

# Saint Mary

## ON THE HILL

### CATHOLIC CHURCH



### News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

## Becoming Stewards of Love

*"The future of humanity passes by way of the family. It is therefore indispensable and urgent that every person of good will should endeavor to save and foster the values and requirements of the family." — Familiaris Consortio, Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, Nov. 22, 1981*

Dear Parishioners,

**T**his summer, I attended a workshop called the "Toolbox for Pastors." It was sponsored by two groups, the International Institute for Clergy Formation and the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, who give great encouragement to priests in the living out of our ministry. The focus of the workshop was to help new pastors figure out all the good practices that are involved in administrating a 21st century parish.

The Director, Fr. Paul Holmes, was surprised that I'd be interested in such a workshop after 18 years of being a pastor. I wanted to say to him that it is never too late to teach an old dog new tricks, but the truth of the matter is that it was (a) free, and (b) at a beautiful Retreat Center on the Jersey shore overlooking the Atlantic. For me, it was a no-brainer.

I found the workshop to be affirming in that I was already using many of the "tools" they presented. One tool they didn't talk about and one I find to be very helpful is to have an annual pastoral focus. The basic question that I ask parish leadership to help me figure out is this: in the next year, what would help us as a faith community to move deeper into the

mystery of God's presence in our midst? When I was in Dublin, the answer my first year was "Reconciliation" because there had been an issue that had deeply divided the parish. Hospitality, Adult Faith Formation, Gratitude, and Service are some of the ways we have answered the question in past years here at St. Mary on the Hill.

This year, in looking at the different strengths of our faith community: stewardship, perpetual adoration, and Catholic education, to name a few, the parish leadership thought it wise to focus on a strength that we often take for granted and a strength that really needs some attention in our society today. One of the great strengths in our parish is that we have so many wonderful families.

It is a crazy mixed up world in which we live these days. It can be an almost impossible task to maintain strong family ties. Families face tremendous stress from the rapid pace of change in our everyday lives; from the impact of negative political and economic conditions; from the revolution of values within our culture.

And yet we as a faith community have a very positive story to share about

### 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.



## *Giving the Gift of Catholic Education*

**A**s disciples of Christ, each of us is consistently striving to find the best ways to share of our time, talents and treasure in thanksgiving to the Lord. Helping the Church in its mission of spreading the Gospel is a big part of this way of life, and in giving, we have a natural inclination to want our gifts to be utilized as efficiently as possible to that end.

Thanks to a recent Georgia state law, families at St. Mary's have a unique opportunity to support Catholic education at St. Mary on the Hill School without spending an additional penny – and receive a tax credit, to boot. In 2008, the Georgia state legislature passed a bill allowing taxpayers to redirect a portion of their state tax dollars to provide tuition assistance to students who are entering kindergarten or who are transferring from a public school to a private school. Specifically, the GRACE (Georgia Residents Assisting Children's Education) Scholars program was born, giving families that qualify the opportunity to attend a Catholic School in Georgia.

"We appreciate all of the families that redirected their taxes and have helped families receive a Catholic education at St. Mary School who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend," says Mary Davis, Director of Stewardship and Development. "The families that receive this tuition assistance are so grateful."

Last year, more than \$80,000 in Georgia state taxes was redirected to St. Mary on the Hill School from 62 families that participated in the GRACE Scholars program. The funds allowed our school to provide scholarships to several children, and help offset tuition costs to qualifying families. Specifically, families who have students entering kindergarten, or have children that are transferring from a public school to St. Mary's School, are eligible to benefit from this program.

The program is simple and easy for parish families to utilize. Individuals can contribute up to \$1,000 of their income, and married couples can contribute up to \$2,500 of their income. Business "C" corporations can

redirect up to 75 percent of their tax liability. That contribution will count as a 100 percent tax credit towards the donor's state tax liability, and it is also recognized as a charitable contribution when filing federal taxes.

In other words, participating in GRACE costs you nothing. You are simply redirecting your taxes – money you would be paying regardless – to Catholic schools. Furthermore, donors also receive a tax credit on their federal tax returns for their support of this program!

The key to best utilizing this program to provide Catholic education to families in need of financial support is to set aside money for a contribution and participate early, if possible. There is a \$50 million cap on the program. As of July 15, the Georgia Department of Revenue had approved more than \$18.1 million toward the program, and as word of the program spreads, all indications are that the cap will be reached in 2011.

"For our parishioners and school families, there's a greater sense of urgency than in years past to participate early, because the cap will probably be reached," Mary says. "People who want to participate and want their support to be included in the program this year need to act as soon as possible. This money has been so important to St. Mary's the past couple of years, and we really want this program to continue to grow each year."

Instructions and forms for participating in the program are located in the narthex and the parish office. The program requires participants to fill out two short forms, and Mary Davis, parish Director of Development and Stewardship, is happy to answer any questions parishioners may have about the process.

Please consider taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity. It only costs a few minutes of your time, and it can make a world of difference in providing a quality, holistic, Catholic education for a child in need. For more information on the GRACE Scholars program, please contact Mary Davis at 706-733-6627.



## Parishioner Profile: Becky Bresnahan Seeking to Serve Christ in All Things

For some people, making the decision to give our talents back to God through various ministries can be difficult — if not nerve-racking — but for others it can come quite naturally.

When a new job brought Becky Bresnahan to the area in 1986, she found herself searching for ways to offer her talents to God through a new parish family. A lifelong vocal musician, looking for a parish included looking for a place to sing.

“At the interview for the job that brought me here I remember them asking if I had any questions about the community,” Becky recalls. “So, I asked where the nearest Sweet Adeline Choir and the nearest Catholic Church with a contemporary choir were! I’ve been at St. Mary ever since.”

Becky began singing with the choirs that year and has continued to this day. For a number of years she has also been serving as the cantor at the 12:15 p.m. Mass on Sundays.

“With singing you really feel a part of what’s going on at the Mass,” Becky says. “You’re so intimately involved in the whole thing. You obviously get a lot out of it personally, but the difference between singing at Mass and performing in some other setting is immense: you’re not doing it for yourself. You’re there to serve other people and help them participate. I’ve always thought, if you have talents, why not use them for God — and that’s not just musical talent, it can be anything.”

Becky’s involvement at St. Mary has not been limited to singing with the choir; she has also served as a lector for many years and began helping with Vacation Bible School earlier this summer.



In her life at the parish and through her work as a teacher for the deaf, devotion to Christ has been the unifying theme of Becky’s life ever since her first ‘conversion’ experience at Confirmation when she was a teenager.

“Confirmation was very powerful for me and it came at a very important time in my life,” Becky says. “It wasn’t just something that I was supposed to do as a Catholic; I really wanted it and something happened to me through it.”

As an adult, Becky had a second conversion experience when she first came into contact with the Third Order Franciscans — a Fran-

ciscan order for lay people.

“I was at a choir rehearsal and there was a new lady that had a Tao Cross — one of the symbols of the Secular Franciscans. When she told me about the cross and the order I instantly thought, ‘I think I’m supposed to do that!’ Years later I took my vows on July 13, 2009. As Secular Franciscans, we aspire to a deeper relationship with Christ and with the Gospels.”

In addition to her career and her religious life at the parish and with the Franciscans, Becky also has a number of hobbies including camping, woodworking and making rosaries for missionaries. Perhaps her favorite pastime, though, is spending time with her son, Joseph who will turn 5 this month.

Looking back at the key moments in her life — especially her adoption of Joseph a few years ago — Becky sees God’s hand guiding and sustaining her. Accordingly, she is confident in placing her hope in Him in all things.

## Doing the *Ladies Auxiliary of the*



**T**eresa Brewton grew up around the Knights of Columbus and wanted to get involved.

“My father was actively involved in the Knights of Columbus,” she says. “I grew up going to the Knights of Columbus hall after Mass on Sundays, for Christmas parties, Halloween parties, and all the family functions they had throughout the year.”

So, it makes sense that at some point in her life, Teresa would become involved with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. She eventually became the president of the group, which works to support the Knights and promote and foster their principles in our community. They plan and organize social and fundraising events in conjunction with the Knights, and also with various charitable organizations around the community.

However, Teresa’s motivation for joining the Ladies Auxiliary is much more significant than just growing up around it. Another one of the ways the group gives their support is through assisting parishioners and family members of the Knights of Columbus in times of need, something Teresa has experienced firsthand.

“When my father was diagnosed with cancer, I saw what the Ladies Auxiliary did for my family,” Teresa

says. “They really stepped in and helped. It’s really important to have that in the Church family, and I wanted to be a part of it and help out. It was feeling that support for my family during that really trying time that made me want to get involved.”

Teresa is now in her third term as president of the Ladies Auxiliary, and she had been a member of the group for three years before that. Inspired by the women who had done so much for her family, she has been committed to doing the same for others in our community and serving our parish.

“If someone’s family member is in need, the Ladies will really help that family,” Teresa says. “The smallest little thing you do for somebody can make such a difference.”

Since she has become a part of the Ladies Auxiliary, Teresa has not only experienced the joys of helping others, she has also found fun and fellowship within the group, and most importantly, she has developed a deeper relationship with Christ.

“I was always spiritual growing up in the Church,” Teresa says. “Our family was always involved, but I really get a reward just giving back to the community in my own way. I feel closer to God through being able to

# Extra Stuff

## of the Knights of Columbus

serve others. Organized religion is not just about showing up and going to Mass. I really got more out of it taking a part and doing that extra stuff."

Although in the past only wives and unmarried daughters of Knights of Columbus could join the Ladies Auxiliary, membership has since been opened to any interested Catholic woman over the age of 18.

For more information, to volunteer at events or to join the Ladies Auxiliary, contact Teresa Brewton at 706-305-5759 or come to a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of every month at the Knights of Columbus Council Home on the corner of Monte Sano and Central Avenues.

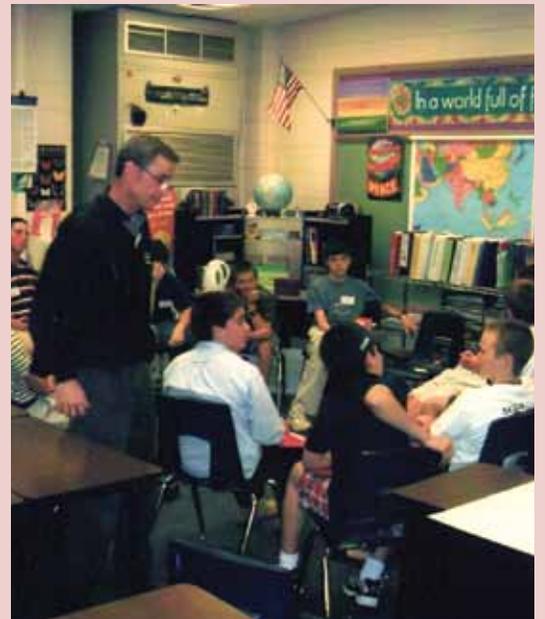


## Do You Need Help in Talking to Your Middle School Child About Chastity?

**W**ould you like to jump-start communication with your son or daughter? Do you need help in talking to your child about chastity, sexuality, marriage, dating and other important topics? Would you like to spend time with other families who share your values and want the best for their children? Would you like to do all this in an environment that is relaxed, fun and respects the dignity of everyone present?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, we encourage you to register for the Real Love & Real Life parent-child program, to be held at St. Mary on the Hill School cafeteria on Mondays Sept. 12, 19, 26, and Oct. 3 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. During the four session program, you'll see and hear skits, video clips and informative presenters. You can also participate in group breakout sessions and interactive games. Topics include: communication skills, chastity, dating and marriage, true self worth, fertility appreciation, friendships and lots more. Most importantly, this program gives you focused time with your child to talk about some of the most important topics in life.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Paige Parel at 706-733-6193 or [pparel@knology.net](mailto:pparel@knology.net).



*Empowering families to come together and communicate about life issues, chastity and God's gift of sexuality*

## Understanding the New Roman Missal The Liturgy of the Eucharist

As we continue to prepare for the implementation of the new English translation of the Roman Missal in November, we will focus this month on changes to the Liturgy of the Eucharist – the source and summit of our Catholic Faith.

Much of the Liturgy of the Eucharist is led by the celebrant, and primarily requires the congregation to listen and pray in silence. The majority of the changes to this part of the Mass will revolve around what we hear the priest say, rather than what we will say ourselves. However, there are a few small changes to some of the congregation's acclamations and responses during the Liturgy of the Eucharist that this article will focus on.

The first of these changes will come during the Preparation of the Gifts, when the priest invites us to prayer after washing his hands. Whereas the congregation has traditionally responded by saying, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands/ for the praise and glory of his name, / for our good/ and the good of all his Church," we will now respond in kind, but with the addition of the word "holy" before "Church." The word "holy" appears in the Latin text, and this will also more closely correspond to the description of the Church in the Nicene Creed. As Fr. Paul Turner points out in *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts*, "The reason that the Lord will hear the prayer and accept the sacrifice of the humble priest has to do with the holiness of the Church, which benefits from his prayer" (26).

Another noticeable change will take place during the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer. When the priest says, "The Lord be with you," we will now respond by saying, "And with your spirit," as we have to this greeting in earlier parts of the Mass. And when the priest gives the instruction, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," we will now say the words, "It is right and just," instead of "it is right to give him thanks and praise." This is simply a case of the translation being a lot closer to the Latin text – "just a declarative statement without explanation" (Turner 31).

Perhaps the most significant and prevalently utilized change to what we say during the Liturgy of the Eucharist will take place just before the distribution of Holy Communion. Traditionally, when the priest



has entered into the "Lamb of God" dialogue, we have responded by saying, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed." We will now respond to a revised introduction by the priest by saying, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

The first part of this response will now more clearly correspond to the story in Matthew 8:8 and Luke 7:6, where a Gentile Centurion has asked Jesus to heal his servant. Because Jesus talks directly to the Centurion in Matthew's account, and talks to the Centurion's delegates in Luke's version of the story, the word "enter" was chosen because it works for both accounts of this event (Turner 45-46).

The change in text from the word "I" to "my soul" is meant to more specifically address the type of healing for which we are asking as part of this response. As Fr. Turner says, "In this context, it shows we are not asking for a generic healing or even a physical healing, which could be understood by the word 'I.' Instead, we are asking for the spiritual healing that alone can cure 'my soul'" (46).

In addition to these modifications, there will be changes in our response during one of the four versions of the Acclamation of Faith, as well as a slight change to the "Holy, Holy, Holy." For more information on these and other changes to the new English translation of the *Missale Romanum*, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at [www.usccb.org/romanmissal](http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal).

## Becoming Stewards of Love *continued from front cover*

the goodness and importance of faithful marriages that create strong family bonds. In the Catholic worldview, the family is called the “domestic Church” because it teaches, nurtures, guides and protects the growing faith of its members. And Marriage is the sacrament that helps strengthen and stabilize Christian families. So, we must be committed to doing all we possibly can to encourage good sacramental marriages which can create strong and healthy families. If families are successful in passing on the faith, forming character, and nurturing virtue then the culture and society they create will better follow the Gospel values of Jesus.

So, our pastoral focus for the upcoming Church year will be to understand ever more deeply that we are called to be Stewards of Love.

- As Stewards of Love, we want to understand that it is God’s intention that Marriage and Family Life should be a Communion of Love.

- As Stewards of Love, we want to build on each family’s strength and help each one meet its distinct challenges.

- As Stewards of Love, we want to be sensitive to the complex reality of family life. As Stewards of Love, we need to affirm life as a precious gift from God.

- As Stewards of Love, we want to offer programming that enriches and supports the sacrament of Marriage and Family Life.

- As Stewards of Love, we want to give our best efforts to preparing couples for Marriage and welcome young married couples to be active members of our parish.

This spring, we had a marriage and family life summit. It was an energizing experience for me and I am excited by the many possibilities that lie before us to be Stewards of Love. The kick off for this new pastoral focus will be on our feast day, Sept. 8, the birth of Mary. If you are free, I’d love for you to join us at the 9:15 a.m. Eucharist on that day. And, if you have a thought about what we as a faith community can do to strengthen marriage and family life within our community, please don’t hesitate to call me or a member of the pastoral council.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

# 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 Jim Brouillard*  
David and Wyolene Boersma  
Clebake Golf Group  
Joseph Leblond  
Tracy Willingham Demircan  
Debra A. Caraway  
The James Brouillard Family  
Paul and Velda Guffey  
Jack and Jean Leone  
Margaret Polonus  
Nelda and Alan Boettcher  
Phillip and Elaina Matthews

*In Memory of Shannon Agee*  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Murray

*In Memory of Bertha Battey Toole*  
Mr. Mike Rucker

### St. Mary Church Leave a Legacy Pew Plaque

*In Loving Memory of Lawson E. (Red) Douglas*  
The Douglas Family

### St. Mary on the Hill School

*In Memory of Robert Smith*  
Mary Armstrong  
Kendall and Mary Jo Kuskie

### St. Mary on the Hill School Football Program

*In Memory of Shannon Agee*  
Donald and Dori Thorstad  
Judge and Mrs. Bill Fleming

### St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment

*In Memory of Helen Purcell*  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles May

## Baptisms

Parker Lee Flake  
*son of Richard and Dawn*  
Jonathan Miguel Tyler  
*son of Jonathan and Katiria*  
Kylee Nicole Simmons  
*daughter of Kelly and Terrance*