

S P R I N G 2 0 1 7

Stewardship Quarterly

STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE

Thank you, Good Stewards!



*St. Philip Benizi's
Parish Picnic/
Good Steward Day* *Saturday, May 6, 2017
12 Noon - 4:00PM
Lunch served 12 Noon - 3:30PM*

Please join us for a fun-filled day as we honor all those who faithfully and generously give of their Time, Talent, and Treasure!

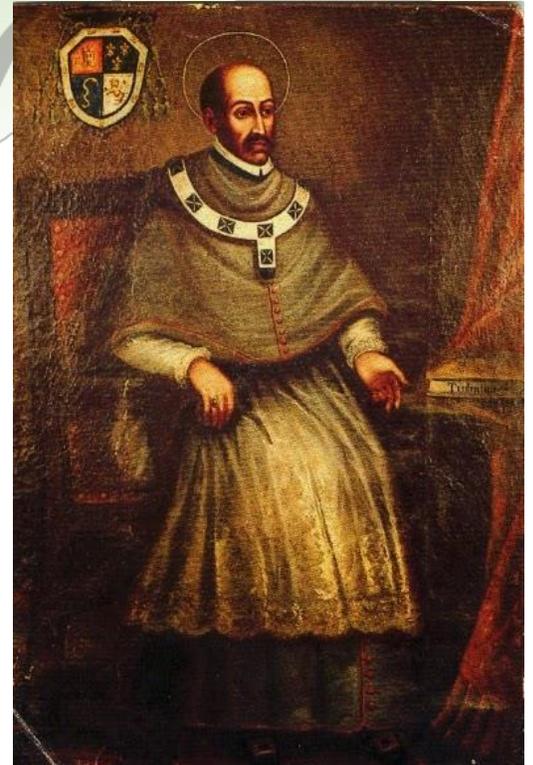
There is No Charge for this event.
Enjoy train rides, pony rides, the rock climbing wall,
and much more.

*"He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as
you have helped His people and continue to help them."
Hebrews 6:10*

The Friars, Staff, and Stewardship Council are grateful for all your good work. Your passion for the Lord and commitment to His people are such blessings. You are very much appreciated.

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Stewardship Saint for April Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo

*"Time is not our own, and we
must give a strict account of it."*

*St. Turibius devoted himself to
serving the poor and
championing the rights of
indigenous peoples against the
oppressive rule of civil
authorities.*



“THY KINGDOM COME”

A Message from Fr. John

Two years ago our parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first Catholic Mass in Clayton County and the establishment of the Jonesboro Catholic Mission which became St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church. At that time, we dedicated our parish hall to the founders of our parish, whose dedication and generous stewardship of time, talent, and treasure were responsible for the birth and initial growth of our parish.

We also decided to create a 50th anniversary Memorial Garden in the space between the Peace Garden and the St. John Paul II Building. This Garden is meant to be a permanent memorial to all St. Philip Benizi parishioners who have committed themselves and their resources to our parish’s growth and development.

The Memorial Garden will serve our parish for years to come as an outdoor worship space and a place for quiet prayer and reflection. Memorial bricks, bearing the names of beloved parishioners and friends will be installed in a prominent place in the Garden.

Recently, a beautifully designed and crafted “Resurrection Cross” was placed in the Garden. The Resurrection Cross was created by John Parker, an artist and longtime parishioner of St. Philip Benizi. John is presently designing and building the altar and ambo that will be installed on the lower terrace of the Memorial Garden.

The Resurrection Cross, which overlooks the Garden and is situated directly behind the altar, is a perfect symbol for this sacred space. It is the Resurrected Lord whom we worship and adore at each Eucharist and it is to Him we offer all praise, thanksgiving, and glory. In addition, the Resurrection Cross symbolizes new life and in this Garden we honor all those who brought the new life of Christ to Clayton County and who have sustained that new life through the years. The artist expressed it this way: “The Resurrection Cross expresses the Living God, Hope, and New Life.”

The Cross itself is a piece of 1/2” thick steel and weighs about 100 lbs. It is 52” tall and 36” wide and stands approximately 8” above the rock on a 1 and 1/2” steel rod. As the cross ages, the color of the steel will change due to the oxidation of the steel. The body of Christ already is a rust color caused by the application of a chemical to quicken the process.

The rock, which is close to 2 tons, was already on our property. The moment John saw this rock he knew it was “the one” and considers finding it “divine inspiration.” The problem was moving it from the area near the Scout Building to the Garden! This would be a “Herculean Task.” So he turned to his son Michael Williams for help. The rock was too heavy to move with forklift and so another method needed to be devised. John followed the method used by the ancient Egyptians in moving large stones to build the pyramids, using steel pipes and rollers. No joke! He found the method on YouTube!! It took John and Michael about five hours to move it to its present location.

On the front of the stone are the words, “THY KINGDOM COME.” These words from the Lord’s Prayer are very familiar to all Christians and express our shared hope in the coming of God’s Kingdom on earth and our Baptismal call to help bring about that Kingdom by the way we live our lives. We are the resurrected body of Christ present in the world today breathing new life into world through loving service.

On either side of the Cross are two handcrafted plant holders made of flattened steel and formed to look like leaves.

John and Michael are good examples of Christian stewardship in which we use our personal gifts, talents, time, and treasure to praise God and to build the Kingdom of God. We are grateful to them and to all of our dedicated parishioners who so generously give of themselves in service of God, our parish family, and the larger community.



SPB Performing Arts Ministry By Helena Frazier

"Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!" Psalm 149:3

The SPB Performing Arts Ministry put on a production hosted by the Black Catholic Heritage Ministry on February 18, 2017. The kids and their parents shared their time and talent as they all worked hard practicing and preparing for the event. We highlighted the cause for canonization of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first African-American priest, through theater. Our own Mr. Buddy Teague played Fr. McGirr and was the accompanist for the event. The kids performed a song and dance featuring their own rendition of Amazing Grace. ...and the coordinator, Helena Frazier, performed a solo dance to Lift Every Voice and Sing. Thank you to the Black Catholic Heritage Ministry, especially Frances Gordon-Dixon and Deacon Leonard Chambliss for your hard work and dedication that made the event a reality.

The SPB Performing Arts Ministry also participated in the 10:45am and 1pm Palm Sunday masses. The kids led the procession from the bell tower and into the sanctuary joyfully waiving their palms in full body prayer as the congregation sang the Hosanna. In preparation for this event, the kids learned about Christianity's Jewish origins. They also learned why we celebrate Palm Sunday. It was a wonderful experience that embodied of the presence of liturgy in dance, theater, and song.

Also, if you missed our appearance at the Children's Christmas Mass, DON'T WORRY! The Performing Arts Ministry is offering copies of the DVD for a donation of \$10/each. Please pick up your order form in the gathering space.

For information on becoming a part of this dynamic ministry, contact Helena Frazier at 404-956-3432.



Invitation to “Showcase” your Ministry

By Rose Campbell

Dear Ministry Leaders & Ministers,

You are invited to “showcase” your ministry in the hall. This year the Ministry Fair which normally takes place on the third weekend of August will not be held due to feedback from several Ministry leaders. The Stewardship Council sent out a survey to Ministry Leaders and most of those who responded suggested that the Ministry Fair be held every other year, so since we had it last year, it will not be held this year. Not all ministries participated in the Ministry Fair last year, and several of those who did participated did not have people sitting at their tables.

Several of the ministries were in favor of “showcasing” their ministry on a weekend.

If you and your ministry would like to “showcase” your ministry, or have a membership drive on a weekend, please call Kathy Cirincione, activities director at St. Philip’s at (770) 478-0178 ext. 150 and she will let you know what weekends would be available. A Ministry could opt for Founders’ Hall rather than the Hartmayer Educational Building. You may have a display board, ministry information, pamphlets etc. Please know that you will also have to have a member at the table after each mass to answer questions.

If you are interested in showcasing your ministry and would like to publicize it ahead of time, please consult your Ministry Leader’s manual and see the deadlines for making announcements in the bulletin, flyer, etc. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Rose Campbell
Stewardship Council Chair
(770) 617-2683



My parish is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am. It will be holy, if I am. Its pews will be full, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work. It will be prayerful, if I pray.
It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.
It will bring others in to worship, if I invite and bring them in.

It will be a place of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the ask of being all the things that I want my parish to be.