

Onlooker

ST. MARY PARISH

Vol. VIII, Issue 1

Friends of St. Mary Parish

Spring 2008

St. Mary joins Mobile Historic Homes Tour!

St. Mary Parish is proud to be part of the 2008 Mobile Historic Homes Tour on **Friday, March 14th and Saturday, March 15th**. On Tour will be the completely renovated Sisters of Mercy Building, built in 1909 and St. Mary's beautiful Mission Revival Church, built in 1929. The tour will take place from 10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. each day. St. Mary Archives Chairperson, **Martha Collier**, will hold a training for tour guides on Wednesday, March 5th at 6.P.M. in the Sisters of Mercy Building. All those interested in serving a volunteer shift during the tour, should call St. Mary's Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2.



Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Revelers of St. Mary Catholic School celebrate the last day of school before the Mardi Gras break by parading as their favorite book and throwing beads and goodies to fellow students, family, and friends. Pictured are 2nd Graders, Compton Banks, Desi Tobias, and Grahm Golden of the Order of Dr. Seuss.

See inside calendar for all events

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Volunteer Action!

St. Mary will hold a **Volunteer Meet & Greet** on **Sunday, March 1st** following the 9 A.M.

Mass where volunteers can meet new **Volunteer Coordinator** for St. Mary Parish, parishioner, **Millie Dixon**. Millie is contacting parishioners who have signed up for different committees in the parish through the most recent parish census and volunteers who have signed up in the past. Millie has given the volunteer names to the appropriate committee chairpersons who have been asked to contact their volunteers.

Millie has already filled in important volunteer chairman positions through parishioners who want to share talents in those areas. The structure of volunteerism in the parish works through the Commissions of the Parish Council: Religious Education, Liturgy, Social, Parish Outreach, Buildings and Grounds, Youth, Development, and Knights of Columbus. Under those commissions are various committees that carry out the ministry of their commission. For a complete listing of the Commission Chairpersons and the Committee Chairs underneath them, please log on to www.stmarymobile.org, and click on St. Mary Church.



*Millie Dixon
St. Mary Volunteer
Coordinator*



St. Mary Catholic School Volunteers Make Birthdays Special: All St. Mary Students created birthday bags complete with icing, cake mix, and candles and donated them to the Mobile Area Food Bank. St. Mary feels that "everyone should have a cake for their birthday." Three hundred and thirty five pounds were donated! Pictured are the Birthday Coordinators and St. Mary second grade teachers, Miss Amy Ankerson and Mrs. Kim Polk with Ashlyn Blankenship, grade 2; Thomas Repoll, grade K; and Jourdyn Glaude, grade 1 sporting some of the Birthday joy.

Knights of Columbus Events

St. Patrick's Lenten Fish Fry Friday, March 14th

Please join St. Mary Parish for a **St. Patrick's Lenten Fish Fry** sponsored by St. Mary's Knights of Columbus and the St. Mary Parish Social Committee on Friday, **March 14th at 6:00 P.M.** The celebration will be held in the St. Mary School Gymnasium following the 5:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross in St. Mary Church. The event will feature family bingo, face painting for the children, great food, and of course, great Irish music and dancing! Plates are \$5.00 per person "Wear green or get pinched" is the word around the parish. Please call the church office at 432-8678 to RSVP or for more information.

2008 Crawfish & Bluegrass Extravaganza--- Moves to April!

Old Fashioned Family fun!

Saturday, April 19, 2008 from 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. All you can eat crawfish and all you can handle bluegrass music. Featuring five of the areas hottest bluegrass bands! \$20 in advance for adults, \$25 at the door. Children under 12 free! Proceeds benefit teacher bonuses, year-end eighth grade awards banquet, & St. Mary Catholic School Scholarship Fund. Call the Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2 for advance tickets.

■ **Interested in joining**

St. Mary Knights of Columbus?

Call Grand Knight, Joe Kulakowski, 433-9549 or meet the Knights and their families at KOC sponsored events.

■ **KOC welcomes back...Doctrine on Draft,** see page three for this Lenten Season's topics and dates.

Meet the 2008-2009 Azalea Trail Maids of St. Mary Parish

Join St. Mary Parish on **Sunday, April 13th** following the 9:00 A.M. Mass in the Sisters of Mercy Building to congratulate two of our young parishioners who will serve in the 2008-2009 Azalea Trail Maid Court. Congratulations to **Anna Helen Flock** and **Katherine (Katie) Elizabeth Patterson** of St. Mary Parish who will represent their schools in the Azalea Trail Maid Court beginning this May. Anna, daughter of **Stephen and Cheryl Flock**, will be a Senior in the Fall at UMS-Wright Preparatory School, where she currently serves as Junior Class President and Interact Club Vice Present. Anna is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Youth Leadership Mobile (Class Project: Dinner for Darfur), serves as a People to People Ambassador, and is the Recipient of the Randolph Macon College Book Award. Katie, daughter of **Jim and Annette Patterson**, will be a Senior at McGill-Toolen Catholic High School. At McGill, Katie serves as Co-President of Servants of the Poor, as a McT Student Ambassador and as member of the Chamber Choir. Katie will also serve as a member of the 2008-2009 Mobile County Children's Policy Council. Both students are alumni of St. Mary Catholic School and serve as Altar Servers for St. Mary Parish.



Anna Flock
UMS-Wright
Preparatory School



Katie Patterson
McGill-Toolen
Catholic High School

Parish Feast Day Celebration

Join fellow parishioners for fellowship and light refreshments in the Sisters of Mercy Building following the 9:00 A.M. Mass on **Sunday, March 30th** to celebrate The Feast of the Annunciation for which St. Mary Parish is named.

The Mobile District ACCW
(Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women)
Lenten Women's Retreat
Saturday, March 1, 2008
10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M.
with Guest Speaker
Ruth Breland
Director of Apostolate for
Persons with Disabilities
Retreat held in
The Sisters of Mercy Building
of St. Mary Parish
Lunch provided
Reservations by February 28th
St. Mary Parish office 432-8678, ext. 1

Doctrine on Draft

Back by popular demand, the St. Mary KOC presents **Doctrine on Draft!** Join the Enlightenment with the Remaining Lenten Line-up of speakers:
Feb 21: Msgr. Michael Farmer "Mardi Gras - A Catholic Perspective"
Feb 28: Fr. Mike O'Connor "Theologically speaking: What is the Goal of Our Lives?"
Mar 6: Fr. Paul Zoghby "Forming One's Conscience"
Mar 13: Mr. Pat Arensberg "Mary: The Ark of the Covenant"
These social lectures to take place at **Guido's Restaurant, 351 George Street, each Thursday from 6:00 P.M. until 7:30 P.M.** Please call Chris Carroll at 478-0638 for more information. Doctrine on Draft is a young adult religious education outreach program aimed at helping young Catholic adults learn more about their faith without all the fuss. This program is open to people of all faiths, from college age & up.

"Coffee with the Kids!"

Join the Confirmation Class of St. Mary Parish as they launch their Lenten Service Project, "**Coffee with the Kids!**" The last four Sundays of Lent, St. Mary's Confirmation Candidates will highlight five service ministries of our Parish. Beginning February 24th with Coffee after the 9 A.M. Mass, all are invited to socialize and learn more about our parish ministries:

Sundays, following 9:00 A.M. Mass:

Date **Highlighting/Venue**

February 24th *Pro-Life* Tent at front entrance to church on Lafayette Street

March 2nd *Legion of Mary & St. Vincent De Paul* at the Volunteer Appreciation Coffee in the Sisters of Mercy Building

March 9th *Knights of Columbus* in St. Mary Gymnasium

March 16th *Youth Group* during St. Mary Parish Easter Egg Hunt, on the Front Lawn of McGill-Toolen High School (in the event of rain, refreshments only in Sisters of Mercy Building)

Confirmation will be April 14th at 7 P.M. Please keep St. Mary's Confirmation Students in your prayers as they prepare for this very special Sacrament.

First Communion

Congratulations to our second graders in the parish who will be receiving first Holy Communion on **April 20, 2008 at 3:00 P.M.** Special thanks to St. Mary Catholic School **Principal, Debbie Ollis; Second Grade teachers, Amy Ankersen and Kim Polk; CCD Coordinator, Mickey Spann; and CCD Instructor, Kerry Nelson.**

RCIA

St. Mary Parish is proud to welcome ten candidates into the Catholic Church during the **Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 22, 2008.** Special thanks to **Father Peter Cunningham, Father Tony Kadavil, Sister Magdalena Langlois, and Deacon Ernest Johnson** for their dedicated instruction. All parishioners are invited to attend RCIA classes for an exploration of the Catholic faith. Classes take place each Thursday in the parish center at 7:00 P.M.

Why Catholic?

The final year of Why Catholic began with Lent of 2008 with a study of Christian Prayer. Each participant will need a book to follow along for six sessions which can be purchased through the group leader for a \$7.00 donation. If you are already in a group, your group leader will be contacting you for sessions to begin the first week of Lent. If you are interested in signing up for one of the groups or would like to lead your own, contact the church office at 432-8678.

Stewardship 2008

Total Amount Pledged to Date: \$480,891

Number of Parishioner Pledges: 320

Number of Registered Parishioners: 753

Thank you to all parishioners who have pledged for 2008 and to over 60 volunteers who helped complete this year's census under the leadership of **Vivian DeVivo**. Pledges assist our Parish Finance Council in budgeting for the year. If you have not yet made your pledge for this 2008, contact the church office at 432-8678 or pick up a pledge envelope in the vestibules. Stewardship provides operational funds for our church including the costs of the restoration of the Sisters of Mercy Building and the many services and programs offered in St. Mary Parish.



Stewardship Visitors Celebrate the completion of the 2008 Parish Census. Pictured left to right are: Ellen Reilly, Jim Fibbe, Mark Davis, Cele Fibbe, Vivian DeVivo, Beverly Finkbohner, George Finkbohner, Chris Kelly, Linda Jensen, Joan Williams, Brian Glazner, Marty Henken, Jim Backes, Jeanne Backes, Bill Denton, Ann Hall, Rose Denton, Millie Dixon, and Anne Baggett.

Fence Campaign Continues

Phase V of St. Mary's Fence Campaign is underway! The new section will run along Providence Street. Fence panels are available for sale for a \$550 donation. Each beautiful black iron panel offers naming opportunities for family and loved ones inscribed on a brass plaque. Donors may also share fence panels with other donors--great idea for graduating classes! Special thanks to parishioners Ben and Laura Cummings for chairing this project for our parish. Please call the parish office at 432-8678 for more information.

St. Mary Annual Fund Buy a Brick!

2007-2008 Pledged to Date: 13,705

Total Payments: \$12,290

Matching Gifts: \$1,150 Total Donors: 65

Goals from the five-year comprehensive site plan continue to be the focus of this year's appeal: campus enclosure; playground improvements to include new equipment, an extended grassy play area, and a paved brick pathway and plaza; and redirection of the main entrance of the school to Lafayette Street with visitor parking. Each and 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 can be purchased for as little as \$150 each. Bricks are a great way to honor events such as birthdays and anniversaries, and to memorialize loved ones. For more information, contact St. Mary's Development Office at 432-8678, ext. 2. **All donors who have given \$150 or more in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Drives will receive an inscription form in spring of 2008 for brick orders.**



*Purse With Purpose held in November brought in in over \$11,000 to programs of Our Sisters Closet. Sponsored by Makeda Nichols State Farm, the event featured a live & silent purse auction, celebrity auctioneers, and a crowd of generous guests. Pictured is Emcee and Auctioneer, **Dan Brennan** of WKSJ with **Darrell Randle** of The Mobile Chamber of Commerce who is auctioning a designer bag donated by "Ooh La La" purchased by parishioner **Marian Clarke**.*

Cheap Chic Fashion Boutique

Friday, March 7th: 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. Saturday, March 8th: 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Shop for Spring and Summer Fashions! Featuring new, nearly new, and vintage fashions and accessories. Sale to take place 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.

February

- 21 **Doctrine on Draft, "A Catholic Perspective"**
by Msgr. Michael Farmer, 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Guido's
- 22 **First Communion Parent Meeting**, 6:30 P.M. in
2nd grade classroom
- 24 **"Coffee with the Kids!"** Featuring Pro-Life Committee, in
front of Church following 9 A.M. Mass
- 28 **Doctrine on Draft, "Theologically Speaking: What is the
Goal of Our Lives?"** by Father Mike O'Connor,
6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Guido's

March

- 1 **ACCW Lenten Women's Retreat**, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. SOM Bldg.
- 2 **Volunteer Meet & Greet Coffee & "Coffee with the Kids!"**
featuring Legion of Mary & St. Vincent De Paul
following 9 A.M. Mass
Youth Group Meeting following 11:30 A.M. Mass
- 6 **Doctrine on Draft, "Forming One's Conscience"**
by Father Paul Zoghby, 6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Guido's
- 7 **Cheap Chic Fashion Boutique**, 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. SOM Bldg
- 8 **Cheap Chic Fashion Boutique**, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. SOM Bldg
- 9 **"Coffee with the Kids!"** featuring Knights of Columbus &
KOC Auxiliary following 9 A.M. Mass in School Gym
Daylight Savings Time Begins--Spring Forward!
- 13 **"Mary: The Ark of the Covenant"** by Pat Arensberg
6 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Guido's
- 14 **HISTORIC HOMES TOUR--ST. MARY ON TOUR!!**
10 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.
Faculty Inservice Day, NO SCHOOL
- 14 **Parish St. Patrick's Day Fish Fry and Dinner**,
6:00 P.M. following 5:30 P.M. Stations
- 15 **HISTORIC HOMES TOUR--ST. MARY ON TOUR!!**
10 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.
- 16 **Palm Sunday --Sunday Coffee and Easter Egg Hunt!
& Coffee with the Kids!"** featuring St. Mary's Youth Group
following 9 A.M. Mass on McGill Lawn, Old Shell & Catherine
- 17 **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**
- 19 **Living Stations of the Cross, 7th and 8th
graders perform the Passion of Christ in Mime**,
2 P.M. St. Mary Church
- 20 **Holy Thursday**, see Lenten services schedule,
Noon dismissal St. Mary School, Spring Break begins.
- 21 **Good Friday**, see Lenten services schedule
- 22 **Church Clean Up For Easter--Volunteers Needed!**,
8 A.M. to 11 A.M., Refreshments following
Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30 P.M.
- 23 **Christ is Risen! Happy Easter!**
Masses, 6, 9, and 11:30 A.M.
- 25 **Feast of the Annunciation**
- 31 **St. Mary School classes resume.**
- 30 **Parish Feast Day Celebration**, Coffee and Cake
following 9 A.M. Mass

April

- 11 **St. Mary School "Little Field Day"**, 8 A.M. until 3 P.M.
- 13 **Meet the 2008-09 Azalea Trail Maids of St. Mary Parish!**,
following 9 A.M. Mass in SOM Bldg
- 14 **Holy Confirmation**, 7 P.M.
- 19 **KOC Crawfish & Bluegrass Extravaganza! 5-10 P.M.**
- 20 **First Holy Communion**, 3 P.M.
- 22 **PTO Meeting**, 6 P.M.
- 27 **St. Vincent De Paul 175th Anniversary**, 4:00 P.M. City
Wide Mass at Cathedral Celebrated by Archbishop
Oscar H. Lipscomb, followed by refreshments

May

- 1 **May Crowning, Student Mass**, 8:10 A.M.
- 2 **Archdiocesan Schools Big Field Day**, NO SCHOOL
- 3 **St. Mary Catholic School presents,
"Evening in the Orient", an evening of live and silent
auctions, great food & entertainment, and games with
Celebrity Hosts, 6 P.M. School Gymnasium**
- 7 **National Junior Honor Society Induction**, Mass 8:10 A.M.
- 11 **Mother's Day!**
- 13 **Kindergarten Round-Up**, 6 P.M.
- 26 **Memorial Day**, NO SCHOOL
- 28 **8th Grade Completion Mass**, 6:30 P.M. KOC Awards
Banquet and Dinner to follow.
- 29 **St. Mary PTO Used Uniform & Book Sale**,
5:30 - 7 P.M. School Gymnasium
- 30 **Last day of School**, 8:10 A.M. Mass, Year-end Awards,
12 Noon Dismissal----**Happy Summer!**

■ **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
Knights of Columbus Auxiliary,
1st Monday, 7 P.M.

TUESDAY

Rosary Group, 10:30 A.M. weekly
Finance Council, 2nd Tues.,
6:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

Choir, 7 P.M. weekly
St. Mary School Board, 2nd
Wednesday, 7 P.M.
Parish Council, 3rd
Wednesday, 6 P.M.

THURSDAY

50 + Club, 1st Thursday,
10:15 A.M.
**RCIA Adult Religious
Education**, 7 P.M. Weekly
(September to Easter)
Knights of Columbus, 1st
Thursday, 7 P.M.
SUNDAY
Sunday Coffee, 1st Sunday
after 9 A.M. Mass
Ladies Sodality, 4th Sunday
after 9 A.M. Mass
CCD, Sundays after 9 A.M.
Mass (September to May)
Youth Group Meeting, 1st
Sunday after 11:30 A.M. Mass

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

Schedule of Services

Mass Schedule:

Monday -Thursday: 6 and 7:30 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, March 20th: Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 P.M.
and adoration at the Repository, 8:30 to 10 P.M.

Good Friday, March 21st: Stations of the Cross, 2:30 P.M.;
Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and
Holy Communion, 7 P.M.

Holy Saturday, March 22nd: Confessions, 4 to 5 P.M.,
Easter Vigil, 7:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday, March 23rd : 6 A.M., 9 A.M., and 11:30 A.M.



Saturday, April 19, 2008

5:00 P.M. - 10:00 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 School 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!

**St. Mary Catholic School
presents...**

"Evening in the Orient"

Saturday, May 3, 2008

6:00 P.M. until...

Experience the cuisine and atmosphere of the Orient this year with St. Mary School during their annual fund-raising event featuring live and silent auctions, games with local celebrity hosts, door prizes, and great food and entertainment. General admission prices are \$25 per adult in advance and \$30 at the door. Seniors age 65 and above are \$25.



Special Dinner tickets are \$100 and admit two adults. All proceeds benefit St. Mary Catholic School. Event Sponsors and Volunteers are needed and donations for auction are welcome! Please contact the school office at 433-9904 to volunteer, advance tickets, or for additional information.

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