parishes that eventually closed. One common factor among all these parishes was that they began to slowly look in on themselves and did not look outward towards the community. In fact, they deliberately refused to look at the community around them. Clinging to the good old days, they focused all their programs inwardly on their own parishioners. And of course, their parish slowly died.

Am I willing to reach out and befriend new people in my community? What can I do to help this faith community have a healthy goal of outreach to our community? It all comes down to what Pope St. John Paul II called the New Evangelization: are we going to use all our energy and resources – human and financial – maintaining, or do we transform to mission, going beyond simply institutional caretaking and recapturing the Gospel spirit of filling up the churches?

Experts in the field of parish ministry say that in order for the Church to be renewed, all of us must have a sense that through our baptism, we are called to be disciples of Jesus and move from maintenance to a sense of mission – a sense that we are all responsible for sharing God’s love with the world. The contrast between “maintenance” and “mission” is outlined in an article, Good News People, by Harold Percy, in which he gives several bullet points on the difference between an attitude of MAINTENANCE versus an attitude of MISSION:

- In measuring effectiveness, the maintenance parish asks, “How many pastoral visits are being made? The mission parish asks, “How many disciples are being made?”
- When contemplating some form of change, the maintenance parish says, “If this proves upsetting to any of our parishioners, we won’t do it.” The mission parish says, “If this will help us reach someone on the outside, we will take the risk and do it.”

- When thinking about change, the majority of members in a maintenance parish ask, “How will this affect me?” The majority of members in the mission parish ask, “Will this increase our ability to reach those outside?”

- When thinking of its vision for ministry, the maintenance parish says, “We have to be faithful to our past.” The mission parish says, “We have to be faithful to our future.”

- When confronted with a legitimate pastoral concern, the pastor in the maintenance parish asks, “How can I meet this need?” The pastor in the mission parish asks, “How can this need be met?”

- The maintenance parish seeks to avoid conflict at any cost (but rarely succeeds). The mission parish understands that conflict is the price of progress, and is willing to pay the price. It understands that it cannot take everyone with it. This causes some grief, but it does not keep it from doing what needs to be done.

- The leadership style in the maintenance parish is primarily managerial, where leaders try to keep everything in order and running smoothly. The leadership style in a mission parish is primarily transformational, casting a vision of what can be, and marching off the map in order to bring the vision into reality.

- The maintenance parish is concerned with its organizations, its faith formation programs and good liturgies. All of which are important. But the mission parish has a bigger viewpoint. It is concerned with the culture, with understanding how secular people think and what makes them tick. It tries to determine their needs and their points of accessibility to the Gospel.

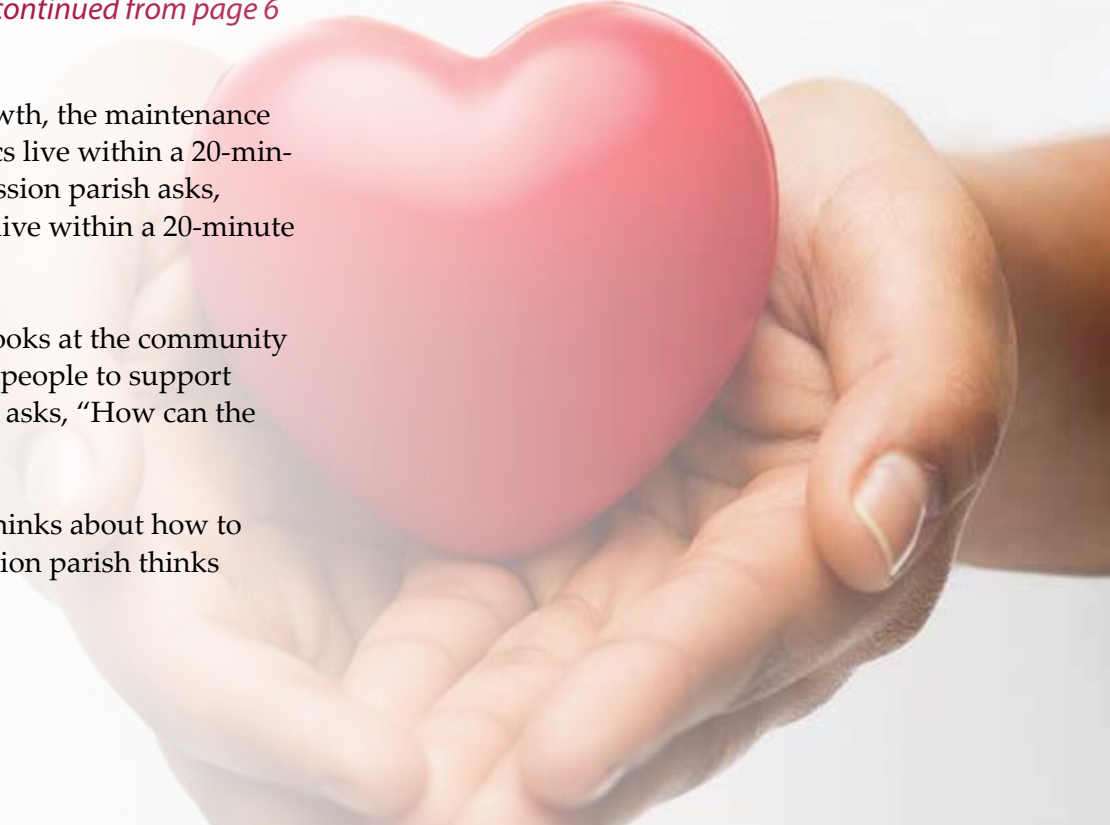
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*Am I willing to reach out and befriend new people in my community? What can I do to help this faith community have a healthy goal of outreach to our community?*

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- When thinking about growth, the maintenance parish asks, “How many Catholics live within a 20-minute drive of this church?” The mission parish asks, “How many unchurched people live within a 20-minute drive of this church?”
- The maintenance parish looks at the community and asks, “How can we get these people to support our Church?” The mission parish asks, “How can the Church support these people?”
- The maintenance parish thinks about how to save their congregation. The mission parish thinks about how to reach the world.

God bless you,

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, smooth, red heart. The hands are positioned as if cradling the heart, with fingers slightly curled around it. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

*Fr. Jerry Pagan*

Fr. Jerry

# Ad Placement



# Saint Mary ON THE HILL

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## *Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill*

### St. Mary on the Hill Church

*In Memory of Dr. Edgardo Mucha  
Peggy and Herman Brittingham*

*In Memory of Walter Ingram  
Peggy and Herman Brittingham*

*Family Mountain Retreat  
Ken and Cindy Dendinger*

### St. Mary on the Hill Church

*Kiwanis Club Bryce Newman Scholarship  
Fund of the Community Foundation for the  
Central Savannah River Area*

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## Baptisms

**Aug. 13**

Emma Alice Bazemore  
*Daughter of Robert and Amy Bazemore*

**Aug. 14**

Luck Orleans Fera  
*Son of Aaron and Molly Fera*

Saint LouLou Fera

*Daughter of Aaron and Molly Fera*

Philomena Katherine Rinaldo

*Daughter of Derek and Natasha Rinaldo*

**Aug. 21**

Michael Walter Edry  
*Son of Christopher and Shannen Edry*

**Aug. 27**

Thomas Easton Carter  
*Son of Stuart and McKenzie Carter*