There is no such thing as too big or too small a piece of pie. Pie is always good. We want you to come and grab your piece of the pie at the Cathedral. We need a piece of your time no matter how big or small a piece you have to offer. There are many opportunities to serve the church; your time and talents are markedly needed right now. There will be sign-up opportunities and information available for different ministries each Sunday from Oct. 11 through Nov. 7.

When Jesus Christ was here with us on this earth, he made it clear that we were all called to serve in some way.

Pope Francis has reminded us that Jesus told his followers that they are called to be servants to each other. “Everyone here must think of others . . . and how we can serve others better,” the pope said.

As members of God’s family we all have the responsibility to share fully in the life of our church, we are called to let our good works bring light to the world. Active participation in the community of St. John the Baptist will enable each of us to enrich our relationships with other people and to increase our opportunity to love one another the same way Christ loves us.

We have volunteer opportunities that only require an hour and a half of your time per month. There are numerous opportunities to be of service and we regularly ask for people to participate more fully in our faith community. Despite the many opportunities to serve, most of the time it’s the same people who respond. This is your church and we want you to be a part of it at every level. We earnestly need you and will work with your schedule, skill set, and interests no matter how little or how much time you are able to give.

God has given each of us special gifts to use in furthering Christ’s work. Being an active member of the parish community will give you a chance to glorify God and also serve others. In addition to personal growth, you will have a sense of belonging, knowing that you are a unique and contributing member of our parish faith community. Put your faith into action, consider how you can be of service and experience the joy of serving Christ as an active member of St. John the Baptist.

Fr. Schreck encourages you to consider how you might put your God-given gifts to work this year. “We invite you to join one of our parish ministries. Your talent is God’s gift to you. What you do with it, is your gift to God. I invite you to share your gifts with the Church and with the community. I know that you will be glad that you did, and so will Jesus, the Lord.”

Please contact Melanie Brooks at Brooks508@aol.com, Moira Novack at Threeenovacks@gmail.com or the Parish Office at info@savannahcathedral.org if you would like to volunteer and contribute your time and talents. Also, we encourage you to take the time to talk to the representatives of the different ministries who will be available after Masses on Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 7; and on Oct. 11 look for a sweet treat from the Stewardship Committee after Mass.

Come and learn about the many opportunities to serve. Please take a “Piece of the Pie” and sign up for one of the Cathedral ministries. Your parish community needs you.
Please take a piece of the pie

**Altar Servers** help make the liturgies more spiritually uplifting.

**Faith Formation** teachers nurture the faith of our young people.

Join the **CCW** and support the Giving Tree that helps the less fortunate.

As a **Choir** member you'll raise your voice in praise to the Lord.

**Tour Guides** share our beautiful Cathedral with visitors.

The **Christian Service Committee** helps feed the poor.

**Lectors** proclaim the readings from Scripture.

**Right To Life** members speak up for the unborn.
This past July I had the opportunity to serve as a chaplain on a fourteen-day Baltic Sea cruise with Holland-America Line, which recruits Catholic priests to minister as chaplains on their cruise ships. To get this opportunity a priest should become a member “The Apostleship of the Sea.” Members are notified of available cruises by email and positions are filled on a first come first served basis. The cruise is free in return for the ministry provided, however the chaplain is responsible for his transportation to and from the ship’s port of call.

On this cruise there were 1,404 passengers and a crew of 600. As the chaplain, I was officially a member of the crew. My duties were to celebrate daily Mass and be available to passengers who needed to speak with a priest. The average attendance at weekday Masses was about 50. For the Saturday vigil Mass it was about 100 and for the Sunday morning Mass it was about 250. Following the Sunday morning Mass I conducted a non-denominational service for non-Catholics. I also heard several confessions and talked with a few lapsed Catholics who have now returned to the Church. My ministry was strictly sacramental.

Our cruise departed from the port of Rotterdam, Holland. During the cruise we stopped at several ports including: Copenhagen and Arhus, Denmark; Warnemunde, Germany; Tallinn, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki Finland and Stockholm, Sweden. Sightseeing tours were available and I was permitted to go ashore with the passengers. My favorite stops were in Germany and Russia.

Upon arrival at the port of Warnemunde, Germany, a group of us took a three hour bus drive to Berlin thorough countryside in the former East Germany. Near Berlin we visited the Sachsenhusen Concentration Camp which was built in 1933. There we saw the hospital rooms, “Station Z” where executions took place, the former barracks, where a museum tells its grisly history, the ovens where corpses were cremated, and the former laundry which is now a chapel. From there we went to Berlin to visit what is left of the Berlin Wall and walk through the Brandenburg Gate. We also visited the Reichstag Parliament and the Holocaust Memorial.

We spent two days in St. Petersburg and somehow I felt here that I had come home. I was very conscious of the fact that my Celtic ancestors migrated from Russia to Northern Europe. I have no idea what part of Russia my Celtic ancestors came from, but for the first time in my life I realized what it must be like for many Americans who are unable to trace their roots to their country of origin.

On our first day in St. Petersburg our guide gave us a very detailed history of the founding of the city by Peter the Great, and how down through the years it has had different names such as Leningrad and Stalingrad. The word “grad” means city and with the collapse of the Soviet Union the original name of St. Petersburg was restored. We visited the Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ the Savior – also known as the Church on Spilled Blood. It is built on the site of where Czar Alexander II was assassinated in March 1881. It was used as a warehouse during the Soviet era.

That evening we were given a three hour guided tour of the Hermitage Museum.

On our second day in Russia, as our ship was not leaving until late in the evening, I asked the tour guide if we could go somewhere and have a meal. She was delighted with the offer. Because the area where the ship was docked was somewhat remote, we went in her car to a restaurant. Normally one must have a Visa to enter Russia, but since we were a with tour group,
we were allowed to enter with a group visa which means we must stay together as a group with the tour guide. Now that we were back at the ship the tour was “officially” over and the group had gone on board ship, except for my good self who went out for a meal with a Russian tour guide, without a personal Russian Visa.

After spending a long time at dinner, I suddenly realized that it was almost time for the ship to leave. The guide drove like crazy to get me back to the ship where I had to go through immigration and passport control. This process seemed to take forever because I was being scrutinized by the passport official. I tried to answer questions in my Irish brogue. I wanted to tell him that being of the Celtic race, I am partly Russian and maybe a distant relative of his! After this interrogation I got on the ship with only twenty minutes to spare before the gangway was pulled up. By not having a Russian Visa, if I missed that ship and was left behind, I would now probably be in a Russian jail!

Our cruise ended back in Rotterdam on a Saturday morning. Because I was traveling back to Ireland on Sunday, I went to the Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Nicholas Basilica in Amsterdam which was within walking distance of my hotel. Parts of the Mass were in Dutch and parts were in English. I am told that each week, they use a different language along with Dutch.

The church was almost full and I was pleased to see so many young people attending, especially teenagers and very impressed by the reverence I saw in the people.

Because the celebrating priest seemed fluent in English I introduced myself to him after Mass. When he introduced me to his wife, I asked him if he was previously a priest in the Anglican or Lutheran Church. What a surprise I got when he told me that he was always a Roman Catholic priest but left the ministry to get married.

Realizing that I was now confused he told me that this congregation is no longer Roman Catholic in the strict sense – but INDEPENDENT Roman Catholic. When I asked how the congregation could be Independent Roman Catholic, he answered – “Well, this is the Netherlands.”

I trust that the Good Lord will understand that I made a sincere effort to fulfill my Sunday Mass obligation.

This cruise was a wonderful experience and it gave me an opportunity to exercise my priestly ministry in a very meaningful way by meeting so many people from various religious persuasions – even the Independent Roman Catholics!
The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is Savannah's iconic landmark. Its twin spires are the most prominent features on the Savannah skyline, admired by parishioners and visitor alike. TripAdvisor has consistently ranked the Cathedral among the Top Attractions in the U.S. With the Cathedral well over one hundred years old, maintenance is a huge and constant undertaking.

This year is the 15th or Crystal Anniversary of the Heritage Gala, which funds the Cathedral Endowment Fund. The Heritage Gala experience began modestly on a cold and nippy December 1st evening in 2001, when the doors of the Wilmington Island Golf Club swung open to reveal a celebration of beauty and warmth. The members of the Heritage Ball Committee greeted the guests with crystal champagne glasses inscribed to commemorate the inaugural event. Over the years, this annual event chaired by many dedicated people and held at different exquisite locations, has generated the majority of the revenue for the Cathedral Endowment Fund.

The goal, then and now, was two-fold:

- Provide an elegant evening filled with great food, fun and excitement for our guests
- Benefit the Cathedral Endowment Fund which will preserve the architectural soundness, integrity, and beauty of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist as a symbol of our faith for future generations.

Due to your generosity, along with others in our community, the endowment has grown to over two million dollars. This is well on its way to our goal of five million dollars which should be sufficient to provide a sustainable source of funding for Cathedral maintenance for years to come.

Annual funds generated by the Endowment are currently being used to pay for the 2013 steeple renovation. Once the steeples are paid off, future funds will be dedicated to the desperately needed mural restoration.

The beautiful murals that adorn the upper reaches of our Cathedral have been deteriorating badly over the past several years. These 34 outstanding masterpieces are regarded as the most extraordinary decorative feature of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Our church has often been favorably compared to the great Cathedrals of Europe. Though no work of art can rival Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, our murals have been acknowledged as the most beautiful in the South. Hence the Cathedral's appellation, "The Sistine of the South".

Modern air conditioning causes the thick Cathedral walls to "sweat", causing deterioration to our beautiful and historic murals. Maintenance projects like this are necessary for such an old building and can be very expensive. The Cathedral’s operating budget is only sufficient to support routine building maintenance, so the Endowment Fund is an important source of funds to preserve the Cathedral.
According to Co-Chairs, Rob and Ann Massey, this year’s Gala will be a wonderful event held at an exciting new venue. Everyone in the Cathedral Parish is invited to attend the 2015 Cathedral Heritage Gala on Saturday, November 14th at the newly and beautifully renovated Catholic Pastoral Center on Victory Drive.

The Gala will begin at 7:00 PM with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres plus music provided by New Arts Ensembles. Guests will have time to tour the new Pastoral Center and hear information about the building’s rich history. There will be a silent auction during this time where guests can bid using the BidPal app to constantly monitor and update bids. Dinner will follow shortly thereafter, catered by Chef Nick Mueller. Seating will be provided for all guests in the main tent in front of the Pastoral Center.

The Live Auction will begin at approximately 9:00PM with twelve valuable items up for bid. Auction items include an oil painting of the Cathedral by local artist and Cathedral parishioner Mary Lawrence Kennickell, a Sunset Cruise on O.C. Welch’s yacht, Father Schreck’s famous Wine Dinner(s), a golf outing, weekend getaway package(s), Bishop Hartmeyer’s “Mystery” item and the Bishop’s Dinner. John Wetherbee, WTOC Meteorologist and another Cathedral parishioner, will be our auctioneer.

Tickets to the Gala are $150 each.

There are many ways to support the Cathedral Endowment Fund. We have Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsorship levels – some of which include tickets to the Gala and advertisements in the Gala program. We also have different program advertisements, with various sizes and costs from an eighth page to full page ads. Finally, our Cathedral Friends can donate at the Patron, Partner, or Supporter levels.

Please consider how you may best help ensure that our beautiful Cathedral will be preserved for the generations to come. “It always seems impossible, until it is done…”

WIN A UNIQUE AUCTION ITEM LIKE LAST YEAR’S COOKING DEMONSTRATION WITH BISHOPS HARTMAYER AND BOLAND

COME JOIN US AT THE GALA

THE GALA IS A FUN EVENING

JOIN FRIENDS AND SUPPORT THE CATHEDRAL ENDOWMENT FUND
All parishioners are invited to the 2nd annual Stewardship Dinner & Picnic on Sunday evening, October 11, 2015 from 5:00 TO 8:00 PM in beautiful Lafayette Square. Enjoy music, fellowship and good food while overlooking our beautiful Cathedral.

This is our opportunity to say a big and much deserved “Thank you” to our faithful parishioners who contribute so generously to the Cathedral, and who continue to offer their time and talent for the good of the parish and the wider community.

It will also be a wonderful opportunity to meet and spend some time with other Cathedral parishioners. In this way we will have a sense of who belongs to our church, with whom we share the mission of the Cathedral parish community.

Please plan to attend so that I can personally thank you for all you do.

Fr. Schreck