

Transformed!

Good News at St. Hilary Parish

August/September 2017

Family finds a spiritual home away from home

When Carmen Larrauri-Gonzalez's husband Salvador learned of a possible promotion and transfer to the United States with Continental Tire in May of 2016, it meant a life-changing move for the family. For Carmen, it meant giving up a successful career as principal of a bilingual school, uprooting their 8-year-old daughter, plus leaving behind family and friends in Mexico.

Carmen recalled, "I was praying, 'Oh Lord Jesus, you know what is good for our souls, for our family. You know the deepest things in my heart, so if you want us to be there, just make everything happen and I will follow what you tell us.'" And they did. In June, Salvador received notice of his promotion and transfer to Akron.

The Larrauris had two months to move to Ohio. They either sold or gave away their household possessions. "I never felt so free!" exclaimed Carmen, who arrived with only a backpack and luggage.

All in God's hands

Although she was nervous about the move, Carmen said, "I like to place everything in God's hands because that way I may see His hands in everything. If I place everything in His hands I see Him everywhere."

Once in the area, their first priority was to find a school for their daughter, Arantxa, who would be entering third grade. Salvador's company directed them to local public schools. "I was praying because values and family are very important," she said.



Arantxa found St. Hilary School a welcoming place.



Salvador, Carmen, and Arantxa explore the Cuyahoga River on an outing to the Gorge Metro Park.

Looking online, Carmen noticed St. Hilary had a 4 pm Mass on Saturdays. It was Friday and she wanted to check out the church and go there to pray. After she found the church, she noticed the school and pointed it out to her husband. It was 3 pm and the couple rang the bell at the entrance.

Debbie Sinopoli met with Carmen and Salvador, who soon realized St. Hilary was the right place for Arantxa. For Arantxa it was a dream come true. Carmen recalled, "Two years ago she said, 'Mommy I will go to the United States, and I will live there.' We felt so welcome, and Arantxa was so happy. I was expecting the

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day that she would tell me, ‘Mommy, I miss Mexico and my friends.’ But that day never came.

Serenity in Adoration

“I remember the first morning in our condo: My daughter was at school; my husband was at work, and I said, ‘OK Lord, what is next?’ I came to the beautiful chapel in St. Hilary. Before the Blessed Sacrament I realized this was the same Jesus that I knew forever, that He was there for me, and I felt at home.

“Of course my husband was doing his job, and for me it was kind of difficult because I used to work and do many things. Now, the parish is like an oasis for me again with God.

“I couldn’t stop my tears during the Easter Vigil where I witnessed the baptism of adults. Here Christ is still calling people to His Church, still working in the lives of His people. To me it was beautiful. This is awesome how God is working in the hearts of the people at St. Hilary, so I started thinking that I have to do something else,” she explained.

Reaching out to Latin families

As a result, Carmen and a fellow school mom began discerning how they could further live out their faith. Over time Carmen became acquainted with other Latin American families living in the Copley area. “I realized there was this community of Latin people of almost 40 families who have been relocated with their companies.”



Arantxa, Salvador, and Carmen visit Niagara Falls.

‘I like to place everything in God’s hands because that way, I may see His hands in everything.’

Randy Mallick invited me to Family Life and many things you have at the parish, and I started coming to them,” Carmen recalled.

One of those activities was Randy’s Thursday morning scripture study. “In Mexico, you are born and raised as a Catholic and you don’t ask many questions about your faith. It was so beautiful to see the authenticity of Catholics and how they are looking forward to growing in their faith,” Carmen noted. “I see the hand of God clearly.”

Answering the call to serve

Attending the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Hilary was a first for Carmen and her family, something not available at her parish in Mexico. The experience proved to be transforming, and Carmen was moved to find ways of serving others.

Carmen recognized that her experience placed her in the perfect position to reach out to others who shared her journey. “It’s different in Latin America—you just go to your local church.” Carmen saw that many of these families were attending a Christian church in their neighborhood, not knowing that St. Hilary existed.

“There are Latin women in our community who are strong in their faith, so we decided to start gathering to pray the rosary in Spanish.” Correcting herself, Carmen added, “But it wasn’t my idea—it was Christ’s. I invited them, and we just started.” The Spanish Rosary group meets in the Reservation Chapel after the 9:30 Mass on Tuesdays.

“When you move to a different country it’s easy to get comfortable

and not increase your faith. You have to spend time with Christ, giving and receiving,” Carmen explained.

“It is my hope to form a small Christian community from this group, sharing our roots, but also sharing our faith here at St. Hilary and getting them involved in the ministries the parish already has,” she concluded.

Share your story!

Has the Lord moved you from faith to action?

If so, we’d love to hear your story. Contact Marie Colaner, Stewardship Minister, at (330) 867-1055 or mcolaner@sthilarychurch.org.

Teen plants seeds of Christ's love through tutoring

The last year or so has brought a lot of change in Sarah Rickel's life. A junior at Revere High School, Sarah took classes in mathematics at the University of Akron through the Post Secondary Program. Sarah and her sister went through RCIA, and were confirmed at Pentecost. And she discovered what it meant to be an instrument of God as a volunteer tutor through Seeds of Change.

Sarah heard about St. Hilary's Seeds of Change at Mass, "but it didn't click for me until one day I was just thinking about how I could further be a good Catholic. For me, it's not just about going to church, but doing good deeds. I wanted to see if I could find a way to do good deeds that also went with my desire to be able to teach and help people learn."

'For me, it's not just about going to church, but doing good deeds.'

Sarah found the perfect match in Seeds of Change and Amani, a fourth grader at the Helen Arnold CLC. "We really bonded. Amani knows what she wants, knows her own mind, she's talented academically, very friendly, and everyone seems to like her. Spunky is the best way to describe her," she continued.

Led by the Holy Spirit

Through Seeds of Change volunteers serve whomever they feel drawn to—several different students or one in particular. After a couple of weeks, Amani latched onto Sarah and declared to the other students, "She's mine." In Sarah's eyes, however, "The Spirit led me to Amani."

According to Sarah, Amani didn't really need her academically. What she really needed was a big sister



Sarah Rickel meets with Amani at the Helen Arnold CLC for tutoring.

who cared about her as a person and would consistently be there for her emotionally. As big and little sisters, their relationship thrived.

While Amani benefited from Sarah's support, Sarah said she "learned how important it is to really help other people and how important a friendship and an emotional connection can be with someone else."

To Sarah, our job as Catholics is all about improving the lives of others. "We are not just trying to make other people Catholic, but make other people see God through us. The reason I was put with Amani, was to be there for her and show her that people care," she said.

Instrument in God's hands

She also found that her relationship with God grew, too. "I think it has brought me closer to the Lord because I understand now on a deeper level how important it is to do things for other people and how God does things for other people all the time. You don't think about the impact these little things may have. However, I experienced it first hand as a tool that God has used to impact Amani's life, in this case. As a result, I see how

important it is to follow what Christ did and to not have any prejudices."

Gift of giving

While Sarah experienced several touching moments with Amani, she recalled one that occurred the last day of tutoring. Sarah loves giving gifts, so it was natural to give one to her friend, Amani. Conscious that others would not receive such gifts, Sarah brought Amani to the school office to receive hers: A goodie bag with a stuffed rabbit, brightly decorated pencils and pencil sharpener, lip gloss, and Twizzlers.

"When I gave her the present you could tell she was looking down and thinking, 'What can I do?' So she reached into her pocket and pulled out the Hershey kiss that Mrs. Randall gave her and gave it to me. She gave me the only thing she had—the only thing she could give, and it just melted my heart. If there's any validation I needed for doing this and helping other people, that was it."

Interested in making a difference in the life of a child? Consider becoming a Seeds of Change tutor. Contact Julie Randall at (330) 665-4634 or julie62@neo.rr.com.

Transfer of school, transformation of life

**By Debbie Sinopoli,
Director of Marketing and
Admissions, St. Hilary School**

Offering comprehensive preparation for today's complex world, St. Hilary School is the choice of hundreds of families who believe in the school's Christ-centered mission to develop future leaders. This faith-based institution known for academic excellence and a focus on traditional family values enrolls close to 100 new students each year. As many of these students and their families transfer from other school settings, they often find themselves transformed for life by the move.

Welcoming with open arms

Enrolling in a new school can be a daunting experience for any child, but imagine coming into an environment where most of the students in the class have already been together for

eight years and trying to break into that social dynamic as a newcomer. That's the situation Zach Brown found himself in as a new eighth grader at St. Hilary School last fall when he transferred from a local public school. But not only did Zach fit in, he flourished.

Zach became involved in a host of activities ranging from sports to singing in the choir and everything in between. "Attending St. Hilary has been an excellent experience," said Zach. "The students and faculty welcomed me with open arms. I feel as if St. Hilary has helped better prepare me for high school than my previous school did. St. Hilary offers rigorous academic courses, nice learning facilities and great teachers."

Zach's father, Mike Brown, echoed Zach's positive assessment of the move to St. Hilary, saying simply, "I wish I would have enrolled him sooner."

Joining Zach as a new eighth grader last fall was Clara Krohn. Clara's family made a fast transfer to St. Hilary just before school started as her father accepted a new job and the family relocated from Pennsylvania. A busy girl who dabbles in just about everything, Clara immersed herself in school life, even sewing the costumes for the school's spring musical.

Clara observed a spirit of unity at the school, saying, "I feel like there are more school activities here than at my old school that really help the classes come together. And my old school had Masses only on the first Friday of the month. Weekly Masses at St. Hilary give students a greater sense of reassurance."

Clara also commented on several other attributes she has found appealing at St. Hilary. "There is definitely more diversity here than at my old school, and all of the students here have been very welcoming. The teachers try to incorporate real life into the curriculum, so the school has offered me guidance for the outside world," she said.

Nine new seventh graders enrolled at St. Hilary School last year. Among them were Jeffrey Olson, Lily Jaroch, and Audrey and Samantha Klippel. Jeffrey Olson's mom, Stephanie Wilkerson, shared that the move from another Catholic school was entirely positive. "Jeffrey has really thrived in the St. Hilary environment. All the faculty, students and parents have been welcoming, helpful and friendly. The transition to St. Hilary has truly been a blessing to our entire family," she said.

Lily Jaroch's mom, Leslie Jaroch, says Lily felt quickly at home in her new school. "The class sizes are much better than at her previous Catholic school, which gave Lily the



Clara Krohn and Zach Brown wasted no time getting involved as new eighth graders at St. Hilary School. They both received New Student Spirit of St. Hilary Awards for their extensive participation in school activities.

ability to have friends within different groups,” said Leslie. She adds, “The religious component is much more thorough, we love the use of iPads, and we feel Lily will generally be better prepared for high school because of St. Hilary. We were very happy with the smoothness of the transition, and are so happy we switched!”

Twins Audrey and Samantha Klippel generated questions from friends and family when they moved to St. Hilary last fall. Said their mother, Kim Klippel, “We were asked many times why we transferred to St. Hilary. The kids had great grades, lots of friends, and positive experiences all around at their public school. But my husband and I felt that the middle school years can be pretty rough and we wanted the kids to have a faith-based education during these years. Our public school offers a great education, but it is not able to encourage and participate in the development of their character as St. Hilary does.”

Fostering love for learning

In the younger grades, new students and their families are benefiting from their transformative transfers to St. Hilary School, as well. Selene and Stefaan Alnemr enrolled in the school’s first and fourth grade classes after attending a local public school. Andrea Alnemr, the children’s mom, said, “The kids love how caring and helpful the teachers are, and how they are challenged due to the quality education. They love going to weekly Mass with their class!”

Sia and Sehar Mahesh were new in the school’s second and fourth grade classes, having transferred from an area Catholic school. Their mother, Shefali Mahesh, said their family has been very happy with the change. “Our girls have had a wonderful experience,” she explained. “We were looking for more of an academic challenge when we made the switch and we could not be more pleased.

The focus on education is evident; yet, the girls are having fun. At this age, it is imperative that the love for learning is fostered, and that’s what we found at St. Hilary.”



Sia and Sehar Mahesh transferred from another Catholic school and never looked back.

Coming all the way from Mexico was Arantxa Larrauri-Gonzalez, who joined the school’s third grade class in late September when her family relocated due to a job shift. Arantxa’s mother, Carmen Gonzalez, shared, “Coming to a new school from a different country is a big challenge. As a parent, you want to find as many favorable conditions as possible to trust the education of your child. My daughter has come home every single day feeling happy about her school, friends and teachers.

“Guiding all of the school’s activities are values and respect; but above these, the school knows how to plant the seed of the faith in the children’s hearts. I also like the way St. Hilary School develops the academic program so the kids may commit themselves to their education and grow their passion for the different subjects. We are so happy with St. Hilary School.”

Finding a new home

Sometimes families are so drawn to St. Hilary School when they visit that they feel the need to make an immediate change. Not originally from the Akron area, Davene and Patrick Garvey felt called to explore school options other than the local Catholic school their son Patrick had been attending. They visited St. Hilary School in December with an eye toward enrollment this fall.

But as Davene explained, “When we toured St. Hilary, it was love at first sight! We decided shortly after our December visit to transfer Patrick to the school’s fifth grade in January. For Christmas, we wrapped his admission acceptance letter with a Saber t-shirt and gave it to him, and he was ecstatic.

“It has been the best decision that our family has made all year! We can’t believe the amount of joy and love that we feel when we walk into St. Hilary—for or God, for learning, for the good of the children.

“Everyone here seems to put 110% into everything they touch. There is always an extra boost of something special, it seems. No one does the bare minimum here. From the homemade food in the cafeteria to the broad range of extracurricular programs to the STEM project-based learning and the fine arts—St. Hilary is a very special place.

“We have found our new home at the school and in the church. Even our Catholic faith has had a rebirth, and it is a great feeling of comfort,” Davene concluded.

If you would like your child and your family to experience the benefits of a St. Hilary School education, now is the perfect time to begin exploring all that the school has to offer. Call 330-867-8720, ext. 343 to schedule a personal tour or shadow day.

Spiritual Opportunities to grow in faith.



Family Spirituality

Feast of St. Francis Pet Blessing

Bring your pet to the Good Shepherd Patio for a special blessing in honor of St. Francis.

Saturday, October 7, 11:00 am.

Rosary Workshop

Always wanted to learn to pray the Rosary or just learn more about this special Catholic devotion? Join us for lunch and an opportunity to make your own rosary. Perfect for families and adults of all ages. The event is free, but pre-registration is required. **Sunday, October 8, Noon-2:00 pm.**

Annual Parish Rosary Rally

Join us as we pray the Rosary in public, together with thousands of parishes across the county. We will gather outside the W. Market St. entrance of the church. Rosaries and instructions will be available. Continental breakfast to follow. All ages are encouraged to participate! **Saturday, October 14, 9:00-10:00 am.**

Advent Wreath Workshop

Families, singles and couples of all ages are welcome to join us for lunch and the opportunity to make your own Advent wreath while learning about ways to celebrate the season at home and in the parish. The event is free, but pre-registration is required. **Sunday, November 19, Noon-2:00 pm.**

Celebrating Lenten Saints

Join us after all morning Masses for a special Lenten version of our traditional Coffee & Donuts. Learn about St. Joseph and St. Patrick while enjoying a Hot Pretzel!
Sunday, March 18.

Faith Formation

Catholicism 101: Catholic Devotions

The Catholic faith is full of mysteries—apparitions, angels, and saints, to mention just a few. Join Fr. Steve Brunovsky for a deeper understanding of devotions and prayer forms unique to our Catholic faith, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and delicious wine.

Fridays, October 13 & November 17, 6:30 pm.

Please bring a salad, hors d'oeuvre, or dessert to share. We provide the wine!

INCREDIBLE JOURNEY BIBLE STUDIES

Don't miss these rich opportunities to grow in faith and spirituality with top-notch modern scholars while enjoying fellowship and community with other parishioners. **Course descriptions can be found on the parish website at www.sthilarychurch.org/ministries/faith-formation.**

To register, contact: Randy Malick, (330) 867-1055, ext. 209 or rmalick@sthilarychurch.org.

Evangelization and the Acts of the Apostles

Mondays, September 18-November 20, 6:30-8:30 pm

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John

Thursdays, September 18-November 16, 9:15-11:15 am. Mondays, March 12-May 7, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. (no class March 26 or April 2)

Wild Goose

Mondays, January 8-March 5, 6:30-8:30 pm (no class January 15 or February 19)

LECTIO: Peter

Unveiling Scripture and Tradition. **Thursdays, January 4-March 8, 9:15-11:15 am.**

Praise & Worship

Weekday Morning Rosary

Pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet with fellow parishioners in the Reservation Chapel,

Monday-Friday, 8:35-9:10 am.

Pray the Rosary in Spanish, **Tuesdays** following the 9:30 am Mass in the Reservation Chapel.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Honor the Trinity through song, prayer, Scripture sharing and exercising the charisms given to you by the Holy Spirit. **Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 pm.** All ages welcome. Contact: James McGuire, (330) 612-5969 or rehabed@integrity.com.

Eucharistic Adoration

All are invited and encouraged to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. **Every Wednesday, 7:30 am-7:00 pm** in the Church.

Interfaith Silent Meditation

This group transcends faith boundaries by offering the opportunity for people of all faiths to practice this silent form of prayer. Instructions are provided. **Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30 pm.** Contact: James Klejka, (330) 665-1244 or jpkmd@roadrunner.com.

XLT! (Exalt)

All are invited to an evening of Adoration, praise, and worship in this life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ. All ages welcome! Upcoming dates: **November 19, February 11, and April 15** at 7:00 pm. A free fellowship meal will be served from 6:30-7:00 pm. .

Fellowship

Companions on a Journey Grief Support

The death of a loved one can begin a journey we did not choose to take but, when shared with others, can often help us heal and grow. **The Companion series is offered throughout the year** and is open to everyone. **“Going Forward” is a monthly support group** for those whose ‘new normal’ is making sense but are still in need of continued educational and social support. Contact: Beth Rado, (330) 867-1055, ext. 206 or brado@sthilarychurch.org.

Family Life Mom’s Group

This Small Christian Community of moms of all ages meets for prayer, faith sharing, and study. In addition, a few service and social activities are planned throughout the year. Bring along pre-school aged children for a supervised “playdate” with our Virtus certified babysitter. Mothers with infants are also welcome. **Mondays, 9:30-11:30 am, September-May (except school holidays and the last Monday of the month).** Contact: Joya Hart, (330) 256-6111 or joyajhart@gmail.com.

Men’s Group

Men of all ages are invited to focus on life skills for living in the modern world as a Catholic man, with unconditional acceptance and prayerful group support. Meetings begin with 7:00 am Mass, followed by a presentation and group discussion. **2nd Saturday of the month, 7:00-8:30 am.** Contact: RJ Bradner, rjbradner@yahoo.com or the Parish Office, (330) 867-1055.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Come together to pray while knitting or crocheting shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets for those in need of hope and healing. You can also participate in this ministry from home. Always wanted to learn how to knit or crochet? Instruction is provided! **1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10:00 am-Noon.** Contact: Julie Slattery, (330) 962-3671.

Small Christian Communities

Looking to have meaningful conversations and form lasting friendships? Interested in growing in faith with your peers? Consider becoming part of a small faith sharing group. New groups are always forming and we’d be happy to get you connected. Our Small Christian Communities of 8 to 12 parishioners gather to pray, share life experiences, and be a source of support to one another. Contact: Jody Geary, (330) 665-2363 or jody.geary@outlook.com.

Young Adult Ministry

This ministry is for young adults who are in or out of college, who want to get to know fellow Christians who are going through the same joys and struggles that they are, and have meaningful discussions about faith. Our events offer social interaction, spiritual development, and service opportunities. Open to all young adults ages 18-35. Contact: Fr. Matt Jordan, (330) 867-1055, ext. 207 or mjordan@sthilarychurch.org.

Retreats

Christ Renews His Parish Men’s Retreat

This is a great opportunity for men 18 and older to join us at the Loyola Retreat House for two days around the “fire of faith,” to be renewed spiritually and challenged to deeper growth as friends of Christ, as husbands, fathers, workers –wherever we find ourselves in this world. Meals and accommodations provided. A free will offering will be taken to defray costs. **November 11-12, 2017.** Contact: Randy Malick, (330) 867-1055, ext. 209 or rmalick@sthilarychurch.org.

Christ Renews His Parish Women’s Retreat

Strengthen your relationship with Jesus by joining other faith-filled women at the Loyola Retreat House for a weekend of prayer, shared experiences and budding friendships. Meals and accommodations provided. A free will offering will be taken to defray costs. **April 14-15, 2018.** Contact: Beth Rado, (330)867-1055, ext. 206 or brado@sthilarychurch.org.

Faith Alive!

Fr. Norm Douglas will help you discover new ways to become more mindful of and consistent in living your Christian core values on a daily basis. Open to all men and women, 18 and older. **Faith Alive Talks: Thursdays, September 21 and November 16, 7:00-9:00 pm. Faith Alive Retreat: March 9-10.** Contact: Jim Kilcoyne, (330) 929-7431 or jimkilcoyne@aol.com.

Journey Women

All women are invited to gather for prayer, fellowship, reflection and relaxation in the Spiritual Center Lower Level on the **5th Monday of the month, 9:30 am-2:00 pm.** Upcoming dates: **October 30, January 29 & April 30, 2019.** RSVP is requested. Contact: Beth Rado, (330)867-1055, ext. 206 or brado@sthilarychurch.org.

Children & Teens

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

This Montessori-based pre-school program for 3-6 year olds uses hands-on materials based on Sacred Scripture and the Liturgy to engage children and encourage them to develop deep, lifelong relationships with Christ and His Church. **Thursdays during the school year, 9:30-11:30 am.** Contact: Jeannie Hohlefelder, (330) 867-1055, ext. 213 or jhohlefelder@sthilarychurch.org.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word invites preschoolers (3-5 years old) and children in Kindergarten through 3rd grade to follow our Catechist to the meeting rooms after the opening prayer to experience the Liturgy of the Word in a manner they can understand and embrace. Parents are always welcome to attend, **Sundays during 9:00 and 11:00 am Mass.** Contact: (Pre-school) Jeannie Hohlefelder, (330) 867-1055, ext. 213 or jhohlefelder@sthilarychurch.org; (K-3) Marie Colaner, (330) 867-1055, ext. 217 or mcolaner@sthilarychurch.org.

Junior Ambassadors for Life

All 8th grade students are invited to join this fun, interactive, and thought-provoking Pro-Life organization, which looks at both sides of the debate on abortion, capital punishment, and euthanasia in conjunction with what the Catholic Church teaches about each issue. Adult volunteers are also welcome. **One to two Sundays per month, October-March, 10:00 am-Noon.** Contact: Jeannie Hohlefelder, (330) 867-1055, ext. 213 or jhohlefelder@sthilarychurch.org.

EDGE Jr. High Youth Ministry (Grades 7-8)

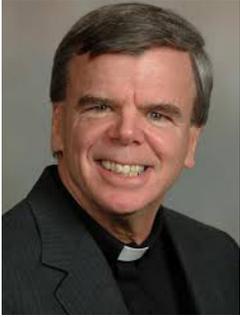
Jr. High parishioners and their friends meet twice a month during the school year to pray together, discuss topics relevant to teens, and form friendships. The EDGE program focuses on helping teens develop a personal relationship with Christ by reaching out to one another and the wider community. Contact: Fr. Matt Jordan, 330-867-1055, ext. 207 or mjordan@sthilarychurch.org.

LIFE TEEN High School Youth Ministry

High School parishioners and their friends gather for a Life Night of prayer, discussion, and fellowship on Sunday evenings. In addition, our Youth Ministry offers outings such as Retreats and Mission Trips. Members are also encouraged to participate as lectors, ushers, servers, and Eucharistic Ministers during the 5:30 pm Mass. Contact: Fr. Matt Jordan, 330-867-1055, ext. 207 or mjordan@sthilarychurch.org.

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Thursday, September 21
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Gathering Area

Free & Open to All

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Life in the Spirit Seminar

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Saturday September 30 • 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

Inspirational Guest Speakers
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Reconciliation, and Mass
Free and open to all!*

Registration before September 22 is appreciated
Email: LISSAkron@gmail.com or call: 330-864-6682

*Love offerings are welcome

*"The Holy Spirit transforms us and renews us,
creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for mission."
– Pope Francis*



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The newsletter of St. Hilary Parish

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We welcome your feedback!
Contact Anna G. Hall, writer
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