

Blessed SACRAMENT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

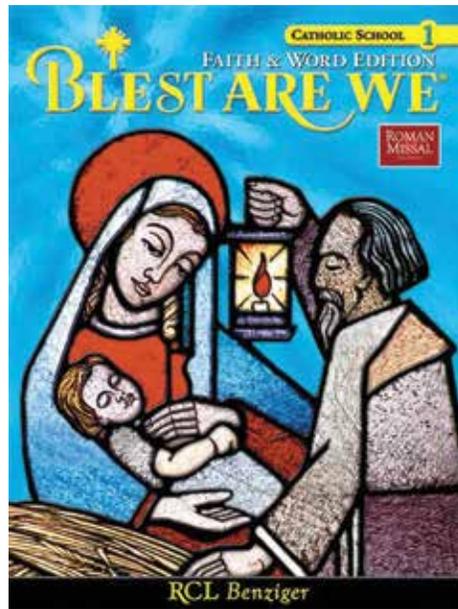
Religious Education Shares the Faith With Our Parish Youth

No matter one's age, there is always something new to learn about our faith! And here at Blessed Sacrament, our Religious Education program teaches children the building blocks of what we believe as Catholics, and helps teens to grow in their faith journey. Led by dedicated catechists, the program works to create a positive learning experience for our children and youth, and all are looking forward to a new year of Religious Education.

"Our catechists teach faith to our children in work and deed," says Tina Moore, who directs our Religious Education program along with her husband, Deacon James Moore. "They use books that we provide, but they also pull from their personal faith experiences to inspire the children to live their own faith. By sharing of themselves with their students, they demonstrate their faith. Our catechists make our program."

During the school year, Religious Education classes meet on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Classes follow a curriculum set by the Diocese of Charleston, and are provided for elementary school students starting at 5 years old, middle school students and high school students who are preparing for Confirmation.

"Each year, the curriculum focuses on a different primary teaching of the faith, while threading through basic Church teaching, such as the liturgical year and major feast days," Tina says. "Our catechists utilize many different tools



JULY 2017

Inside

- 2 *Stewardship
Becoming Fishers
of Men*
- 3 *We Are Blessed as a
Church and a Nation*
- 4 *Meet Visiting
Seminarian Jimmy
Touzeau
Looking Forward to
Serving the People*
- 6 *Feast of St. James:
July 25
Calling Us to Holiness*
- 7 *Marian Devotions
Abound During
Year of Fatima
Anniversary, Along
With Opportunities
for Growth*

continued on page 5

Blessed SACRAMENT

Stewardship

Becoming Fishers of Men

Whether you hold a high-profile position, such as parish council president, or have more of a behind-the-scenes role as a coordinator of a parish ministry, God has called you – as a parish leader – to help build His Church.

This challenge is just as important as the call of any other Catholic leader, including the earliest disciples.

When Jesus walked along the Sea of Galilee, He urged a group of fishermen, “Come follow me.” Jesus promised if they laid down their nets and followed Him, He would make them fishers of men. These men were among His original disciples, and they knew Christ’s call was so important that they left their secular occupation to follow Him.

Just as He did with the fishermen, Jesus calls each of us today. He is not necessarily asking us to leave our secular careers, but He is asking us to put Him first in our lives and to share His message of love with others.

God truly wants us to serve Him and to build His Church through the secular occupations we have chosen. It is through the Church that new disciples are born, and it is in the Church that disciples continue to mature. Forming disciples of Christ is the most important work that can be done on earth, and each of us has been called to play an active role in this work.

So, how do we go about building the Church? Where do we find the plans?

Some people mistakenly think that building the Church – in particular, building our own parish or diocese – is no different than building a successful business. Indeed, the purpose of building the Church is to change hearts – a goal that only God can accomplish.

Secular society has not prepared us for this work. However, the Holy Spirit – sometimes referred to as the “Architect of the Church” – has the plan. In order to implement this plan, we must become good listeners. We must open ourselves to the workings of the Holy Spirit as He transforms



us and guides us to carry out God’s work and to serve as His instruments on earth, building the Church together with Him.

This is where spiritual exercises, such as retreats, come into play. A retreat offers the individual an opportunity to spend time alone with the Lord, allowing God to draw the person deeper into the mystery of who He is, who we are and what He is doing in our lives. Stewardship retreats can offer parish leaders the opportunity each year to spend time with the Lord as He directs them in the ways of discipleship. As leaders, we must take time to meditate on the Scriptures and allow Jesus to open up His Word to us. Then, as we grow deeper in our understanding of what God wants of us, we can exclaim, just as the first disciples did on the road to Emmaus, “Our hearts are burning within us” (Lk 24:32).

God has placed an extremely important call on the lives of all parish leaders, no matter how big or small the role. It is vital to understand how we, as parish leaders, can best answer His call. What, in particular, is the Lord calling each one of us to do? He most likely is not asking us to drop our nets, but to pick them up and become “fishers of men.” We must discern how we can most effectively cast our nets for Him.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

We Are Blessed as a Church and a Nation

Dear Parishioners,

The month of July may seem like a bit of an “in-between” month. Of course, it sits in the middle of summer. During this last month of June, we shared in a number of solemnities and celebrations – these served to remind us of the incredible gifts we have received as Catholics, from the Holy Trinity to the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now, a look at the calendar shows us that all of the Sundays this month are in Ordinary Time. We know that Ordinary Time is anything but “ordinary,” even though it might seem that way – especially after a month of celebrations.

However, one thing happens this month that is certainly unique to us as Americans – Independence Day. We are Catholics, but we also are Americans, and we should be proud to be both – grateful for the gift of faith, and equally grateful for the gift of liberty we receive as American citizens.

Yet, to be Catholic and American should not mean choosing one over the other. These allegiances should be complementary. Our Catholic faith states that we need to work together as fellow citizens for the common good of everyone in this great country. Through the Constitution, our Founding Fathers guaranteed us of religious rights to contribute to our common life together.

Freedom is a special inheritance we have received, fought for by many at a great price, and it is a heritage that must be guarded – we are truly stewards of the gifts of freedom.

In 1886, just over 140 years ago, Bishop James Gibbons of Baltimore was made the second American Cardinal. He attributed the progress of the Church in America to the “civil liberty we enjoy in our enlightened republic.” He continued to say that “in the genial atmosphere of liberty, the Church blossoms like a rose.”

July is not just a time for us to celebrate – it is also a time for us to blossom. It is not a time to cease praying or working to build the Kingdom of Christ. Rather, it is a time to work even more diligently to express our appreciation for our many gifts, and to share them with others. We are blessed – by the gifts of our faith and the gifts of freedom – and we must always remember to thank God for that.

In Jesus’ Sacred Heart,



Very Rev. Joseph V. Romanoski, V.F.
Pastor



Meet Visiting Seminarian *Looking Forward to*

You may have noticed a new face helping out around the parish this past month as we are blessed to have seminarian Jimmy Touzeau visiting Blessed Sacrament this summer! Jimmy, a student at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, Texas, is currently here in Charleston as a part of his CPE program, or Clinical Pastoral Education. For his CPE program, Jimmy is spending a few months at Roper St. Francis Hospital, learning to be a hospital chaplain through a combination of patient visits and classroom study.

While his hospital schedule is certainly very busy, he has been enjoying the chance to serve at some weekend Masses at Blessed Sacrament while he is in town.

"It's a great parish, and Charleston is such a great city to be in," he says. "It will be nice to spend a good two and a half months here!"

Growing up in Pickens, S.C., Jimmy could not have predicted that he would someday be following a call to priesthood in the Diocese of Charleston. His experiences as a youth minister for his home parish of Holy Cross and as the dean of students



Seminarian Jimmy Touzeau

at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Greenville both played a role in leading him to the seminary. But it was really a conversation with the vocation director who came to visit St. Joseph's that helped Jimmy recognize his vocation to the priesthood.

"The vocation director asked if I had ever thought about the priesthood, and I had," Jimmy recalls. "But most of the time I'd thought about it, I didn't think I was ready. So it took someone giving me a little nudge. After that conversation, I took it more seriously and listened to the call, and went on retreats and meetings with the vocation director. [The call] had been like a gentle

tap on the shoulder, and I kind of pushed it away for awhile. So, it just took someone nudging a little harder."

As an older seminarian, Jimmy has found himself getting back into an academic routine and learning to write philosophy and theology papers – something he never had to do while working on his business degree over 20 years ago! All in all, his experiences at St. Mary's Seminary have been overwhelmingly positive.

"One of the best parts has probably been getting to know the other guys. Especially since I'm in Houston and we've had anywhere from four to seven of us from the Diocese of Charleston – we are able to foster those relationships as we grow and come to be priests here in the diocese. It's really a pretty natural college environment, but most definitely with a prayerful and theological background." – Jimmy Touzeau

"One of the best parts has probably been getting to know the other guys," Jimmy says. "Especially since I'm in Houston and we've had anywhere from four to seven of us from the Diocese of Charleston – we are able to foster those relationships as we grow and come to be priests here in the diocese. It's really a pretty natural college environment, but most definitely with a prayerful and theological background."

Deacon Jimmy Touzeau

Serving the People

With just two years of seminary left to complete, Jimmy looks forward to being able to return soon to serve as a priest in our diocese.

“I’m looking forward to just getting out there and being a local parish priest and serving the people,” he affirms.

Jimmy also encourages any young – or older! – men who feel they may have a vocation to the priesthood to listen to the call.

“Depending on their age, if they are high school or older, I would suggest that they talk

to their local parish priest to start,” Jimmy advises. “Then, they would get in touch with our vocation director as well, Fr. Mark Good. And they should definitely have a talk with their parents. Most of all, I would encourage them to just be open and pray.”

We are certainly happy that Jimmy’s openness to the “gentle tap” and then “nudge” to the priesthood has now brought him here to Roper St. Francis Hospital and Blessed Sacrament for the summer. Welcome to our parish, Jimmy!

Religious Education Shares the Faith With Our Parish Youth

continued from front cover



to engage their classes in learning, such as group prayer, group discussion, skits, games, and videos.”

The K5 through fifth-grade classes use materials from the *Blest Are We* series. Middle school students are catechized through the EDGE program, which is a three-year rotation curriculum that focuses on a different facet of the faith each semester (such as Scripture, sacraments, or the Creed). The high school class follows the RCIT (Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens) program, and specialized classes are also offered for reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Although parents should be the primary educators of the faith, Religious Education can be an important tool that helps parents guide their children through their spiritual journey.

“Parents need to lead their families in making their faith a priority in their lives,” Tina says. “Religious Education offers opportunities to get to know other parents and discuss their faith. They can get involved by helping to teach or assisting with classes. They can encourage their children to become involved through choir, altar serving or reading at Mass. Each week they can review what the children have learned through the Mass and Religious Education. They can also set examples for their children by participating in adult formation, and deepening their own knowledge and experience of Jesus.”

Over the years, Tina and Deacon James have enjoyed watching parish youth grow in their faith.

“They are like sponges, soaking up God’s love and deepening their faith,” Tina says. “Our K5 through fifth grade and our high school classes meet for prayer in the church before they separate into their grade levels. I love the prayer time we all share. Sometimes, I pop into classes and listen to what is being taught, or discussions going on in class. I hear the enthusiasm and love that our catechists have for their faith and for passing it on to our youth.”

This year, Religious Education classes will begin on Wednesday, Aug. 23. For more information, please contact Deacon James and Tina Moore at 843-901-9496, tmoore@scbss.org or jamesmoore26@gmail.com.

Blessed SACRAMENT

Feast of St. James: July 25

Calling Us to Holiness

The beauty of St. James the Great's character lies in his undivided heart – a heart that treasured its Lord from its very depths.

The Gospel story (Luke 5:1-11) recounts that, after laborious fishing efforts, James and his brother, John, had caught nothing. Jesus accompanied them and caught an astonishing bundle of fish. At the sight of this miraculous catch of

fish, they began to understand that this man Jesus was not someone to merely pass by – that this man must be divine. He called them to “leave all and follow” Him.

From this moment forward, St. James had a relentless resolve to follow his newfound Messiah.

Christ made James one of the Twelve Apostles, giving him the mission to proclaim the Good News, and the authority to heal the sick and suffering.

Jesus also allowed him some special privileges.

For instance, when Jairus' daughter was raised, James, along with John and Peter, were the only ones Jesus allowed to accompany Him. When Christ sought God's presence in an intimate way through prayer from a mountaintop, He brought along with Him only James, John and Peter. There, they witnessed the glorious transfiguration of Jesus. He also chose these three to be at His side during His excruciating Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Clearly, he was one of Christ's most beloved followers.

This brave saint was also one of the first martyrs of the Church. King Herod Agrippa killed him with a sword in an early Church persecution. “Confidence in God arms us... with that supernatural courage which causes us to dread nothing in our struggle for the kingdom of God: that conquering intrepidity which has animated the martyrs,” wrote Dietrich von Hildebrand in *Transformation in Christ*. St. James certainly had this “conquering intrepidity.”

St. James is the patron saint of laborers, hat makers and rheumatoid sufferers.

Let us not allow such a saint to pass by unnoticed. Let us emulate his dedication to God in our daily lives. We are called to be as holy as we can be – just as holy as St. James – today, not tomorrow.

Alleluia, truly, He is coming soon!



Marian Devotions Abound During Year of Fatima Anniversary, Along With Opportunities for Growth

In this centenary of the Fatima Apparitions, our Blessed Mother wants to lead us to her Son – and here at Blessed Sacrament we have many opportunities to engage in Marian devotions that can help bring us closer to Christ.

Deacon Kurt Herbst has been planning a number of devotional events that will enable us to follow her lead.

“There will be a number of continuing events or those held once,” Deacon Kurt says. “As we’re all different, we all have different devotions that bring us closer to Mary and that lead us to Jesus. Having a number of devotions means you can pick one you feel more drawn to.”

An ongoing Marian devotion here at Blessed Sacrament is the Our Lady of Fatima statue home visits. Parishioners can sign up to take the statue home with them for one week. Application forms are available at the back of the church, and these can be turned into the parish office. The applicants are notified when they can pick up the statue in its carrying case.

“This is a perfect evangelization tool and teaching tool for the parents. They can teach the kids how to say the Rosary, who Mary is, why she is special to the Church. Neighbors will come in and see the statue, and the family can evangelize about what Mary means to the Church and us, and why the Church believes what we do.” – Deacon Kurt Herbst

“If a family takes the statue home, for the kids, they will have questions about Mary,” Deacon Kurt says. “They will ask, ‘Why is she wearing a crown?’ and so on. This is a perfect evangelization tool and teaching tool for the parents. They can teach the kids how to say the Rosary, who Mary is, why she is special to the Church. Neighbors will come in and see the statue, and the family can evangelize about what Mary means to the Church and us, and why the Church believes what we do.”

As Deacon Kurt points out, having the statue at home for devotions provides many other opportunities for spiritual growth.

“The family will pray together, and having the statue would be wonderful in the home – even if there are no children there, just husband and wife,” he says. “It can kick-start devotions and allow you to set time aside to reflect on the mysteries of the Rosary and all that Mary stands for. I’ve talked to those who have done it, and they said how much it affected them in a good way,



and how wonderful it was to have the statue. During our 33 Days to Morning Glory, which goes over six weeks, the participants drew names for who could take the statue home. This was huge for the people who were going through a Marian devotion. I’d like to see us have a number of statues, so we could have it all the time.”

Deacon Kurt has found that his personal statue of Mary has a profound affect on others.

“In my work place, I have a statue of Mary on my desk with a Rosary,” Deacon Kurt says. “I

continued on back cover

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Marian Devotions Abound During Year of Fatima Anniversary continued from page 7

can't tell you how many Catholics are excited to see that, or they say, 'My Mom was a Catholic,' and we discuss about what the Rosary is. And we have people who see it and don't say a word, but it is an opportunity to share my faith and what the Holy Mother means and what she's done for all of us, to bring all of us to Jesus."

The Marian devotions available to us include the first Saturday of each month when we can gather to say the Rosary. Deacon Kurt also is

considering starting a Rosary group to meet before Mass times, and he is working to schedule such a group during October, the Rosary Month. He is looking to arrange events for the scapular, and the Miraculous Medal. Through all the planning under way, Fr. Joseph Romanoski has been very supportive.

"The goal is to increase Marian devotions," Deacon Kurt says. "The Marian devotions lead us to Jesus."

Anyone who is interested in obtaining the Fatima statue may fill out a form available in the back of the church, or may contact the parish office at 843-556-0801.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m. | **Sunday:** 9 & 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. (En Español) & 5 p.m. (LifeTeen)

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday: 3:30 p.m. & after 5 p.m. Mass, Sunday: 1 p.m.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

24 hours a day, 7 days a week