

# St. Mary's Messenger

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## **News, News, News**

Check out the highlight on the mission of the Youth Ministry and its leadership, the results of the stewardship campaign, information on the upcoming parish council elections and other events, an update on the building expansion and, of course, a few laughs along the way. In fact, there was so much news, we had to pass on the puzzle for this issue but will bring it back in the future.

## **Pastor's Message**

We have just begun a new year – 2009. I am sure that we are all anticipating this new year with a mix of eagerness and trepidation. Some of our new year's eve revelry was probably an unwillingness to let go of what has happened in the past year. But some is also looking ahead to new possibilities, to fresh starts, to all that will happen in the next twelve months. Every ending is also a beginning of something new.

New year's eve and new year's day are tied in a very real way to clocks and calendars, to a measured pace of life. We have seen retrospectives covering the events of the last year that made news, the deaths of celebrities and statesmen that took place in the previous twelve months, the many things that seem to matter in our world of time. However, on another level, even as we have celebrated this turning of the year, we know that it is really just one more day, a somewhat artificial

and arbitrary number used to make sense of the vastness of eternity. From the time we are baptized, we know that we always have one foot in time and one in eternity.

The great 20<sup>th</sup> century British poet T.S. Eliot wrote in his great poem "The Four Quartets," "In me end is my beginning/ Love is most nearly itself/When here and now cease to matter./ ...We must be still and still moving/Into another intensity/For a further union, a deeper communion." The writer of the Gospel of St. John and the Letters of John writes with the same sort of poetic tone when he tells us, "Children, it is the last hour." His gospel actually takes us back to the very beginning, the beginning of time and the seamlessness of God, with no beginning and no end.

As we head into our new year, we might add to our laundry list of resolutions a deeper promise to our soul to spend a little more time reflecting on the things of God, in whom is our beginning and our end and all the moments of time in between.

If you are still looking for a resolution or resolutions for the new year, perhaps the following poem may help you.

I won't look back:

God knows the fruitless efforts,  
The wasted hours, the sinning, the regrets.  
I'll leave them all with Him,  
Who blots the record, and, merciful, forgives and forgets.  
God sees all the future -  
The road that, short or long, will lead me home.  
And He will face with me its every trial  
And bear with me the burdens that may come.  
But I'll look into the face of Jesus.  
For there my heart can rest.  
My fears are still.  
And there is joy and love and light for darkness,

And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled.

As Father Anthony de Mello once stated, "Life is now. Life is God!"

God Bless,

*Father Kunkel*

*Embracing our Faith ; Building our Future - Report on the Stewardship Campaign*

"I am pleased with the stewardship drive we had in the fall of 2008. I would like to thank everyone who responded in any way. I know the times are trying now and I know your sacrifice in increasing your weekly contribution to your parish. Listed below is our updated report from Cavan Corporation. Thank you again and May God Bless you.

*Father Kunkel*

Old Pledge	\$2,345	New Pledge
\$3,253		
Old Average	\$14.66	New Average
\$20.33		
% of increase	38.72%	Weekly Increase \$908

Total Mailings: 799  
Participation: 20.03%

Responses Returned: 160

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*On Lying*

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know

how many had read Mark 17. Every hand went up. The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

---From Catholic Jokes

Courtesy of  
CatholicSites.com

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**It's Back!!**

Mark your calendars for the return of the *May Procession* honoring our Blessed Mother on May 17. Details to follow in the Bulletin.

## **Youth Ministry**

St. Mary's Youth Ministry offers a wide range of spiritual, social, athletic and outreach activities to draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic faith community. Following is some key information about the programs of our Youth Ministry and its leaders:

- JAM is the name of our Middle School program (grades 6–8). They are invited to a drop-in night on the second Friday of each month from 7–9 pm.
- Kids for Christ (KFC) is the name of the high school program and they are invited to drop in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 6–8 pm.
- Youth from both groups participate in wider activities throughout the Harford County region and Archdiocese – including work camp, trips to Cascade Lake, snow tubing, Hershey Park and Maize Quest, retreats, bowling, pancake breakfasts, and the Youth and Young Adult Pilgrimage.

- The Youth Ministry newsletter, “The Spirit”, is circulated every three months to keep our youth current on upcoming events and opportunities. Copies are also available in the Parish Hall and Church vestibule and office, and may be accessed on the parish website. The website also lists events and provides related permission slips.

Currently, the Youth Ministry is served through a team approach – Barry Mitchell has served as a part-time minister for about three years and Rachel Bittner came on board officially in October. Barry serves as the fundraising/PR coordinator and oversees the annual youth work camp. Rachel serves as the main contact person for parishioners and coordinates the JAM and KFC drop-in nights. Barry and Rachel tag team for events and trips off parish grounds.

Barry Mitchell, a convert to Catholicism, has served as a Catechist at St. Mary’s for many years and enjoys coaching and working with young people. Rachel Bittner served as the coordinator for the Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Ignatius parish in Hickory from 1991–1997 and was previously active in her high school youth ministry. Rachel and her family joined St. Mary’s in 1997 and she has since served as a Catechist and coordinator of Vacation Bible School and participated in the confirmation, sacramental preparation and music ministries. She is excited by the opportunity to work for and with the youth of our parish.

Many parent volunteers help Barry and Rachel plan ministry opportunities. Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to help and share ideas. STAND training for volunteers working with youth is offered periodically and is required for all adults. The Youth Ministry

needs you! If you feel God calling you to serve our youth, join us!

Rachel and Barry can be reached at the parish office at extension 23 and Rachel can be reached at home at 717-456-9118. We urge you to encourage the youth of our parish to participate in the fun and spiritual development being offered - Together we can all make a difference.

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Young Art

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she came to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

---From Catholic Jokes  
CatholicSites.com

Courtesy of

## Council Corner

"Please Join ...We're counting on you!"

This spring, St. Mary's will be holding elections for open member positions on the Pastoral Council (aka the Parish Council). The current council has proved to be an outstanding body of interested, active and passionate servants and a major help to the pastor for the betterment of St. Mary's.

Accomplishments over the past couple of years include:

sponsoring ministry fairs, volunteer appreciation lunches and this newsletter, holding annual pastoral retreats, representing the parish at the Harford Catholic Assembly, welcoming new parishioners, working on road improvements for St. Mary's Rd., soliciting parish opinions on religious education, and, most recently, beginning to address reduced attendance at Sunday Mass.

The council supports the Pastor by providing advice and information that will enable him to better serve the St. Mary's parish community. In doing so, they accept responsibility, along with the Pastor, for the life and mission of the Church in the parish; act as an authentic representative voice of the People of God; provide an open and honest forum for communication and dialog regarding parish affairs; assist the Pastor in the administration of the parish through recommendations and active cooperation; encourage a vigorous and effective lay apostolate; collaborate with other religious bodies and with civic, business and professional organizations in working for the common good of the community; actively cooperate with area councils and the archdiocesan council; and act as visible witnesses to all people of the message and service of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The council meets monthly, generally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 7-9 pm. The term of service is normally 2 years.

If you are interested in joining this dynamic group of Christ's servants, please contact anyone on the council or Father Kunkel directly. The officers' contact phone numbers are on the front of the bulletin and the parish website.

St. Mary's is a vibrant Church community in Harford County. The Spirit is alive and many good things are accomplished by

the good people of St. Mary's for the parish and the community. In order to remain vibrant, a healthy and strong council is a necessity. Please consider volunteering to serve as a representative of your parish.

Thank you,

Jo Ann Lingner, President - Pastoral Council

## Milestones

How about giving the gift of a hearty greeting in person or by card to those reaching the following significant milestones -

### Birthdays 90 or over:

Gilbert Adelhardt	92	February
Viola Eaton	90	April
John Behr	91	April
Mary Ensor	93	April
Catherine Kunkel	91	May

### Anniversaries 50 or More Years:

Mr. and Mrs. William Eakes	56	February
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Groff	57	February
Mr. and Mrs. Pete Fritz	51	February
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Husemann	58	March
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lindeman	56	April
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Howell	61	May
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zebron	52	May
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guerriero	54	May

## ParishPay/Capital Campaign Update

As of January 31,

- there were 61 families using Parish Pay;
- contributions paid to the Capital Campaign totaled \$852,540.

Thanks for participating and keep up the good work! For more information, contact Barbara Sadler in the Parish Office.

## Update on Alterations to the Education Building

Bids were opened on Wednesday, February 4, for the Parish Center expansion and renovation project. The successful bidder came in just under what was budgeted and forecast. So there was a great deal of relief, gratitude and thanks for prayers answered, on the part of all who have contributed to this effort.

Four of the five bids were very close, an indication that the scope of work was clearly defined and that the bidding (with our economy in turmoil) was very competitive. The name of the General Contractor will be announced as soon as the Archdiocesan Building Commission has the firm under contract.

Project architects worked with the Building Commission, the Capital Improvements Committee, many other parish committees, local governing bodies and utility providers to come up with a plan that provides the best value to the Parish, and one that best serves the Parish going forward.

Look for construction activity to begin as early as next month.

Thanks to everyone who pledged their financial, spiritual and emotional support to make Saint Mary's Building Campaign a success.

### *From the Pews:*

#### *Belles Stay Busy Helping Others*

In addition to sponsoring their successful Halloween celebration, the Belles have been extremely busy marshalling resources for worthwhile causes in the parish and elsewhere as

the impressive list of recent activities below demonstrates. Thanks to their efforts and generous support from the parish:

- the Giving Tree provided 578 gifts to 51 families (a brother Knights Council also donated 14 bikes)
- the Blanket Drive provided 46 bags of blankets, 1 cot, 4 tents and 5 sleeping bags to the homeless of Harford County
- coats and Bags of Love from the Health Ministry were provided to local needy families (including 11 at our sister parish St. Edwards)
- 5 garment racks were donated for use at events in the parish hall and to hold coats for the coat drive
- the Belles' dinner bingo raised \$500 for the Youth Ministry's participation in Catholic Heart Work Camp
- the Belles donated a new utility cart for use at chicken dinners and 12 layettes were given to Birthright
- 3 backpacks filled with school supplies were donated to a local school (6 more were provided through a Knights drive)
- The Belles made 62 comfort pillows and donated them and 23 stuffed bears for use by patients at Upper Chesapeake.

And all of these activities were in addition to all of the families helped with the parish's food drives at Thanksgiving and Christmas - Wow! Kudos to the Belles and to all in the parish whose support made it possible. Interested in joining the Belles? Contact Kathy Glos, President, through the Parish Office.

**Special thanks to: Rachel Bittner, Jo Ann Lingner, Lois Fritz, Jack Walther and Barbara Sadler for contributing to this issue of the newsletter.**

### *Trunk N Treat Big Success!*

The Belles of St. Mary's (the women's auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus), the Knights and the Youth Group of St. Mary's want to thank all the parishioners who participated in the Trunk N Treat by decorating their trunks and handing out candy, or donating candy for the event or helping with games. We had almost 160 children plus their parents attend. The profits from the sale of food of \$200.00 are being donated to the Youth Group for the Catholic Heart Work camp. Congratulations to the winners of our gift cards for the best overall trunk which was a hearse presented by Joseph Krettzer, the honor for the scariest went to Mike Leyko and the funniest went to Marilyn and Richard Hushon. With so many really great trunk decorations it was very hard to pick just three winners.

### *Harford Catholic Assembly Update*

The Harford Catholic Assembly continued considering the role of lay ecclesial ministers in alleviating the coming shortage of priests at its last meeting on February 2. An Ad Hoc Committee that had considered the issue since the last meeting reported back the following six recommendations based on their deliberations and a meeting with lay ecclesial ministers from the region:

- 1. That each parish be encouraged to annually revisit its own needs addressed through lay ecclesial ministry by use of either an in-parish assessment tool or an assessment tool developed by the Harford Catholic Assembly and shared with the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Steering Committee (See 6 below)**
- 2. That each parish look closely at its own respective congregation and develop a plan to promote/identify/recruit/and train lay ecclesial ministers.**
- 3. That parishes work together in sharing resources and/or personnel related to lay ecclesial ministry. When appropriate, parishes should**

**work toward multi-parish and regional programs, thereby leveraging the best practices already in place.**

**4. That consistent guiding principles in salary, benefits, competencies and conditions of employment be developed and implemented.**

**5. That a regional fund be established to be used to cover the costs associated with any regional program or project.**

**6. That the Harford Catholic Assembly establish a Lay Ecclesial Ministry Steering Committee to process, develop and implement the recommended actions. It is further recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee plus a representative from each parish not already represented be appointed to serve as the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Steering Committee.**

The Assembly considered the recommendations in parish groups. In general, there was broad support for annual assessments, developing plans for recruiting and retaining ministers and sharing resources regionally. It was also generally noted that issues related to compensation, etc. of lay ministers are determined by the Archdiocese and therefore not appropriate for a regional group. Finally, there were substantial reservations about the utility of a regional steering committee and the establishment of regional funding. The Ad Hoc Committee will make appropriate revisions to the recommendations before the issue is voted upon at the next meeting.

## Save These Dates!

### **“Spring To Life” –March 21!**

Plan on bringing your family out for a fun-filled evening of good food and great entertainment at St. Mary’s annual Talent Show – “Spring to Life” Doors will open at 5:00 pm, dinner service begins at 6:00 pm.



at 5:15 pm and the show starts at 6:00. Look for ticket sellers outside church starting in late February. Got a talent you want to share? Contact Mary Ellen Fonte at 443-831-7802. Interested in being part of a group presentation? Call Diane Eakes at 410-452-0307.

**Volunteer Appreciation Lunch -**  
 Calling all volunteers to a real “free lunch” as the parish honors all those who contribute their time and talent to St. Mary’s on Sunday, March 15 in the parish hall. Check the Bulletin for more details.

**Summary Financial Results  
 Six Months Ending December 31, 2008**

<i>Operating Income</i>		<i>Operating Expense</i>	
Collection Income	\$229,256.08	Cost of Facilities Expense	\$ 31,958.31
Other Operating Income	5,161.25	Administration Expenses	19,208.20
Free Will Offering Income	1,767.80	Free Will Offering Expense	5,815.03
Parish Activities Income (1)	31,015.69	Parish Activities Expense(1)	19,491.51
Investment Income	473.82	Labor/Benefits Expense	127,452.71
Program Income	33,341.25	Program Expense	31,949.13
		Archdiocesan Assessment	36,960.56
		Other Operating Expense	639.68
		Worship Expense	22,182.76
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b><u>\$301,015.87</u></b>	<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b><u>\$295,657.89</u></b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b><u>\$5,357.98</u></b>		

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**(1) Parish Activities –  
 Net Profit/Loss**

Luncheon Bingo	\$2,531.38
Jousting Tournament	\$9,164.31
Winter Wonderland	\$ (171.51)

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## Field of Innocents

Look for the annual display of crosses representing preborn children lost through abortion each hour. Presented by the Right to Life Ministry from April 4 - May 23 at the entrance to St. Mary's.

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### Mail/Suggestion Box

Do you know someone in the military, at college or otherwise interested in events at St. Mary's who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter? If so, please leave their name and mailing address in the newsletter suggestion box in the back of the Church.

Have an idea for an article for a future issue of St. Mary's Messenger? Or a comment for "From the Pews"? Just drop a line and put it in the same box. Or - send an email to: [dillport@clearviewcatv.net](mailto:dillport@clearviewcatv.net) or [strawberryblond@verizon.net](mailto:strawberryblond@verizon.net)