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# St. Joseph Catholic Church Newsletter

“St. Joseph Catholic Church brings Christ to our community and our community to Christ.”

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## **French Boys Choir visits St. Joseph's**

On a recent concert tour through eastern parts of the United States, a French boys choir stopped off at St. Joseph's for a concert. They began their visit here by singing at the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, August 5th, bringing great beauty to the morning worship. Later in the afternoon, they performed a concert singing sacred and ancient music, as well as a few more contemporary hymns. They mixed solos and duets, with a wide range of voices that reflected the varying ages of the boys and young men. It was an event that was greatly enjoyed and as one attendee stated, "It is always wonderful to hear such heavenly voices that fit the beauty of St. Joseph's so well."

## Theology on Tap at St. Joseph's

Theology on Tap was started in 1981 in the Chicago area by a priest named Fr. John Cusick with the intention of connecting and ministering to college students in a pub or nightclub setting. Theology on Tap often takes the form of a series of lectures sponsored by a church or a diocese, with the lectures being given by noted spiritual leaders and religious academics to address current topics in religion and theology. The program has been somewhat controversial in various religious circles, given the venue of the program, which is normally a pub. Fr. Cusick's mission was "to bring the faith to where the people are" by discussing topics such as Christian values, faith and work, relationship issues, sacraments, discernment, and many other relevant issues affecting and influencing young adults and others who may find themselves in such places.

St. Joseph has hosted Theology on Tap in Macon for several years, with it taking on a different tone depending upon the crowd and the interest. Fr. Vernon Knight regularly hosted and coordinated Theology on Tap while he was serving at St. Joseph's, but when he was transferred to Augusta, Laura Endres stepped forward to help ensure that the ministry would continue after he left. She has been leading the ministry for the past year, organizing and advertising the talks, and arranging the speaker and topic schedule. She saw a need and was willing to put her interests and motivation to work in service of the Church. In speaking about her work as ministry leader, Laura said, "At Theology on Tap, I try to keep topics relevant and interesting, and am always looking for people from a variety of vocations, expertise, and talents to come and speak." Previous speakers have spoken on topics such as The Saints, St. Michael the Archangel, Bible Study, the Holy Spirit, how God has worked in ones own life, and numerous other topics.

*"While we continue to discuss a wide variety of current and important faith related topics, our group is open to all ages; after all, you're never too old to learn!"*

*-Laura Endres- Ministry leader of Theology on Tap*

The meetings take place at Just Tap'd on the corner of Poplar and 1st Street in the downstairs room every first and third Sunday at 6:20pm, after the 5:00 pm Sunday Mass. Laura recently stated, "Come on out, grab a beer and a bite to eat, relax and enjoy. Just Tap'd has good food and a wide variety of beer, as well as non-alcoholic beverages."

If you are interested in sharing your vocation, faith, knowledge, and experience with the group, please contact Laura. Hope to see you there! Please check out the Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsTheologyOnTap/>

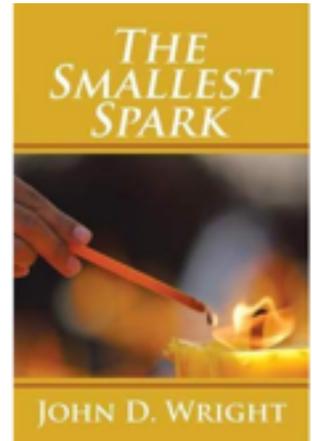


Laura Endres and Bob Femimore at Theology on Tap



## The Best Kept Secret in Our Diocese

Last month, on July 16, the Church celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Those at our parish, who have gotten to know me well, are likely familiar with my devotion to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, a devotion that was enkindled at the beginning of my time in seminary in 2009 and became tangible in 2015 when I published a book on her, titled *The Smallest Spark* (available in our Gift Shop), at the end of my time in seminary just before I was ordained a priest. In between those two points in my life, my growing devotion to Saint Thérèse, who was a Carmelite Nun, caused me to feel warmly toward *all things* Carmelite, to such a point that I debated getting a cover for my breviary with the Carmelite Coat of Arms (instead I ended up with the Coat of Arms of Saint Thérèse herself).



All that being said, just a couple years prior to ordination, I was quite surprised to learn from my dad, who was a Lay Carmelite, of the existence of a Carmelite Monastery in my own hometown of Savannah, located at 11 West Back Street 31419, called Our Lady of Confidence, the title I now use as my primary devotion to Mary. I could not believe I had never heard of them, and sadly those who are familiar with them in our diocese seem to be few and far between. When I heard of these Carmelites, I immediately began a monthly correspondence with them and quickly noticed a radically positive change in my spiritual life and life in general. I am convinced (along with at least a few others) that the Apostolic Ministry of our diocese rests on the prayers of those Carmelites, but they need our support and more vocations. My hope is that those who read this will consider a correspondence with them as well, so that they can pray for you, and that any young women reading this, who are discerning a vocation to Religious Life, will pay them a visit, and spread the word about this treasure in Savannah so that it will no longer be the best kept secret in our diocese.

---Father Wright

Editor's note: A third order Carmelite group is currently being formed at St. Joseph's. For more information about the group, contact David Burkovich at 478-361-1013 or by email at: [dburkovi@bellsouth.net](mailto:dburkovi@bellsouth.net)



*"The presence of the Carmelite Sisters in Savannah will be a spiritual boost to our priests and people, and the source and occasion for a stronger faith in all. There is so much to be done in this portion of the Vineyard, which work will fructify only if supported by prayer."*

- Bishop Thomas J. McDonough, Bishop of Savannah 1960-1967





Fr. Chris Hassel and Fr. Drew Larkin

## Two New Priests for our Diocese

Fr. Drew Larkin from St. Peter Claver Church and Fr. Chris Hassel of Sacred Heart Church in Warner Robins were ordained to the priesthood on June 30 at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Savannah for the Diocese of Savannah. Both new priests received their assignments to serve in our diocese from Bishop Gregory Hartmayer with Fr. Larkin being assigned to St. Anne’s in Richmond Hill and Fr. Hassel assigned to St. Francis Xavier in Brunswick. We are blessed in the Macon area to have been a part of their lives and journey to the priesthood. We continue to pray for them in their vocations and also for more vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life.



Fr. Drew Larkin giving first priestly blessings at St. Joseph's

*Prayer for Vocations*  
O God, hear my prayer and let my cry  
come unto you.  
Bless our Diocese of Savannah with  
many vocations to the priesthood,  
diaconate, and religious life.  
Give the men and women you call the  
light to understand your gift and the  
love to follow always in the footsteps of  
your priestly son. Amen

## Join us for Coffee and Conversation!

Join us on Sundays between the 8:30 am and 11:00 am Masses in the Social Hall during the school year for a cup of coffee and some conversation. While our children are learning and studying at PREP, join us and learn things about the faith from our priests and deacons and enjoy a cup of joe. Coffee and Conversation will follow the PREP schedule.