

Onlooker

ST. MARY PARISH

Friends of St. Mary Parish

Spring 2010

Capital Campaign Update--Over \$1.7 million Raised!

St. Mary Parish is pleased to announce \$1,732,042 has been raised to date towards the goals of "Our Faith, Our Hope, Our Future" Capital Campaign. This feat has been accomplished through the generosity of 334 donors and the leadership of Co-chairs, **Tim Clarke** and **Victor Henken**, and a crew of volunteers. The campaign will continue until St. Mary surpasses the \$1.8 million mark. All funds are needed to complete the goals including more than \$1 million in church restorations and the repayment of investments made for the future growth of St. Mary. Church items include: The restoration of St. Mary's precious stained glass windows; replacement of the church ceiling; a more efficient HVAC system; the resolution of moisture issues to include new gutters, crack repairs and painting; refurbishment of kneelers; upgraded bathroom facilities; new sound and fire alarm systems; and repairs to the rectory. The remainder includes repayment of the investments made to ensure future growth of St. Mary Catholic School. This includes: Sisters of Mercy Building third floor renovations now home to St. Mary's Middle School; purchase of adjoining property on Providence Street, now home to St. Mary's Art Center; and additional renovations to the Sisters of Mercy Building. The investments proved their worth as the school is "bursting at the seams" with two classes per grade with a current enrollment of 461 students.

When will we see progress?

St. Mary's Building Committee is a task force of the Capital Campaign. This group is composed of volunteer professionals with expertise in areas such as architecture, engineering, construction, interior design and legal counseling. These volunteers were charged with obtaining initial estimates on the proposed projects and now are defining the scope of work to be done. The committee will invite bids on all projects. Working closely with the Continuation Committee of the Capital Campaign and the Finance Committee of the Parish, projects will be accomplished in coordination with the dollars that arrive over the pledge period.

The bulk of those projects will have to be done together and will involve the closing of St. Mary Church for a three-month period (timetable to be announced). During the closing, Masses will be celebrated in St. Mary Catholic School's Gymnasium. Smaller items that can be done before that will take place as deemed feasible by parish leadership.

Is it too late to pledge?

The fund-raising continues not only until we reach our goal, but after we reach the \$1.8 million mark. Every pledge, no matter the size, and payable over a five-year period, will ensure that projects are completed. All donors will be listed each year in the Annual Report for the Parish. To be part of this historic campaign for St. Mary Parish or for further information, contact the St. Mary Parish Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2.

Blessing of St. Mary's Art Center

St. Mary Parish invites all to the blessing of St. Mary's Art Center, **Sunday, April 25 following the 9 a.m. Mass.** Through a generous donation to the capital campaign by **Michael and Melodie Mastro**, the art center, adjacent to St. Mary's playground on Providence Street, has been named in memory of Michael's parents **Leonard and Angela Mastro**. The day also marks what would have been the Mastro's 62nd wedding anniversary.



*St. Mary Catholic School celebrated Catholic Schools Week February 1-7, 2010. Pictured: St. Mary fourth grader, **Addeline Wilson** celebrates family day with her aunt, **Adrienne Browning** (left) and mother **Kristin Wilson**.*

St. Patrick's Celebration

Please join us for a **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** sponsored by the St. Mary Parish Social Committee on Saturday, **March 13 at 6 p.m.** The celebration and dinner will be held in the St. Mary School gymnasium following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. The event will feature family games, face painting for the children, great food and, of course, great Irish music and dancing! Check bulletin for suggested pot-luck sides to share. Please call the church office at 432-8678, ext. 1 to RSVP or for more information.

Alumni Reap Dividends For Life

Catholic School Week, with this year's theme "Dividends For Life" concluded with the annual Alumni Mass and Reception. St. Mary honored the NCEA Distinguished St. Mary Catholic School Graduate, the Outstanding Catholic School Graduate and St. Mary's Business Partner of the Year. In recognition of the "Year of the Priest," **The Rev. James "Jimmy" Zoghby**, pastor of Corpus Christi Parish and alumnus of St. Mary, was honored with the NCEA Distinguished Graduate for his accomplishments in his own parish and to the greater Archdiocese of Mobile. **Victor Henken**, a graduate of St. Mary's of the Visitation of Huntsville, was awarded Outstanding Catholic School Graduate for over 20 years of volunteer service to St. Mary Parish. **Mobile Popcorn** received the Outstanding Business Partner of the Year for the owners' annual contributions to St. Mary Catholic School fund-raisers and parish events.

Faith-Sharing Opportunities

Catholic Meditation

Learn the simple but profound practice of Christian meditation, which stills the mind so that it is more open to God. Meetings include a brief teaching about the practice of meditation, the opportunity to meditate together and time for questions and discussion. Meetings are **each Sunday at 4 p.m.** in the Sisters of Mercy Building. For more information, contact the church office at 432-8678, ext. 1.

Great Adventure Bible Study

The GABS is an in-depth study of salvation history from Genesis through the New Testament. Sponsored by the St. Mary KofC and Religious Education Committee, classes are **Sundays through March 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Baby-sitting is available. Course materials are on-line or can be borrowed for a refundable deposit of \$50. For more information, contact **Chris or Mary Carroll** at 478-0638, or marychris@bellsouth.net.

KofC Lenten Fish Fry

Mark Your Calendar for an
Old Fashioned Family Fish Fry
Friday, March 19 6 to 8 p.m.

Proceeds benefit **St. Mary Youth Group**

Dinners will take place in the St. Mary School gymnasium. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. For advance tickets, call St. Mary's Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2, or see bulletin for details on Youth Group Volunteers selling tickets Sundays following Masses. Dinners prepared by St. Mary's Knights of Columbus.



*St. Mary honors distinguished alumni and outstanding business for 2010: Clockwise from left: St. Mary Principal **Debbie Ollis** with St. Mary NCEA Distinguished Graduate: **Rev. James Zoghby**; Outstanding Catholic School Alumnus, **Victor Henken** with wife, **Nancy**, members of the **Henken family**, and St. Mary Pastor, **Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Cunningham**; and Outstanding Business Partner recipients from **Mobile Popcorn**, **Warren Reilly, Jr.**; **Russell Reilly**, and **Chris Reilly**.*

Youth Calendar

- March 7: Youth Group Meeting after 11:30 a.m. Mass
- March 19: KofC Fish Fry benefiting St. Mary Youth
- March 28: Easter Egg Hunt after 9 a.m. Mass
- April 11: Youth Group Meeting after 11:30 a.m. Mass
- April 18: "Baby-sitting" Enhancing Our Faith" 10:15 a.m.

For more information, contact St. Mary Youth Director,
Christa Kuppersmith at 470-5605.

Easter Egg Hunt!

St. Mary's youngest parishioners are invited to the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by St. Mary's Youth Group. The hunt will be on **Palm Sunday, March 28, following the 9 a.m. Mass**, behind the church on the McGill-Toolen lawn at the corner of Old Shell Road and Catherine Street. Refreshments will be served for children, parents and guests.

Enhancing Our Faith

St. Mary's Adult Faith Formation Committee is proud to present a new program where guest speakers address topics aimed at enhancing our Catholic Faith. Please join us for the following programs monthly **Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in the Sisters of Mercy Building**. Refreshments provided. Children are welcome to attend the programs as well. Special thanks to Enhancing Our Faith co-chairs, **Kathleen Reilly** and **Shawn Mitchell**. For more information, contact 432-8678, ext. 2.

- March 21: "John Paul the Great" by Kathleen Reilly
- April 18: "How to Feed A Family on A Budget" by Shawn Mitchell
- May 16: "The Blessed Virgin Mary" by Joe Arensberg



Enhancing Our Faith Co-chair Kathleen Reilly, with her brother Danny Dolan and son Brendan Reilly, review highlights of Danny's presentation. Danny spoke January 31 about his mission trip to India. Danny and his wife Linda are parishioners and proud parents of four St. Mary alumni.

First Communion

Congratulations to our second graders in the parish who will be receiving First Holy Communion **April 25 at 3 p.m.** Special thanks to: St. Mary Catholic School Principal, **Debbie Ollis**; Second Grade teachers **Amy Ankersen**, **Lauree Riggan**, **Melissa Conlon** and **Kim Polk**; CCD Director **David Pryor**, and CCD instructor, **Karrie Nelson**.

Confirmation

Welcome **Archbishop Emeritus Oscar H. Lipscomb** who will celebrate Confirmation for St. Mary Parishioners on **Monday, May 3, at 7 p.m.** Please keep St. Mary's Confirmation students in your prayers as they prepare for this very special sacrament. Thanks to instructors St. Mary religion teacher **Annette Grow**, CCD Director **David Pryor**, and CCD instructor, **Teresa Gill**.

New CCD Director

Welcome **David Pryor**, St. Mary's new CCD Director. David and his wife **Caroline**, and their daughter **Virginia** are parishioners and both have been dedicated teachers in the program. David was asked by **Father Peter Cunningham** to take over the lead this January. David comes to the position with new ideas and welcome changes for the CCD families. Archdiocesan



St. Mary's new CCD Director, David Pryor with daughter, Virginia.

Parent Handbooks have been given to all parents with valuable information on the program, a spring schedule of classes and a contract for the parent and student to sign agreeing to the policies of the program. David has also informed the families of parish opportunities including altar serving and CYO sports which are open to all parish children. In March, **Deacon Ernest Johnson** will train CCD students in fourth through eighth grade interested in altar serving. A brunch is being planned for all families in the program which is also an opportunity to give well-deserved recognition to the following teachers: **Caroline Pryor**, K through first grade; **Karrie Nelson**, second grade; **Hattie Alexander**, third and fourth grade; **David Pryor**, fifth and sixth grade; and **Teresa Gill**, seventh and eighth grade. Additional teachers will be needed for the 2010-2011 year. Registration for families begins in July.

RCIA

St. Mary Parish is proud to welcome 20 candidates into the Catholic Church during the **Easter Vigil Mass Saturday, April 3**. Special thanks to **Father Peter Cunningham**, **Father Tony Kadavil**, **Sister Magdalena Langlois**, **Deacon Ernest Johnson** and **Deacon William Holcombe Pryor** for their dedicated instruction. All parishioners are invited to attend RCIA classes for an exploration of the Catholic faith. Classes will end for the year after Easter and will begin again in September.

Stewardship 2010

Total Amount Pledged to Date: \$259,832

Number of Parishioner Pledges: 142

This year's appeal was pushed back from November to late December due to the "Our Faith, Our Hope, Our Future" Capital Campaign, a one-time appeal providing necessary funds that stewardship dollars alone cannot provide. Annual stewardship provides operational funds for our church and the many services and programs offered in St. Mary Parish. Stewardship pledges assist our Parish Finance Council in budgeting for the year. If you have not made your 2010 stewardship pledge, contact the church office at 432-8678 or pick up a pledge envelope in the vestibule. Thanks to all parishioners who have pledged for 2010 in addition to pledging to the Capital Campaign.

Welcome Development Intern

St. Mary Parish welcomes **Kate Stringfellow** who is serving her internship through the University of South Alabama with St. Mary's Development Office. Kate's internship is through USA's Department of Communication where Kate's concentration is public relations. Kate, an alumna of St. Mary Catholic School, is back at her alma mater through May. She is helping with publicity for upcoming programs including St. Mary's Brick Campaign for the Annual Fund Drive, the Knights of Columbus Crawfish and Bluegrass Extravaganza April 17, and St. Mary's Annual Fund-raising Event with this year's Casablanca theme, "As Time Goes By" May 1. Kate recently organized a slide show and pictorial display for the annual alumni reception February 7 and assisted with the annual Media Munch held on February 19th. She will also help establish an e-mail communication program for events.



Kate Stringfellow

Volunteer Corner

**Notes from Millie Dixon,
Volunteer Coordinator for St. Mary Parish**

■ **St. Mary volunteers** who signed up to share their talents but have not been contacted, please call the Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2.

■ **Did not have a chance to sign up in the census to volunteer?** Please see volunteer opportunities in St. Mary's Directory or log on to www.stmarymobile.org for descriptions of the committees of the parish.

St. Mary Annual Fund Brick Plaza to be placed this summer

St. Mary Catholic School's Annual Fund Drive continues. 2010 is the final year of the five-year appeal for the comprehensive site plan for the playground. Goals accomplished to date include campus enclosure, new equipment, an extended grassy play area now named "**Thompson Field,**" and redirection of the main entrance of the school to Lafayette Street with visitor parking. The paved brick pathway and plaza with named bricks will be placed this summer. Every year dollars are provided for technology improvement, academic dollars for the classroom and endowment growth. Bricks make great gifts for friends and family, and are included with a minimum pledge of \$150. Bricks are a great way to honor events such as birthdays and anniversaries, and to memorialize loved ones. April 1 is the deadline for pledges for bricks to be included in this summer's placement. For more information, contact St. Mary's Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2.

Cheap Chic Fashion Boutique

Friday, March 12: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, March 13: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Shop for Spring and Summer Fashions! Featuring new, nearly new and vintage fashions and accessories. Sale will be in St. Mary's Sisters of Mercy Building. All proceeds benefit **Our Sister's Closet**, St. Mary's Outreach Program, providing professional clothing and interview skills for women seeking employment in our community. For more information, contact **Terri Kearns** at 432-8678.

Archives Photo Search!

The archives committee is in search of photos of St. Mary church and priests who have served St. Mary's since its beginnings in 1867. Photos of the interior/exterior of the church and photos of families with St. Mary priests are welcome. Items can be dropped off at the parish office, mailed to: 106 Providence Street, Mobile, AL 36604, or emailed to mrganan@stmarymobile.org. For more information, contact **Ellen Reilly** at 432-8678.

March

- 7 Sunday Coffee following 9 a.m. Mass
- 7 Youth Group Meeting following 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Mary Art Center on Providence Street
- 7 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 7 Great Adventure Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.
- 12 Cheap Chic Fashion Boutique, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 13 Cheap Chic Fashion Boutique, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 13 Parish St. Patrick's Day Dinner, following 5:30 p.m. Mass
- 14 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 14 Great Adventure Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- 19 KofC Lenten Fish Fry, St. Mary gym, 6-8 p.m.
- 21 Sunday Coffee following 9 a.m. Mass
- 21 Enhancing Our Faith, "John Paul the Great", by Kathleen Reilly, 10:15 a.m. SOM Bldg
- 21 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 21 Great Adventure Bible Study, 5:30 p.m.
- 22 Faculty Inservice Day, NO SCHOOL
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation
- 25 McGill-Toolen CHS Jacket Jubilation!, 6:30 p.m.
- 26 St. Mary School "Little Field Day," 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 28 Palm Sunday --*Sunday Coffee and Easter Egg Hunt!* sponsored by St. Mary's Youth Group following 9 a.m. Mass, McGill lawn, Old Shell & Catherine
- 28 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.

April

- 1 Living Stations of the Cross, 7th and 8th graders perform "The Passion of Christ", 11 a.m. St. Mary Church
- 1 Noon dismissal St. Mary School, Spring Break begins.
- 1 Holy Thursday, Mass, 7 p.m., Adoration, 8:30 to 10 p.m.,
- 2 Good Friday, Stations, 2:30 p.m., Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
- 3 Church Clean Up For Easter--Volunteers Needed!, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Refreshments following
- 3 Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30 p.m.
- 4 Happy Easter! Masses, 6, 9, and 11:30 a.m.
- 11 Youth Group meeting following 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Mary Art Center on Providence Street
- 11 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 12 St. Mary School classes resume
- 17 KofC Crawfish and Bluegrass Extravaganza! 5 to 10 p.m., Rain or Shine!
- 18 Sunday Coffee following 9 a.m. Mass
- 18 Enhancing Our Faith, How to Feed A Family on A Budget" by Shawn Mitchell, 10:15 a.m. SOM Bldg.
- 18 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 20 Hampstead Players, "Shakespeare for Kids," 1 p.m.
- 23 Pastor Appreciation Mass, 8:10 a.m.
- 25 Blessing of St. Mary's Art Center, after 9 a.m. Mass First Holy Communion, 3 p.m. Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 26 Enhancing Our Faith, following 9 a.m. Mass

May

- 1 St. Mary Catholic School presents "As Time Goes By..." a tribute to the Romantic Classic, "Casablanca," an evening of live and silent auctions, great food & entertainment, and games with Celebrity Hosts, 6 p.m. until... St. Mary gymnasium
- 2 Sunday Coffee following 9 a.m. Mass
- 2 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.

May continued

- 3 Holy Confirmation, 7 p.m.
- 4 May Crowning Ceremony
- 7 Archdiocesan Schools Big Field Day, NO SCHOOL
- 9 Mother's Day!
- 9 Catholic Meditation, 4 p.m.
- 11 Kindergarten Round-Up, 6 p.m.
- 13 National Junior Honor Society Induction, Mass 8:10 a.m.
- 16 Sunday Coffee following 9 a.m. Mass
- 16 Enhancing Our Faith, "The Blessed Virgin Mary" by Joe Arensberg 10:15 a.m. SOM Bldg.
- 21 McGill-Toolen CHS Graduation, 7 p.m.
- 26 8th Grade Completion Mass, 6 p.m.
- 27 St. Mary PTO Used Uniform & Book Sale, 5:30 - 7 p.m. School Gymnasium
- 28 Last day of School, 8:10 a.m. Mass, Year-end Awards, Noon Dismissal-----Happy Summer!
- 31 Memorial Day

■ JUNE--VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, & all summer events to be announced in the summer Onlooker

Each Month

MONDAY

- Legion of Mary, 10 a.m. weekly
- St. Vincent De Paul, 2nd Monday, 5:30 p.m.
- Yoga, 6:30 p.m. weekly

TUESDAY

- Catechism Study, 4 p.m. weekly

WEDNESDAY

- Choir, 7 p.m. weekly
- St. Mary School Board, 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
- Parish Council, 3rd Wednesday, 6 p.m.

■ Submit bulletin information and read Father Tony's weekly homily by logging on... www.stmarymobile.org!

THURSDAY

- RCIA, 7p.m. weekly (Sept - Easter)
- Knights of Columbus, 1st Thurs, 7 P.M.
- Zumba Classes, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

- Sunday Coffee, check bulletin
- Ladies Sodality, 4th Sun. 10 a.m. (Sept-May)
- CCD, Sundays 10 a.m. (Sept - May)
- Youth Group Meeting, 1st and 2nd Sun after 11:30 a.m. Mass
- Enhancing Our Faith TBA each month, 10 a.m.

Schedule of Services

Mass Schedule:

- Monday -Thursday: 6 and 7:25 a.m.
- Friday: 6 and 8:10 a.m. (Student Mass)
- Saturday: 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Vigil
- Sunday: 6, 9, and 11:30 a.m.
- Morning Prayer: 15 Minutes before Mass
- Rosary: Following daily Mass
- Confessions: Saturdays, 4 to 4:50 p.m., and upon request

Lenten and Easter Masses and Services:

- Stations of the Cross: Fridays during Lent, 5:30 p.m.
- Holy Week Schedule:
- Holy Thursday, April 1: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m., Adoration at the Repository, 8:30 to 10 p.m.
- Good Friday, April 2: Stations of the Cross, 2:30 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
- Holy Saturday, April 3 Confessions, 4 to 5 p.m., Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 4 : 6, 9, and 11:30 a.m.

Spring 2010 Fun and Fundraisers!... **St. Mary Catholic School presents**



St. Mary's Knights of Columbus **Crawfish & Bluegrass Extravaganza**

**Saturday, April 17
5 - 10 p.m.**

Feast on thousands of pounds of crawfish and enjoy some of the areas greatest bluegrass bands well into the night! Adult tickets are \$20 per adult in advance and \$25 at the door. Children 12 and under are free!

Event to take place on the
St. Mary campus located at 107 N. Lafayette Street.

Rain or Shine!

For more information or advance tickets to these events, contact the St. Mary School office at 433-9904 or the Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2. or...log on to www.stmarymobile.org!

"As Time Goes By"

Saturday, May 1, 6 p.m. until...

Step back in time to 1942

as St. Mary Catholic School tributes the American Romantic Classic, "Casablanca".

Join Bogie and Bergman and a cast of characters for this annual fund-raising event featuring live and silent auctions, games with local celebrity hosts, door prizes and great food and entertainment.

General admission:

**\$25 per adult in advance
& \$30 at the door.**

Seniors, \$25.

Special Dinner tickets are \$100 and admit two adults.

All proceeds benefit St. Mary Catholic School.

Event Sponsors, volunteers & donations
for auction are welcome!



"Here's lookin' at you, kid."



ST. MARY PARISH

CHURCH / SCHOOL / PRESCHOOL / DEVELOPMENT

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