

Catholic Church of St. James Newsletter



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“I was in prison and you visited me”

The Holy Bible according to Matthew 25:36 states, “I was in prison and you visited me.” Inmates have an abundance of idle time while incarcerated and the ability to direct Christ into a small part of the inmate’s mundane day provides a positive use of their time. The infusion of faith-based initiatives within the inmate population provides a foundation for transition from a life of self-destructive behavior to a spiritual life that teaches Christian values and accountability.

adopted a reentry philosophy that is faith-based program oriented. The detention center’s first priority was to collaborate with Good News Jail and Prison Ministries and have a full-time chaplain working in the detention center to coordinate inmate religious services, volunteers and programs. After two successful years working with a Good News Jail and Prison Ministries chaplain, Horry County authorized a full-time Inmate Programs and Services Coordinator in 2008.

In 2006, the J. Reuben Long Detention Center

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Parish Hall Make Over

If it’s broke, fix it!!!

A few years ago my oldest son Russ, bought an old row house in a rundown part of Baltimore. It was definitely a "fixer-upper." Every room needed help. And yet he saw its potential. Several years later, his row house still looks the same from the outside, but step in the front door and you will see a new kitchen, bathroom, study (complete with custom-built bookshelves and skylight), and two bedrooms. His home renovation is not complete, but then, whose home ever is?

Why do I bring this up? Because from the outside, no one driving past St. James would suspect that anything is different. Yet step inside the Parish Hall and your senses will be delighted! Your eyes will see that the room has gone from sterile white walls to soothing blue, from tired old carpeting to bright new tile; your nose will smell the clean floor and fresh paint; and your sense of touch will revel in the feel of the new chairs.

Late last summer, a small group of parishioners came to-

See Parish Hall on page 3

The priority of Inmate Programs and Services is to create partnerships with the community and other professional organizations to: provide inmates with opportunities for positive personal growth, prepare inmates for productive re-entry into the community, and reduce recidivism and jail overcrowding. This in turn assists the jail staff with management of the inmate population. How do we accomplish this goal?

We looked at the best practices across the United States to determine what was working and what were our programming needs for the detention center. We identified four program areas that we would focus on: *Religious, Recovery, Education, and Re-entry*.

Religious — Our goal is to meet the religious needs and requests of each inmate. We accomplish this by offering voluntary programs from four major religious groups, Evangelical, Catholic, Muslim, and Jehovah’s Witness, through the assistance of countless volunteers. We offer worship services, Bible and topical studies, distribution of Bibles, Qurans, and other religious material for Bible correspondence courses, as well as spiritual mentoring and discipleship, and holiday specific religious services.

A small group of parishioners from St. James is active in providing spiritual support. Father ’Rick LaBrecque presides at Christmas Mass for inmates, with Paula Loehr and Paulette Flench assisting; Paula and Paulette also distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday. Paula leads the Jail and Prison Ministry, assisted by Wilma Lucas and Annette Roberts. They lead small faith-sharing groups in three housing units twice a month, and Paula visits Catholic inmates in all units every week. Paula also conducts Journeywork sessions (a spiritual healing process), as well as RCIA instruction as needed; and Father ’Rick is on call and has presided at Easter Masses, conducted confessions, and distributed communion for numerous inmates over the years. Religious services provided by the four major religious groups are: volunteers conduct over 450 religious services annually with approximately 9,500 inmates attending; 720 religious study groups with around 5,700 inmates attending; 1,200 Bibles have been distributed; 4,000 correspondence courses have been provided; 1,000 books and about 700 pairs of reading glasses have been handed out to encourage the inmates to read the Good News.

Recovery — We offer inmates opportunities to learn new life skills that will enable them to live productive

lives apart from their addictions to alcohol and drugs. Some of the programs offered are Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, Life Recovery – a faith based twelve-step recovery system, and a jail diversion program that is a residential therapeutic community treatment program for homeless men suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Education — Our goal is to offer inmates the opportunity to learn new skills that will enable them to experience lives that are more productive and to obtain viable employment upon release. We accomplish this by offering anger management classes, criminal domestic violence education, Life Choices with Parents Anonymous, Seven Areas of Life Training, GED training, and Work Keys for Career Readiness as part of the Horry County Adult Education Program.

Re-entry — We offer inmates assistance and guidance to prepare them for release and reintegration with their families. We accomplish this by offering referrals to Horry County Adult Education and Vocational Rehabilitation; free bus tickets back to the city of residence regardless of where they are from within the United States; courtesy vans manned by volunteers that provide transportation to bus stations and homeless shelters; referrals to aftercare programs and transitional housing. We also direct inmates to resource centers for job searches as well as help them with interview skills and resume writing. We help with housing searches and direct them to Fatherhood Initiative and Looking for Work classes.

All of this is accomplished with the hard work of over 100 volunteers under the direction of our Inmate Programs and Services Coordinator Eddie Hill, who is also our resident chaplain. Some people ask why we are so program oriented and the answer is simple. Beneath the darkness and harsh life behind the jails and prison walls lies the power of the Holy Spirit and a thirst for the Word of God. Faith-based ministries within jails and prisons play a crucial role in maintaining inmate morale, and provide a valuable resource to the inmates through spiritual support. In addition, every inmate that does not re-offend and come back to jail saves the taxpayers of Horry County around \$50 per day per inmate.

By Tom Fox, Director of Detention at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center

gether with the idea (first proposed by one of our Youth Groups last spring) to have a Parish Hall makeover.

After months of research and discussion, the makeover kicked off during Lent. Several parishioners, led by Martin Barbis, tore out the old carpeting; 35 members of our English and Spanish Youth Groups and their adult leaders spent a Friday night painting the walls. The next two days, Martin and his crew tiled the floor, using white and blue VCT (vinyl composite tile) and replaced the baseboards. Martin and Tom Flench painted the doors and trim with durable oil-based paint.

Next, new white tables were added, replacing the heavy, dark laminate ones. Padded chairs in a dark blue fabric were ordered to provide comfortable seating, replacing the maroon chairs that were literally on their last legs.

Tom replaced the old vertical blinds with new plantation blinds. Then he re-hung the portraits of our founding families, to whom the hall is dedicated, and the pictures of the pastors who have guided St. James over the years. You'll see the latter group gazing down at us from above the hallway window.

All of this is the result of a vision of something better, combined with much volunteer labor, capital improvement funds, and generous donations from the Ladies Guild, the Knights of Columbus, an anonymous parishioner, and the Youth Groups.

A renovation, whether it's of our personal home or our parish home, involves a lot of sweat equity, time, and money. But the results are so rewarding! Next on the agenda? The Youth Groups will be painting one of the Child Development Center's classrooms this month.

By Paulette Flench

Knights of Columbus Council

After my article in the newsletter last time, several questions were asked about what we do with all of the money that we raise.

The biggest expenditure of our funds goes to St. James parish and the many different ministries such as the Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the parish picnic and many others. Our 2010 contribution to St. James was **\$8,152**.

Our council and roundtable help support two seminarians with a donation of \$500 going to each seminarian. We also support Grand Strand Citizens for Life, Catholic Charities, Room at the Inn - Father Michael McGivney Maternity Home in Beaufort, SC, and the Shrine of Our Lady of South Carolina-Our Lady of Hope in Kingstree, SC. Because we are a part of a state and national organization, we also support charities that all of the councils in the state help to fund.

So, when we ask you if you would like to participate in the Spring Fund Raiser, buy a ticket to one of our dinners, buy a Hibiscus, give a donation to Operation Hope and receive a Tootsie Roll, play in the Golf Tournament, etc. you are helping to support our parish and many other charities. By the end of the each year we have given away most of the money we have collected and we start all over again. We get many requests for help and we would like to help all of the charities but sometimes we just do not have the funds to do it.

We would like to thank all of you for your generous support of the Knights of Columbus in the past and we hope that you will continue to support us in the future.

By Ed Harrison, Grand Knight



Mothers' Day Breakfast — June 4

Mothers Day Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, June 4** from 8:30 to 10:00 AM in the Founders Center. All mothers and their children that are able to attend are welcome. There is no cost to attend this breakfast, it is a gift from the Knights of Columbus to the mothers of St. James Parish. (*Note: \$5 for any one who attends without their mother.*) To help us have enough supplies, please call the office at 843-347-5168 and say how many will be attending this special breakfast .



When I was a youngster, at the time WWII started, my mother had a 4-party telephone line to call a few of her friends and my aunts. Since it was a shared line, she would pick up the phone and many times would hear a voice of one of the other three people on the 4-party system. She didn't bother eavesdropping because the other three on the line were Portuguese and she didn't understand them. If she got a dial tone, she dialed three or four numbers to reach her party. Of course telephone systems have advanced to a point of cell phones that can reach anywhere in the world today.

During my Navy days in the '50s, I served on an aircraft carrier in the Caribbean. We were obligated to contact Washington, DC every day by radio. Unfortunately we could not always do so because of a low ionosphere. Nowadays we can get astronauts on camera and voice via satellite while they are landing in the Pacific Ocean.

Moving forward to the present hi-tech days, we now communicate live by computer through voice and video via Skype. I also hear that Facebook has a similar capability, but I'm not a member and have been discouraged from joining it for security reasons.

Many years ago I operated an 8K memory computer using paper tapes for data input. Nowadays I can

email anywhere in the world and Google almost any information in an instant. I can read a French newspaper every day. Going back half a century ago, I would walk one mile to reach the Public Library to do my homework assignment. Today, I got a call from my wife on her cell phone asking me to get a phone number and address of a place she needed. I Googled it in seconds and succeeded on the first try.

I'm sure that many people are Googling for information. And when you find the www site or the URL address you want, you click on it to link to get the complete information. You may be looking for a cake recipe or an OTC pill for a headache. But did you know that there are many sites and links to religious information? You can research the Vatican, The Diocese of Charleston, as well as many others.

Let's start with our own St. James website at www.stjamesconway.org and look for Catholic Links. No computer? Call a friend or grandchild to have them look up what you want. You don't have to walk one mile to the library as I did. The Catholic sites for local schools, the Diocese of Charleston, the Catholic Encyclopedia, the Saint of the Day and many other links are easily reached by logging in at our church website.

By Bob Gagne

Pharmacy Phacts – Guess what many people forget to pack

The joy and anticipation of heading out the door for a long awaited vacation, business trip, or family reunion can occasionally bring on temporary amnesia when packing for the trip. Many motels and hotels can provide the basic necessities like toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, shave cream, etc. But only a pharmacist can help you when you forget your medications at home. Don't panic, help is just a phone call away.

Here's what you need to do. Locate another pharmacy in the same chain (CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Kmart, etc.) that you do business with. If there is not one where you are, **any** pharmacy can help you. Talk with the pharmacist about what medications you are on, your doctor's name, and what pharmacy you go to. The pharmacist may have to ask a few clarifying questions to accurately identify all of your prescription information. Also, let them know how long you will be on your trip, so that an

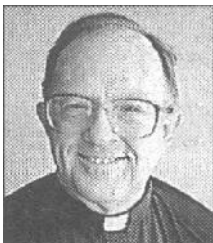
adequate amount of medication can be supplied. This procedure can be done in 48 states; only California and New York will require new prescriptions from a doctor, so be advised.

Once this pharmacist is able to communicate with your hometown pharmacist, it's just a matter of how busy that pharmacy is at that particular moment as to when your prescriptions will be ready. One thing you'll need to keep in mind is that insurance doesn't always pick up the tab for a full refill in this kind of situation. Most insurance companies have built into their policies some level of vacation or emergency overrides, but I have seen one or two that refuse to pay. Even though you did this unintentionally, the insurance company has the final say.

Don't let this kind of experience spoil your trip. It is a minor inconvenience and easily remedied. Remember, a positive outlook leads to a positive outcome.

By Tom Flench, Pharmacist

I'm writing these words on May 2, which I just heard on the radio is the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible. So many Christians of other denominations still use this early translation as their daily Bible, as well as the one read in their churches.



interpretation. Today, thank God, we Catholics promote Bible reading, study, and reflection by all God's people. We have many translations in English and other languages.

Some seem to regard it as literally the way the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors to write down God's revelation. It is rightly regarded by all as a masterpiece of English literature. It is rightly honored as a pioneer in bringing the Word of God to all the people. The invention of the printing press made this practical.

The King James is still beautiful literature, although with the advances in Biblical studies in intervening centuries, it contains inaccuracies just like the original Catholic English version, the Douay Rheims, does. And of course it lacks the several books of the Bible which Protestants came to reject. Are you reading your Bible?

Regrettably, in those days the Catholic Church, regarding the Latin Vulgate translation done by St. Jerome in the fourth century as likewise almost of divine inspiration, blocked translation into modern languages. There also seemed to have been a fear of average people directly accessing the Bible without Church mediation and

Are you listening attentively when God's Word is proclaimed at Mass? I'm sure that, like myself, many of you can testify to what a tremendous impact our access to God's Word has had on our lives. Let us continue to let the "living Word" be one of the key foundations of our lives.

Father 'Rick Labrecque, Pastor

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND IMMIGRATION

Here is a second installment from the United States Catholic Bishops' website "Justice for Immigrants," in which frequently asked questions on the subject are answered, based on plain facts and church teaching.

Father 'Rick LaBrecque

Many Americans fear that immigrants disproportionately use welfare programs or public benefits. Some believe that immigrants are eligible for special benefits that Americans cannot receive. The fact is that unauthorized immigrants are not eligible for most public benefits and do not use them surreptitiously. Legal immigrants are also restricted from receiving many benefits. Immigrants pay taxes to fund welfare programs, but are not eligible to reap the benefits of many of them.

Unauthorized Immigrants Aren't Eligible for Public Benefits

- **Unauthorized immigrants are not eligible for federal public benefits:** This includes [income supplements](#)—e.g., Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), health care (Medicaid and Medicare), and food stamps.
- **Legal immigrants face tough restrictions on accessing public benefits:** Federal law also imposes [harsh restrictions](#) on legal immigrants' eligibility for public benefits. Most *documented* immigrants cannot receive federal Medicaid, TANF, food stamps, or SSI during

their first five years or longer in the U.S., regardless of how much they have worked or paid in taxes.

Immigrants use less health care, on average, than U.S. citizens: Low-income immigrants are less likely to receive public benefits than are U.S. citizens. Immigrants do not come to the U.S. to receive public benefits, and once they are here, they [do not disproportionately use public benefits](#). According to a study in the *American Journal of Public Health*, [immigrants do not impose a disproportionate financial burden](#) on the U.S. health care system. The per capita total health care expenditures of immigrants are less than half those of U.S.-born persons, and immigrants are significantly less likely to use the emergency room than are citizens. Further restricting immigrants' access to benefits is not a solution to our immigration problems. In fact, the [more people paying into a healthcare system](#), especially healthier working-age people, the more the costs are spread out.

See Immigrants on page 6

But They Pay Anyway

Immigrants pay taxes into the system that funds public services: Even the majority of unauthorized immigrants pay federal and state income taxes, Social Security taxes, and Medicare taxes. And all immigrants pay sales taxes and property taxes. Many studies have found that immigrants pay more in taxes than they receive in benefits. The [National Research Council](#) estimated in 1997 that “the average immigrant pays nearly \$1,800 more in taxes than he or she costs in benefits.” [Many state-level studies](#) have also found that immigrants contribute more to the economy than they take out.

Unauthorized Immigrants and Taxes

As the debate over unauthorized immigration continues to rage, some pundits and policymakers are claiming that unauthorized immigrants do not pay taxes and rely heavily on government benefits. Neither of these claims is supported by the facts. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, unauthorized men have workforce participation rates that are higher than other workers, and all unauthorized immigrants are ineligible for most government services, but pay taxes as workers, consumers, and residents.

Many Pay But Don't Collect

• **Like the rest of us, [unauthorized immigrants pay taxes](#):** Between one-half to three-quarters of unauthorized immigrants pay federal and state income taxes, Social Security taxes, and Medicare taxes. All unauthorized immigrants pay sales taxes (when they buy anything at a store, for instance) and property taxes (even if they rent housing).

Unauthorized immigrants pay into Social Security, but do not collect: The [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#) has concluded that unauthorized immigrants “account for a major portion” of the billions of dollars paid into the Social Security system under names or Social Security numbers that don't match SSA records; payments from which immigrants cannot benefit while unauthorized. As of 2003, the reported earnings on which these payments are based—which are tracked through the SSA's Earnings Suspense File (ESF)—totaled \$520 billion.

State Studies Analyze Unauthorized Tax Contributions

- **TEXAS:** A 2006 study by the [Texas State Comptroller](#) found that “the absence of the estimated 1.4 million undocumented immigrants in Texas in fiscal 2005 would have been a loss to our gross state product of \$17.7 billion. Undocumented immigrants produced \$1.58 billion in state revenues, which *exceeded* the \$1.16 billion in state services they received.”
- **OREGON:** A 2007 study by the [Oregon Center for Public Policy](#) estimated that unauthorized immigrants in Oregon pay state income, excise, and property taxes, as well as federal Social Security and Medicare taxes, which “total about \$134 million to \$187 million annually.” In addition, “taxes paid by Oregon employers on behalf of undocumented workers total about \$97 million to \$136 million annually.” As the report goes on to note, unauthorized workers are ineligible for the Oregon Health Plan, food stamps, and temporary cash assistance.†

Extraordinary Ministers

The Pastoral Visitors used to be a "hidden ministry" before they received the newly consecrated hosts at the end of weekend liturgies for distribution to homebound parishioners and patients in the hospital and in the nursing homes and assisted living facilities. It was hoped that by witnessing to the community in this way, some others would be attracted to the ministry or would at least inquire about it.

There is a great need for Extraordinary Ministers to bring communion to the hospitals and to homebound parishioners as the parish grows. Training will be provided for anyone who wishes to try this most rewarding ministry.

In the recent April 28 issue of the Catholic Miscellany, the ministry of the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion was beautifully explained. Anyone who might be interested can contact the church office at 347-5168, and will receive a follow-up call.

In this season of Easter, following the Resurrection of the Lord, this may be a way of responding to His invitation to "Preach the Gospel to all nations!"

By Pat Millus

Are you ready????? Your favorite ministry is changing its name. Not just your favorite one, but every ministry at St. James is changing its name. Relaaaxxx, you won't have to relearn anything. The old familiar name of stewardship is simply being added to the name of every ministry. Examples are: Stewardship Ministry of Ushers, Stewardship Ministry of Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Stewardship of the Choir, Stewardship Ministry of the Funeral Servers, and Stewardship Ministry of the Parish Library, etc. You get the idea.

Why is this important? Jesus calls us all to be stewards of everything His Father has given us. Any of our parishioners who give of their time and talent to any ministry at St. James is deeply involved in an act of stewardship. St. James is a church of stewardship as is evident by the over 75 ministries we have in action throughout the year. Every visiting priest is amazed at all the activity going on every day and night at St. James. Now every time you state the name of your ministry, you will proclaim that you and St. James are stewards of Jesus Christ who serve God and all people. What a simple and fantastic statement to make while having a simple conversation. Proclaim the Good News – by word, in action, and now with a simple name change.

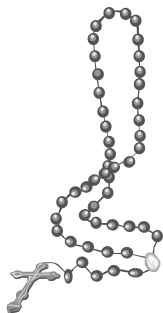
By Lanny Brezczinski

Rosary Makers

The Rosary Makers of St. James continue with their ministry. Rosaries have been sent to Our Mother of Mercy Chapel, Enumclaw, WA; Sister Margaret Mary, Missionaries of Charity, Brooklyn, NY; Father Davie Scheidler, Congregation of Holy Cross, Austin, TX (These rosaries will be sent to Mexico) and Eternal World Television Network, Birmingham, AL.

We have also given some rosaries to the chaplain at Conway Medical Center to be distributed to the patients as needed. Any donations for supplies and/or postage would be gratefully appreciated. This is such a worthwhile cause. Contact Anne Blatz, 347-0325 for further information.

By Anne Blatz



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

To a Catholic, there is no greater gift than to know that Our Lord and Savior is present among us, fulfilling His promise, "I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matt.28:20)

In the United States today, there are 644 chapels where Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, is exposed for Adoration around the clock - 24 hours a day! Another 6,605 chapels have partial Adoration hours. (Ref. *America Needs Fatima*)

Jesus is personally present at Eucharistic Adoration. Tell Him about a friend or family member who is suffering. What about you? Share your problems and joys with Jesus. Give Him all the details. Make Him a "Wish List", asking for spiritual and corporal goods. Don't be embarrassed or shy, and don't hesitate to ask!

Come to the chapel for Eucharistic Adoration - the oasis of peace. Feel His presence, His healing power, His love. "Be still and know that I AM GOD." (Ps.45:1)

By Sharron Wojciechowski, Coordinator

Playground Safety — "It's a must"

Summertime is fast approaching and I know many are going to be out and about having fun with their families. Parks with playgrounds are great for picnicking, fresh air and exercise but can be a hazard if not well monitored. Studies show that more than 200,000 kids each year are treated in hospital ERs for playground-related injuries. Faulty equipment, improper surfaces, and careless behavior are just a few of the hazards of playgrounds. Many of these hazards could have been prevented with proper supervision.

Adult supervision can help prevent injuries by making sure kids properly use playground equipment and don't engage in unsafe behavior around it. Teaching kids how to play safely is VERY important. Young children can't always gauge distances properly and aren't capable of foreseeing dangerous situations, and older children like to test their limits. Play is an important part of kids' physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development.

The Child Development Center is starting to renovate the playground to make it more appealing and safer. We haven't really updated our playground in many years and it's starting to show. Working together, we can make a difference!

By Ann Parks, CDC Director

An Incredible Year for Youth

The St. James Youth Group has had an incredible 2010-2011 year. They have participated in many service projects which included raising 4,000 lbs of food for the hungry in Horry County, Christmas caroling to parish shut-ins, painting the parish hall, Relay for Life cancer walk at Coastal Carolina University and the children's Easter egg hunt at the parish. The youth have also had many fund raisers throughout the year and would like to thank everyone in the parish who has supported the fund-raising efforts.

The youth are ending their year with a bus trip to *Carowinds* amusement park in Charlotte, NC. They will also attend the *Rock the Park* Christian music concerts there that day. It will be an awesome experience for all attending on June 18.

We look forward to an even better more dynamic 2011-2012 year and are hoping to encourage even more youth to get involved with the group and participate in all the

events throughout the year. A membership system is being looked into to have them commit to participation in these events.

The youth also encourage any adults who would like to get certified to work, help out, and to get involved with them. Adult/parent involvement is highly encouraged. *Virtus* training is required and is provided free through the church.

Meetings for adult leaders will be held throughout the summer to plan the 2011-2012 year. The meetings will be announced in the church bulletin. Any interested adults are invited to attend.

By Tami Hinnerschitz

ASAP means "As Soon As Possible" and it also means "Always Say A Prayer"

The Right Age for Faith Formation?

Catholic parents across the nation often struggle to determine the right time to begin religious education (RE) classes for their children. I receive numerous phone calls from parents throughout the year asking, "What grade should we start RE classes?" The answer to this common question? The sooner, the better!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains, "Education in the faith by parents should begin in the child's earliest years." (CCC, 2226) This means that true faith formation begins in the home and later extends to parish-based RE classes. Some parents may feel like this responsibility is overwhelming and they are unsure where to begin. As a result, many parents avoid the subject until their children are old enough to be enrolled in RE classes. However, it is never too late to educate our children, and St. James is happy to assist parents in this process.

As parents explore the options available, they will discover that each parish may differ slightly in how and when they offer RE classes. At St. James, we begin classes at the kindergarten level and we request that parents observe our consecutive yearly attendance policy. That means parents continue to bring their children to RE classes every year,

regardless of whether they are preparing for a sacrament or not. In doing so, parents help us provide a solid faith foundation as well as an uninterrupted schedule of learning for their child.

In addition, some parents wait until their children are in second grade to register them for RE classes. Why second grade? It is because that grade is most often associated with the reception of the sacrament of First Communion. However at St. James, our RE program differs from other parishes because we offer preparation for First Penance in second grade and First Eucharist in third grade. In the event that a child is of age to receive First Communion but has never attended any faith formation classes, we ask that the child is given a year of supplemental instruction in addition to regular RE classes to help them "catch up" with their peers. This is a great example of why it is important to begin faith formation at an early age.

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" and our RE program is designed to follow His request. Please contact me for more information at 347-5168 or by selecting "Youth" on our webpage at www.stjamesconway.org. Remember, when your child is registered for kindergarten, it's also a good time to register for religious education classes.

By Amy Horan

RCIA

Ministry of Christian Initiation

At one time the role of facilitating one's entrance into the Catholic Christian community belonged to the ordained clergy. During the Second Vatican Council its members prescribed the revision of the rite of baptism of adults and decreed that the catechumenate for adults, divided into several steps, should be restored. By this means, the time of the catechumenate, which is intended as a period of instruction would also include liturgical rites to be celebrated at successive intervals of time. The Council also decreed that both the solemn and simple rites of adult baptism should be revised, with proper attention to the restored catechumenate. In observance of these decrees, the Congregation for Divine Worship prepared a new rite for the Christian initiation of adults, which Pope Paul VI approved.

Once the work was done and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults was in place it became the combined ministry of the ordained clergy and the laity. It takes the work of several teams and their members to facilitate a smooth and fruitful catechumenate. The prime minister of the catechumenate is the pastor of the parish. After him comes the ministry of the catechumenate director, the inquiry team, the catechetical team and the sponsors. Some parishes also have a hospitality ministry as part of their RCIA.

I invite any parishioner who feels he or she might be called to devote some time to any aspect of this ministry of initiation for adults to contact me for information. Sponsors are always needed to accompany an individual candidate or catechumen through the process as they proceed on their faith journey towards receiving the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The only requirement to being a sponsor for the RCIA is that you are willing to share your faith as you journey with your candidate or catechumen along their journey towards full initiation into the Catholic Christian community.

Since our Children's Catechumenate is continually growing we are looking for several additional people who would be willing to volunteer twice a month to help these youngsters prepare for the reception of the sacraments.

By Eleanor Fisher, Catechumenate Director

efisher@stjamesconway.org

SCRIPTURE † PRAYER † SPIRITUALITY

ROAD TO EMMAUS

Our readings this Easter Season include the beautiful story of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus and their encounter with Jesus, the Risen Lord. In this gospel story the disciples encounter a stranger, enter into dialogue with the stranger by asking questions and having questions answered, extend hospitality by inviting the stranger to stay with them and share a meal and have their eyes opened to the identity of the stranger.

As we read Luke 24:13-35 and reflect on the meaning it has for us today we need to ask ourselves if we are welcoming the strangers among us. Do we look them in the eye and say, 'Hello', or do we avoid any eye contact with them? Do we enter into dialogue with them or do we just turn and walk away? Do we show them hospitality or do we 'do our own thing' and leave them to do theirs? Most of all, do we see the face of Jesus in our fellow humans regardless of race, color or creed?

If we truly meditate on this gospel story it can tell us much about our personal journey and how we do or do not follow the example of Jesus. This story also provides a model for what takes place in the catechumenate (RCIA). When people come to us, questions are asked, hospitality is extended, stories are told, and scripture and tradition are shared and interpreted. Discussion and dialogue invite conversation and transformation. The life of Christ as it is celebrated and proclaimed throughout the liturgical year is the basis for the primary formation of the catechumens. The high point of the process is the reception of the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. They are baptized into a life with Christ, strengthened in that life through Confirmation, and share in the meal of the Eucharist for the first time.

By Eleanor Fisher, Spiritual Director

YARD SALE

The *Our Lady of Guadalupe* yard sale is an effort to raise funds to cover the cost of this festivity in December. The Guadalupe Committee will be accepting donations from May 22 to May 27 of items that you no longer need. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 28 in the Founders Center 7 AM to 1 PM. Thank you for your generosity!

Joyful Hope

Stewardship at St. James over the last couple years has been referred to as a response of JOY to all the wonder God has provided us in our lives. In Kingstree, SC – only 62 miles from St James – is the one and only Charleston Diocesan Shrine *Our Lady of South Carolina* also called *Our Lady of Joyful Hope*. There are very few diocesan shrines in the entire nation so we are specially blessed. What a wonderful opportunity for us to respond to Jesus and others by saying yes to his Mother with a short trip to Kingstree.

“Leave your Burdens” is the message on the stone that lies at her feet. This message was directed to Bishop Baker by the Holy Spirit, while the Bishop was reading his Daily Office during preparations to dedicate the shrine. He refers to Kingstree as the spiritual center of the Diocese. Our Blessed Mother is waiting for our burdens, our prayers for others, the giving of ourselves to her and her Son.

So after hearing the spiritual direction and invitation from the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Mother, what theological reasons can there be for this shrine?

Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical – *Saved in Hope* – stated that we are called to the Church in a special vocation to hope. The final section of this encyclical (#49) is dedicated to Mary, *Star of Hope*, in which the Pope prays that Mary as *Mother of Hope* teach us to believe, to hope and to love with her.

By issuing the Apostolic Letter – On the Most Holy Rosary – and proclaiming in it a Year of the Rosary, Pope John Paul II called the Church to the Rosary as the “*School of Mary*” (#14). In that Year of the Rosary he issued another call, in his encyclical – “*On the Eucharist in Its Relationship to the Church*” – in which he unites Mary to this sacrament by calling us to stand *At the School of Mary, Woman of the Eucharist*.

The Shrine of Our Lady of South Carolina – Our Lady of Joyful Hope – is our diocesan response to this triple call by our recent popes to the universal Church. They encourage us to be formed in the *School of Mary*, presented as *Woman of the Eucharist* and invoked as *Mother of Hope*. (Vocation of the Kingstree Shrine – Father Stan Smolenski)

Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI call us to hope through our beliefs, love, the rosary, and the Eucharist all of which are focused at our shrine. And all we have to do is to get involved with Father Stan and the Shrine *Our Lady of Joyful Hope* while it grows as the Spiritual Center of the Diocese. You can go to Kingstree and the shrine on a retreat by yourself or in a group. The shrine is located at 300 E Main Street, Kingstree, but call 843-355-3527, or email Father at frss@ftc-i.net ahead of time so he is ready for you.

By Lanny Breczinski

Ladies Guild – A Winning Team!!

In February the Ladies Guild held a card party and game night hosted by member Flo Conklin and her hard-working team. The evening netted \$1,000 which was earmarked for the Parish Hall Makeover.

March found nine of our ladies attending the annual South Carolina Council of Catholic Women convention in North Myrtle Beach. Our group received an award for our efforts with International/Multi-Cultural endeavors and the SCCCW President’s Award for sponsoring and participating in the St. James Festival of Peoples each year.

In April Sharron Wojechowski organized the “Tastefully Simple” fundraiser earning approximately \$300 which will be donated to the CAP food pantry. The ladies, with the assistance of St. James parishioners, supported member Pat Millus in preparing and serving of the annual Seder Meal during the Lenten Season.

All this activity plus the meals for visiting priests during the Lenten Season, the Palm Sunday Bake Sale, maintenance of the Meditation Garden, leading *Mary’s Way of the Cross*, Eucharistic Adoration as a group, more bake sales are some of what we did ... and more!!!

If you are interested in joining this “winning team” of the Ladies of St. James, you are welcome to attend our meetings between September and June, the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. Need more information? Contact Anna Marie Winters, Organization Chair, at 347-9295.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge not only the energy and hard work of our members, but the overwhelming support that we receive from the St. James parishioners and office staff. It would be more than difficult to achieve our goals without your help. Thank you!

By Diane Pauls, President

Social Justice Foundations

Some folks say the church should stay out of social issues and stick to spiritual issues. After all, what does this life matter if we are bound for glory? On the contrary, Jesus came not only to prepare a place for us in paradise but to redeem THIS world. Actually, the social tradition of the people of God dates back to the Law, prophets, and wisdom of the Old Testament. Here are biblical texts foundational to our Catholic social tradition:

Genesis 1:26 – Human beings are made in the image and likeness of God; human dignity must be protected.

Leviticus 19:33 – Do not abuse the alien among you for you were once aliens in Egypt.

Amos 8:4 – The oppressor says, “When will the Sabbath be over that we can get back to cheating poor people?” The Lord has sworn, “never will I forget a thing they have done!”

Isaiah 58:6 – This is the fast I desire, releasing those bound unjustly.

Psalms 34 – The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord.

Jesus came to reveal the reign of God where we strive not to be served but to serve and give our life for others:

Matt 5:3 – Blest are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 25:40 – Whatever you do to the least of my brothers or sisters you do to me.

Luke 1:51 – Mary's Magnificat – God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.

Luke 4:18 – Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to bring glad tidings to the poor.”

Luke 10:25 – The Good Samaritan acted with compassion – go and do the same.

James 5:1 – The wages you withheld from farm hands cries out to God.

1 John 4:20 – The one who says, “I love God but hate my brother” is a liar.

Therefore my brothers and sisters, Jesus challenges us: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

By Deacon Jeff Mevissen

Friday Night Faith-Sharing

It amazes me how God works in my life. I want to share with you a God-incident that can only be from the Father above. I am taking classes at the university, and there is one class I haven't been able to take as it is four days a week during my working hours. That means I would be away from my desk that many hours and I could not go any further in my education until I took this class. I had complained about it because four days a week for a whole semester was a huge commitment. I decided that it was meant to be, and that I would wait until the fall to see if perhaps they would offer night classes on this specific class. I had checked spring and summer – the class would not fit my work and vacation time schedule.

A few weeks ago, my supervisor emailed our department that our hours were going to change and that we needed more coverage in the department. We all selected the hours we were willing to work. I decided that 9-5 would be a better schedule for me, and they really needed someone to stay until 5 PM.

Out of the blue, today, I happened to look at the university fall schedule again to see if a night class was available for the class I needed. Lo and behold, there is a class four days a week that starts at 8 AM and ends at 8:50 AM. Enough time for me to get to work and not miss any work time. It fits perfectly into my schedule. I have to come to work anyway so I might as well leave a little earlier and take the class. What are the chances of all this working together? I think very slim, however, it has. Only because God has made it happen. If it is a part of His plan it will happen. Faith-sharing with my group has allowed me to look at the God-incidents in my life, see that He is a part of our lives and to share them with you.

By Annette Roberts

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Calendar of Events at St. James

- ⇒ Wednesday, May 25 — Mary Day — 6:45 PM
- ⇒ Saturday, May 28 — Guadalupe Yard Sale starting at 7 AM — 1 PM
- ⇒ Thursday, June 2 — Feast of the Ascension
- ⇒ Saturday, June 4 — Mothers Day Breakfast — 8:30 – 10:00 AM
- ⇒ Sunday, June 12 — Pentecost
- ⇒ Sunday, June 19 — Most Holy Trinity and Father's Day
- ⇒ Mon—Fri, July 18—22 — Vacation Bible School 6:30—8:30 PM

Father 'Rick LaBrecque	Pastor
Father John Silver (Retired)	Sacramental Ministry
Jeff Mevissen	Deacon
Paulette Flench	Pastoral Associate
Sister Ana Gema Villafaña	Hispanic Pastoral Associate
Eleanor Fisher	Catechumenate Director
Paula Loehr	Administrative Assistant
Kathy Caughey	Secretary
Amy Horan	Children's Religious Education
Mike Donellan	Youth Ministry
Pam Bosselait	Director of Music
Open	Organist/Accompanist
Jean Witt, RN	Parish Nurse (843) 347-5118