Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist
222 East Harris Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 - Located at Abercorn and East Harris Streets
Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer OFM Conv.— Bishop of Savannah
Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland — Bishop Emeritus

Mass Schedule
Saturday: 12 Noon & 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, & 11:30 a.m.
Latin Mass 1:00 p.m.
Weekdays: Mon thru Fri: 7:30 am & 12 Noon
Holy Days: 7:30 am, 12 Noon, 6:00 pm
Nursery: 10:00 am Mass on Sundays.

Sacraments
Baptisms Arrangements should be made in advance.
Confessions Fridays: 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Saturdays: 11:00 am to 11:45 am & 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm
Also by request at other times.
Weddings Arrangements should be made at least four months in advance. Participation in a marriage preparation program is required. Please call parish office for more information.
Anointing of the Sick By request for those who are seriously ill.

Faith Formation
Children’s Religious Ed Sunday 8:45 am to 9:50 am
R. C. I. A. Tuesday 7:00 pm to 8:00pm

Parish Staff
Rector - Very Rev. J. Gerard Schreck, JCD
In Residence - Msgr. William O’Neill, Rector Emeritus
In Residence - Rev. Pablo Migone
In Residence - Rev. Tom Peyton
Permanent Deacon - Rev. Dr. Dewain E. Smith
Interim Associate Director of Music - Jillian Pashke-Durant
Interim Associate Director of Music - Jared Register
Director of Religious Education - Mrs. Janee Przybyl
Bookkeeper/Admin. Assistant - Ms. Jan Cunningham
Office Assistant - Mrs. Brenda Price
Maintenance - Mr. Jimmy Joseph Sheehan III
Housekeeper/Food Services - Ms. Alma Young
Docents - Mrs. Peggy Baker, Mrs. Gloria Keane

Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm • Phone: (912)233-4709 Fax: (912)233-8229 • E-mail: csjbsav@aol.com
Cathedral Website: www.savannahcathedral.org • Diocesan Website: www.diosav.org • Cathedral Music: sjbmusic.org
Bread and Wine in a Season of Fasting

What is Lent all about? Giving up chocolate or beer? No meat on Friday? Ash marks on our forehead?

How about this: Lent is about spiritual renewal. It’s about a journey we’re invited to make. On the far horizon is the glory of Easter. On the near horizon—ashes, mortality, and temptations in a desert. It’s the time in between these two horizons that is a different kind of space, a passage, a time of being on the way. It is a time of conversion, of change, of growth, and also of uncertainty and “not knowing.” Lent is the annual trust walk of the Church, when we let ourselves be led by the Spirit into the desert of purification.

What does the Eucharist have to do with Lent? How do we feast on the “bread of heaven” during a season of fasting? It is good to ask such basic questions during a time of renewal. Because we participate in the Eucharist all year round, do we simply take it all for granted? Is our experience of Eucharist on autopilot? Perhaps Lent is the time to slow down and reconsider what really takes place in the Eucharist. Perhaps it is a time to rediscover how it can change our lives. The Mass gives us a vision of who we are and who we are called to become. It renews our confidence in God and deepens our love of neighbor. Authentic worship helps us become better witnesses to God’s reign in our world.

COVENANT MAKING

This year, the golden thread that runs through the season of Lent is to be found in the first readings of the Sunday Lectionary. Their theme: covenant and the renewal of covenant. Each Sunday you will hear an Old Testament reading concerning a covenant God made. This series of readings leads up to God’s promise of a new covenant, announced on the Fifth Sunday of Lent: a promise fulfilled in Jesus.

What is a covenant? It is more than a pact or an agreement. A covenant is a loving and life-giving commitment. When God makes a covenant, as described in the Bible, it is not like a contract between two equal parties. Rather, the initiative—and generosity—are all on God’s side. The covenants God makes last forever, they are forever fruitful, and they require a faithful response.

This week, on the First Sunday of Lent, the spotlight shines on the covenant with Noah. The biblical story of Noah, from which today’s reading is drawn, begins by telling of a terrifying disaster brought on by human sinfulness. Yet a consoling promise follows the devastation of the flood, as the reading proclaims today. God makes a covenant with Noah and his family and, by extension, with all creation. This moment is creation’s new beginning, blessed by God.

BREAD AND WINE

So perhaps the connection between the Eucharist and the season of Lent this year begins right here, with the elements of bread and wine—the fruit of creation, gift of the sun and the soil and of life, faithfully brought forth from the earth, year after year. Bread and wine are natural signs of God’s love and fidelity in creation. Yet they also require human skill and labor to make them what they are. Divine and
human work, together, produces bread and wine. Planting, harvesting, and many stages of preparation are needed to turn wheat and grapes into bread and wine.

One of the great teachers of the early Church, Saint Augustine, reflected on the process of forming the Christian community by comparing it to the baking of bread. “Remember,” he said, “bread doesn’t come from a single grain, but from many. When you received exorcism you were ‘ground.’ When you were baptized, you were ‘leavened.’ When you received the fire of the Holy Spirit, you were ‘baked.’ ... In the visible object of bread, many grains are gathered into one just as the faithful (so Scripture says) form ‘a single heart and mind in God’ [Acts 4:32].”

THE GREATEST GIFT

Before Jesus gave his life for us on the Cross, he shared a meal with his disciples. He blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body.” He also said the blessing over the cup filled with wine and shared it with them, saying “This is my blood.”

Thus bread and wine—already wholesome and holy things—have become something infinitely more precious. In the Eucharist, as Jesus himself told us, they become his own Body and Blood. The Eucharist makes present the mystery of Christ’s saving death and resurrection. It is the sign of the new covenant, made in the Blood of Christ.

The rainbow in the clouds was the sign of God’s faithfulness in the covenant with Noah. But the greatest sign of God’s love and fidelity for all time is Jesus, who becomes our food and drink in the Eucharist. His Paschal Mystery, his dying and rising, is our bread and wine in a season of fasting. By putting other things aside during Lent, the Church creates a time and space in which to reflect on what Jesus Christ has given us—the greatest gift—himself.

REFLECT

One of the visible signs of God’s covenant with us in Christ is our unity. How can you help foster oneness of heart and mind in your parish? Is there someone you need to forgive or whose forgiveness you need to receive, in order to become this living sign?

ACT

Be intentional about fasting before receiving the Eucharist. The Church asks that we abstain from food and drink for one hour before receiving Communion. Take care to observe this practice in a spirit of reverence and joy. Make room for a feast by fasting.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, you gave creation a new beginning after the devastation of the flood. Let me begin again this Lent. Holy Spirit, you led our Savior into the desert. Guide me to where I can better hear your voice. Lord Jesus, you have made the Eucharist a living sign of the unity of your Church. Help us to be that sign for the world.

AUTHOR

Rita Ferrone is an award-winning writer and speaker in the areas of liturgy, catechesis, and renewal in the Roman Catholic Church.

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Rector’s Corner

MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal 2018

Next weekend, throughout the Diocese of Savannah, we begin the Bishop’s Annual Appeal for 2018. In this year’s appeal Bishop Hartmayer encourages us to be Missionary Disciples who proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through our many acts of service and ministry, as well as through our generous giving.

The financial goal for the whole Diocese for this year is $2,700,000, which represents an increase of $100,000. The Diocesan goal has not been increased for three years. Our Cathedral parish is assigned a goal which is based upon our previous year’s total offertory, relative to the total Diocesan offertory. Because you have been giving so generously to the Cathedral, our offertory has been increasing. This year the Cathedral parish is being asked to contribute $114,395 to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

In the previous year’s appeal, 311 registered members or households contributed a total of $162,594. That represented, at the time, approximately 22.8% of our parishioners. That percentage is a number that we must increase! We are now a parish of approximately 1000 households. As I say each year, if we all give something, each according to his means, we will have no trouble meeting and surpassing our parish goal.

This year, the Diocese is asking that we conclude our pledging in a very timely manner. I would ask you to make your pledge to the Bishop’s Appeal within the next four weeks. If you do that, we can be confident of a positive outcome and have no further need of reminders. In addition to that, if it is possible, when you make your pledge consider doing so “online” with a credit or debit card. It is much easier to keep track of donations received.

It has always been wonderful to see the Cathedral parish responding quickly and generously to the Bishop’s Appeal. We are after all the Bishop’s Church and it is important that we provide inspiration and support for all the parishes of the Diocese of Savannah. I thank you for your continued and generous support of this important appeal.

Rev. J. Gerard Schreck
Rector
A few days ago we may have been told, “Repent, and believe in the Gospel,” as ashes were placed on our foreheads. We hear these words again in today’s Gospel. Lent is an appropriate occasion to consider our sins, promise to turn back to God, and place our trust in the One who has power over sin and death. As we begin the first week of Lent, let us take these words to heart.

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent after the Noon Mass

Mass Intentions for the week of February 18, 2018

SUNDAY
Pro Populo
Nannette Haneline (Anni)
Poor Souls in Purgatory

MONDAY
Antonio W. Aliffi (Anni)

TUESDAY
Jim McGoldrick (Anni)

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY
Owen Roe O’Neill (Anni)

FRIDAY
Doris Dixon (Anni)

SATURDAY

Please Pray For: Ed Arbo, Dale Asbury, Juan Ayala, Odillo Blanco, Doris Boring, Vicky Buck, Heidi Carroll, Michael Cavanagh, Marjorie Connors, Joan Coules, Eileen and Bill Dunlop, Mary Dunn, Erin Dunning, Chris Fernandez, Robert Green, Andy Hodgson, Matt Hunter, Charles James, Patricia Jarrell, Denise LeMay, Fr. Lou Lindsay, Virginia Logan, Bates Lovett, Rose Marcantoni, Lee Marmarus, Gene Maxey, Hugh Markowsky, Gayle McGhee, Marcia Morgan, Mary Moriarty, Brian Murphy, Josephine Nasworthy, Patrick Neligan, Joy Povec, Jeffrey Powell, Msgr. Peter Riani, Jerrie Ridgeway, Joel Rivera, Dr. Frank Rizza, Tina Sanders, Greg Smith, Fr. Jacek Szuster, Stephanie Venuto, Greg Waldhour, Jan Wilson and Larson Zekas.
Camp Villa Marie Job Opportunity

Camp Villa Marie is accepting applications for all positions for summer 2018! If you are energetic, creative and enjoy working with children, consider applying for a camp position! Must be at least 16 years of age and CPR and First Aid certified prior to beginning of camp. Visit https://diosav.org/human_resources-jobs for an application! Submit application by March 15, 2018.

Cathedral Ornaments

We now have all years ornaments available for purchase, including the new 2018 ornament of St. Elizabeth of Hungary/Thuringia. They are $20 each and may be purchased at the back of the church, in the rectory office or online at www.savannahcathedral.org.

St. Vincent's Academy and Benedictine Military School presents Singin in the Rain! Performances will take place Friday, March 2nd at 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 3rd at 7:00 PM and Sunday, March 4th at 3:00 PM at the Trustees Theater on Broughton Street in Savannah. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for students and are available at the Trustees Theater Box Office, online at www.savannahboxoffice.com or by calling 912-525-5050.

Convent Crawl

Calling all single women between the ages of 16 and 35. You have an opportunity to share in vocation stories, food, and discussion with sisters from five different congregations living in the Savannah area. We will meet in the parking lot at the Catholic Pastoral Center and spend the afternoon and evening traveling to four residences.

Saturday, March 3rd, depart from the Catholic Pastoral Center at 2:00 PM.

First Stop - Carmelite Monastery
Conversation topic - learning about the contemplative call

Second Stop - Sisters of St. Jospeh
Food - appetizers

Third Stop - Sisters of Mercy
Food - pizza

Fourth Stop - Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception
Food - dessert.

There is a limit of 15 participants. To register, contact Sr. Donna Jo Leoper, SSJ by phone 912-484-7860 or by e-mail donnaloeper@comcast.net by Wednesday February 28th. Transportation from house to house will be provided by the sisters.

Meet some sisters - hear their stories - see where they live!!
CATHEDRAL PARISH OFFERTORY
Offertory February 11, 2018: $22,416.30
Offertory February 12, 2017: $22,284.00

VISITOR’S DEPOSITORY BOX
Week Prior to February 11, 2018: $2,685
Week Prior to February 12, 2017: $2,813

Children’s Religious Ed. Schedule
Feb 18 NO CLASS - President’s Day Observed
Feb 25 CLASS - Prayer Assembly 5th/6th Grades

Participating Catholic Tuition
Cathedral parishioners who have children in Catholic Schools and who wish to receive the parish participating tuition rate must be endorsed by Fr. Schreck. A participating parishioner is a parishioner who attends Mass on weekends and Holy Days of Obligation, participates in the activities of the parish, contributes to the offertory collection throughout the year in a recognizable way by using envelopes or checks as a means of verification of attendance. Contributions must be made by the end of the year to receive the parish participating tuition rate for next year.

A Prayer for Living the Eucharist
Dear Jesus
Help us to spread your presence everywhere we go.
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly, that our lives may be only a radiance of yours.
Shine through us, and be so in us, that every person we come in contact with might feel your presence.
Let them look up and see no longer us, but only you!
Stay with us, and then we shall begin to shine as you shine;
so to shine as a light to others.
The light, O Jesus, will be all from you;
none of it will be ours;
it will be you,
shining on others through us.
Let us thus praise you in the way you love best
by shining on those around us.
Amen.

NEW PARISHIONERS & ADDRESS CHANGES
Anyone wishing to become a parishioner of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, should complete the following, cut out and drop it in the offertory collection basket. A census form will be mailed to you, which must be completed and mailed back. You may also join online at www.savannahcathedral.org. Thank you.

- New Parishioner
- Change of Address

Name _______________________________________
Address _______________________________________
____________________________________________
Telephone Number _____________________________
Email Address ________________________________

To register online, go to www.savannahcathedral.org