

# St. Joseph Catholic Church Newsletter

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## Holy Week at St. Joseph's

Palm Sunday began a busy and beautiful Holy Week that would lead our parish in the footsteps of Jesus on the way to Calvary. On Tuesday of Holy Week, priests from around the diocese gathered with Bishop Hartmayer at the Cathedral in Savannah for the Chrism Mass, at which the priests renewed their ordination vows and the bishop blessed the Holy Oils that will be used for the sacraments in this upcoming year. The Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper included the washing of parishioners' feet by Fr. Winchel and Fr. Wright, the procession of the Eucharist to the side altar, and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight, recalling the prayer of the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane. Good Friday services included large crowds for the Stations of the Cross at noon and 3 pm, and Veneration of the Cross at 7pm. A special addition to the service was the presence of a relic of the True Cross, which was placed on the altar during the service.

Easter Vigil was ushered in Saturday evening with the blessing of the Holy Fire, the Paschal Candle, and the singing of the Exaltet. And we are most proud to welcome ten new members into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil!

Those who were baptized at the Easter Vigil: Todd Mitchell, Lorrie Shackelford, Brianna Tyler, and Joshua Tyler. Those who were previously baptized and were brought into full communion with the Catholic Church: Jean Lebeuf, Becky Mays, Chrissy Mays, Nick Shackelford, William Stilley, and Johna Wright. Congratulations and welcome to them all!

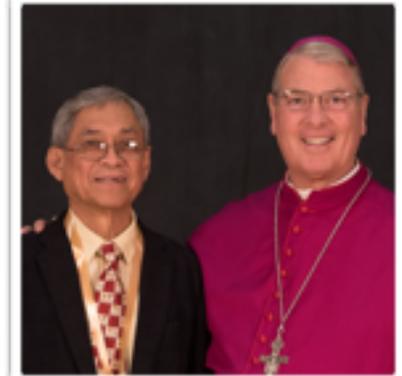


Fr. Wright and Fr. Kevin O'Keefe at Chrism Mass

## Our New Seminarian Solomon Kaanan

Solomon Kaanan arrived at St. Joseph's in January for part of his pastoral year, which is part of his seminary study track. For the past three years he has been studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Savannah at St. Vincent Seminary at Boyton Beach, Florida. Solomon is from Nigeria, where his family still lives. He was studying for the priesthood in Nigeria when his bishop asked him about moving to the United States to be a part of the Diocese of Savannah. Solomon's bishop in Nigeria had met Bishop Gregory Hartmayer, who had extended the invitation to send a few seminarians to our diocese for serving in South Georgia.

Solomon has been serving Mass regularly at St. Joseph's, visiting the homebound, helping out at Daybreak, visiting and teaching at St. Joseph School, and many other activities. He will be with us until August, when he will return to seminary for his final year of studies for the priesthood. His Diaconate ordination is currently scheduled for December and will take place here at St. Joseph's. Be sure to welcome him when you see him!



## Gartland Award Recipients

On Sunday, November 26th, the Feast of Christ the King, nearly 100 people from parishes throughout South Georgia travelled to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah to attend Mass with Bishop Gregory Hartmayer and to receive the Gartland Award for their respective parishes. Marty Oates and Tony Samonte received the award for St. Joseph's for 2017, being recognized for their volunteer contributions for our parish not only this year, but for years past. We are thankful for all Tony and Marty have done and continue to do, and we congratulate you on a well deserved honor!

## Living the Eucharist

Lent brought about not only penances and the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday, but also the gathering of Lenten small groups. Parishes throughout the Diocese of Savannah launched a 3-year Lenten program entitled "Living the Eucharist," which saw nearly 20 groups and over 200 people participate at St. Joseph's. Weekly meetings included prayer, Lectio Divina meditations on the Sunday scriptures, discussion, and teachings on the Eucharist, as well as fellowship among the group participants. While the Living the Eucharist small group gatherings have come to an end with the coming of Easter, many groups will continue to gather once a month studying the scriptures and doing book studies until next Lent when the Living the Eucharist program begins its second year.



## **Life Long Guideline Award Winners for March 2018 at St. Joseph School**

Every month of the school year, various students at St. Joseph School are recognized by receiving awards that recognize their virtues in the classroom and the community. The awards are presented to the students at the end of the weekly school Mass. Congratulations to these students!

For information about St. Joseph Catholic School check out: <http://www.sjsmacon.org>



# Mary is a Model Disciple For All of Us

May is Mary's month. Here are a few things to ponder this month as you think about Our Lady:

- She followed God's will. When the angel appeared, she submitted to what she understood was God's will for her (Luke 1:38). You can surrender to God's will each morning by offering God everything that you think, do and say throughout the day.
- She was a woman of prayer. In her Magnificat (Lk. 1:46-55), she reveals that her soul magnifies the Lord and her spirit rejoices in God, her Savior. You can be a person of prayer by setting side quiet time each day to restore your spirit.
- She reached out to others. When Mary learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant, she went to visit (Luke 1:39-45). You can find ways to reach out to others in little acts of kindness that make you an instrument of God's love to people in need.
- She experienced stress. As a young woman, Mary endured the stress of an unexpected pregnancy, tension with her future husband, a difficult birth, a traumatic move to another country, and the horror of losing Jesus in Jerusalem, but she never lost her faith that God was with her. You can deal with the stress in your life with the same belief that that God will guide you through the darkness by giving you enough light for each step of your journey – no matter how stressful it may seem.
- She accepted what she did not understand. There were times in Mary's life when she did not understand what was happening. There were things that Jesus said and did that she must have found upsetting and maybe a little hurtful, but she accepted what she could not understand. You can also choose to let go of the upsetting or hurtful things that people in your life say or do by offering up whatever pain you feel to God.
- She endured sorrow. Mary grieved the death of Joseph. She saw the way people tried to challenge Jesus. She stood at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified. She held him in her arms after he died. You can turn to Our Lady during times of grief and sorrow in your life, asking for the strength to move through your pain.
- She held memories in her heart. St. Luke tells us that Mary treasured memories in her heart (Luke 2:19). You can also rely on your cherished memories of your family to bring you a deep sense of peace and joy that no one can ever take away.



by Lorene Hanley Duquin- *from Our Sunday Visitor 7-2-12*