

Transformed!

The Good News at St. Hilary Parish

December/January 2022



Welcoming back the Gaudete Sunday Prayer Service

During one Sunday in Advent, amidst the hectic preparations of Christmas, the fasting, and prayer, there is a respite of joy. There is a day to rejoice, in Latin, *gaudete*. Like Laetare Sunday in Lent, Gaudete Sunday marks the halfway point in Advent.

The call to rejoice on Gaudete Sunday actually comes from the introit, which is taken from Scripture and read as the priest enters for Mass, explained Dave Dettloff, St. Hilary's Director of Liturgy and Music. After a year of quarantine due to COVID-19, Gaudete Sunday is especially sweet for Dave and the members of the Traditional Choir.

It is the day they will present The Gaudete Sunday Evening Prayer Service, an event they present each year filled with Scripture, song, prayer and liturgical dance. This year, however, they will be sharing it live with parishioners as it was always intended.

Anticipating that they might be forced to quarantine again due to the Delta variant, the group began their preparations even earlier than usual. "Normally, the music is chosen in the summer and rehearsal begins right away in the fall. This time the choir came back early and began Christmas music—in the summer with the green light to sing, but

anticipating red. By October they had a recording of the whole thing if it happened to be online.

"We have been blessed! We were not forced to stop; sickness has not plagued us. We will joyfully sing until they ask us not to," Dave said.

"We try to bring in joy and anticipation through the music. You get to hear your favorite readings. For the folks who come, it's an opportunity to participate in the prayer and songs—it's not always listening.

"The liturgical dancers will be dancing to a piece called 'There is

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Faint Music.’ They do a wonderful job of interpreting and portraying the beauty of the music through their dance,” Dave added. This year’s prayer service includes not only the choir and Scripture readings, but a small orchestra of strings, woodwind, and brass instruments.

“The group loves to sing together and share their music with the people in the church, especially this year. It’s like Teresa of the Little Flower, you appreciate the little things you often take for granted,” said Dave.

Mark Koenig, a member of the traditional choir, had this to say about his experience: “In Latin, ‘Gaudete in Domino semper’ means ‘Rejoice in the Lord always.’ Singing in the choir and participating in the Gaudete Sunday event heightens my anticipation of the coming celebration of Christmas. It is a marker, moving the season forward to its joyful ending.

“I know that singing for me refreshes my faith, moves me forward, even when the darkness of the temporal season feels to be closing in with its

long nights and short days. Gaudete Sunday reminds me to ‘rejoice in the Lord always,’ putting aside the external environment, relying on faith and with it the knowledge of better things to come, ultimately His salvation.

“Through the beautiful music we sing, my hope is to move, inspire, ignite and strengthen others to rejoice, knowing we are soon to make the transition from the penitent season of Advent to the joyful season of Christ’s birth,” said Mark.



Join us!

As you look forward to the coming of Christmas, mark your calendar to attend this special event on **December 12 at 7 p.m. in the church.** This event will also be live-streamed at sthilarychurch.org/live.

Domestic Church: *Passing on the faith*

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always until the end of the age."

Empowered by these words of Christ, parents are their children's first teachers and "heralds of the faith," according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This role begins after baptism; thus, the family is considered the Domestic Church.

In a video newsletter for parents of baptized children, Pastor Steve Brunovsky explains, "You as parents, we are told from Catholic teaching, are the first and best teachers of your children in the way of the faith. And we are happy to partner with you as you transfer that wonderful gift of faith to your sons and daughters. We will do that once they are registered for the day school or PSR and begin the sacramental preparation."

"But these early years are so very important. Think about how you will be passing on the faith by teaching them how to pray at a young age. Get yourself a collection of My First Bible or other beautiful stories on how to participate in the Mass."

Fr. Steve added, "Your child's formation in faith begins immediately! The domestic Church is the church of the home. Have you thought of your home as a Church—but it is! When you come to St. Hilary, you gather around the table of the altar and the Word. What about your kitchen table? It is at the kitchen table that your children will first glean from you who God is, how they are loved by God, and forgiven by God. Only after they get that foundation will those

lessons continue to be learned in the wider church."

To help parents of young children, Jeannie Hohlefelder, Director of Faith Formation for Children, and the St. Hilary Evangelization Committee produce an online newsletter called Getting Your Kids to Heaven. It features columns such as *Intentional Living* by Beth Rado and *Dad's Corner* by Don Allen of Evangelization Committee. The most recent issue includes a video on sacramentals and the saints by Fr. Cameron Popik. It also contains resources for parents.



Through the parish website, parents also have access to a Catholic online library, formed.org, which provides myriad materials for building one's faith. They will also find several videos specifically for children of varying ages on topics such as Life of Jesus, the saints, and living a joy-filled Christian life.

Doing activities together to celebrate church seasons and feast days are great ways to connect children to their faith. An ancient tradition in the Church, for example, is the blessing of the home to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, January 6. The Feast of Epiphany commemorates the time when three magi were among the first to whom Jesus' divinity was revealed when they visited the Holy Family. Families will receive blessed chalk and holy water in an Epiphany Blessing Kit on Sunday, January 2.

Epiphany Blessing Ritual

ALL: Make the sign of the cross.

Head of the Household: "Peace be to this house and to all who dwell there, in the name of the Lord."

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

Reader: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him, and without Him, nothing came to be...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

Using blessed chalk, write 20+C+M+B+22 above or on the molding over the main door or next to the entrance. The numbers stand for the current year and C, M, and B stands for "May Christ Bless this house" as well as the initials of the three magi, Casper, Melchior and Balthasar.

The family then goes through various rooms of the house sprinkling holy water as the following is read.

Head of Household: Bless, O Lord, Almighty God, this home so that in it there may be health, chastity, victorious strength, humility, goodness and mildness, obedience to God's laws, and acts of thanks to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and may this Blessing remain upon this house and upon all who dwell in it. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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If you are in need of resources or have questions on how to connect your children to the life of faith, contact Jeannie Hohlefelder, Director of Faith Formation for Children, in the parish office, 330-867-1055, ext. 213 or jhohlefelder@sthilarychurch.org.



St. Hilary School Alumni: Coming Back Home

There's something special about St. Hilary School. Once people pass through its halls, they find it very difficult to truly leave. They may venture out for a bit, but always tend to come back to the school they call home in one way or another. Currently, the school administration, faculty and staff includes 14 members who are St. Hilary School alumni, including Principal Jennifer (Conti) Woodman and Assistant Principal Darcy (Riley) Alexander. What's more, Jennifer Woodman's two sons, third grader Salvatore and kindergartener Santino, now both attend the school as well, following in their mother's footsteps as part of a strong trend in school enrollment. In fact, a recent survey of current school parents indicates that more than ten percent of this year's enrolled school families are headed by parents who are St. Hilary School alumni.

Not Always a "Given"

While alumni families are present throughout the school, this year's kindergarten class includes several students who are children of alumni parents. For some, there was no question that the St. Hilary School tradition would continue in the family. SHS alumnus T.J. Wolski and his wife Michelle were sold on the school without question for their son Grant, a current kindergartener, and younger sons Holden and Pierce. "It was going to be tough to convince us otherwise!" T.J. shares. "The school and parish have always made us feel like part of a big family." The opportunity to enroll the boys in an atmosphere where many of T.J.'s former schoolmates are now part of the school staff or fellow school parents was also appealing.

Perhaps a greater testament to the pull of the school for alumni parents

The Walter Family, left to right:
Madelyn, Cory, Kristen, Max, and Mia



is the fact that even if enrollment is not necessarily automatic, after exploring options, many still opt to have their own children attend their alma mater. SHS alumnus Andy Pullekens, who, along with his wife Mandy, enrolled twins Jordan and Jude in this year's kindergarten, said, "Although I had a wonderful experience at St. Hilary, it wasn't always a 'given' that our children would attend. My wife and I wanted to find the best fit for our kids. However, after doing much research, we quickly knew St. Hilary was the all-around best choice." SHS alumna Kristen Walter, whose daughter Mia is enrolled in kindergarten this year, agrees that enrolling Mia, and eventually younger siblings Madelyn and Max, was not guaranteed. She shares, "My husband, Cory, also grew up attending a Catholic elementary school and this was something that was important to both of us for our children. When

it came time to decide on a school for our oldest child, Mia, to attend kindergarten, St. Hilary checked all of the important boxes on our list for an outstanding elementary education."

Just the Right Fit

There is no one particular reason that draws alumni parents to enroll their children. Instead, many factors play into the decision. Ultimately, the common theme seems to be that the same excellent faith-based, nurturing education they experienced decades ago remains available to their children today. For the Walter family, Kristen notes, "Some of the attributes that led us to enroll Mia include faith being at the core of the curriculum, the rigorous academic structure, the use of up-to-date technology in the classroom, the dedicated faculty and staff, and the strong sense of community that surrounds the school and parish." Recalling her days at the school and

comparing to the present, Kristen adds, “St. Hilary feels very much the same in regard to its welcoming nature, challenging curriculum, and numerous opportunities for students and parents to become involved.” Andy Pullekens echoes these thoughts for his family and elaborates, “I believe the core values and exceptional academics have remained constant over the years. St. Hilary really offers the total package. We know our children will receive an outstanding education in a diverse learning environment that also emphasizes religion and spirituality.”

T.J. Wolski and his family appreciate that “the school has always placed a premium on the kids and families being seen as unique, and deserving care specific to their needs.” He continues, “Before Grant started this year, we had conversations with current families who made it clear that this was still the case, and we have experienced the same in our short time back at the school. We take such pride in being a St. Hilary family. The school has experienced so much growth and evolution over the past 20-30 years, while still maintaining the loving and inviting family atmosphere, and we can’t wait for our boys to experience that love for themselves!”

A Complete Package - Then & Now

The world is a much different place than it was when our alumni parents attended school. Now more than ever, parents need a stable educational institution on which they can rely to assist in developing their children as productive, principled

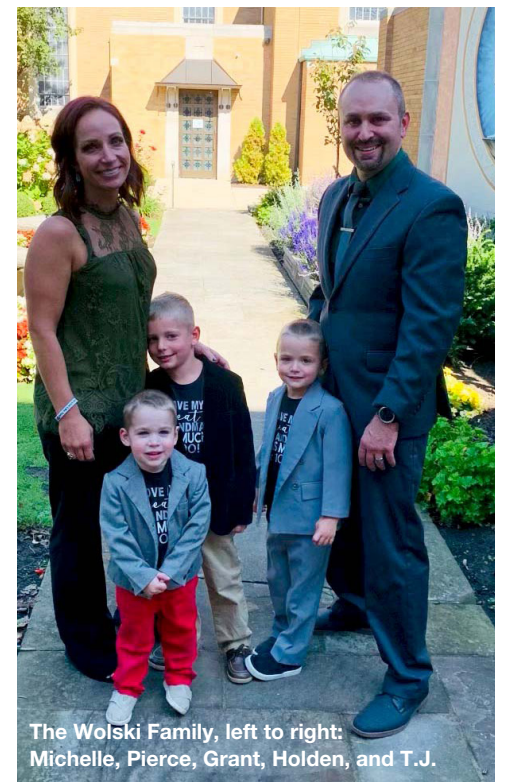
citizens of our world. As our alumni parents state, St. Hilary School meets all of these criteria and more. The faculty and staff at St. Hilary School are dedicated to ensuring that each child becomes the best person he or she can be. For more than six decades, the commonality of values among teachers, staff, parents, and students has made it effortless to reinforce at school what is taught at home. Shared morals are key to the school’s culture, and weekly school Masses and other special services help students to grow as faith-filled individuals.

A two-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon award for excellence in education, St. Hilary School has been a beacon of excellence among schools in the area since 1960. The school continues to raise the bar by masterfully blending traditional core values with innovative teaching methods and cutting-edge programs. Differentiated instruction allows all types of learners to thrive at St. Hilary School. The school is a Jon Peterson Scholarship provider and Autism Scholarship provider, as well. Annually, 98% of graduating eighth graders continue their education at one of the area’s Catholic high schools.

While much is new at the school, much remains unchanged. This ideal blend of contemporary innovation and time-honored tradition has made the school the perfect choice for thousands of families, and makes it the perfect choice for thousands more to come. Built on a foundation of excellence, the future begins here.



The Pullekens Family, left to right: Jordan, Mandy, Andy, and Jude



The Wolski Family, left to right: Michelle, Pierce, Grant, Holden, and T.J.

Explore the School

If you would like your child and your family to experience the benefits of a St. Hilary School education, now is the ideal time to begin exploring all that the school has to offer. The school will host its popular Kindergarten Kaleidoscope program for prospective 2022-2023 kindergarteners and their parents on January 13, 2022 from 9-11 a.m. RSVP by December 30, 2021 to attend. An Open House on January 30, 2022 from 12-2 p.m. is open to all. Stop by to tour the school, visit classrooms and meet teachers. New Student Registration for 2022-2023 will begin online at www.st-hilaryschool.org on February 7, 2022.

For more information or to RSVP for Kindergarten Kaleidoscope, please contact Debbie Sinopoli, Director of Marketing & Admissions, at 330-867-8720, ext. 343 or dsinopoli@st-hilary.org.

Healing Waters brings fullness in Christ

He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor...to bring liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Luke 4:18

In Luke's gospel, Jesus announces his fulfillment of Isaiah's words to his listeners in the synagogue. This Scripture passage is the mission statement of St. Hilary's new Healing Waters Ministry whose aim is twofold—to bring healing to the sick and to families and freedom for those whose relationship with Jesus and God, the Father is blocked by repetitive sins, woundedness, and unforgiveness.

Freedom in Christ

Ministry Leader Evans Cottman sees healing and freedom in Christ as two sides of the same coin, which is why both are contained in the same ministry. His efforts have culminated in the parish forming a ministry based on the Unbound model, developed by nationally known Catholic author and presenter Neal Lozano.

'Profound healing happens when a parishioner takes part in an Unbound session and experiences the healing mercies of Jesus and profound love of the Father.'

In addition to Evans, the St. Hilary Healing Waters Ministry core team includes Fr. Cameron Popick as Spiritual Director, Randy Malick as Staff Liaison, with support from Rosanne Rohana, Connie Roulett, Bernie and Jody Geary, and Mary Anne Sarlouis.

With Pastor Steve Brunovsky's full support, the parish started a monthly 7:30 p.m. First Friday Healing Rosary with individual healing prayer afterward. Next came two book studies with *Abba's Heart* and *Unbound: A Practical Guide to*

Deliverance, both by Neal Lozano. The term deliverance as used by Lozano, Evans explained, actually "means to be set free, as receiving the freedom Jesus promises in the Gospel."

The ministry blossomed from the two book studies. The parish then started an Unbound Ministry based on Lozano's deliverance prayer model. "To launch the ministry, we needed to recruit participants. We held orientation and training sessions in the summer and fall to prepare them to facilitate the ministry," said Evans. To date there are 25 parishioners who have taken part in personal Unbound sessions, therefore meeting parish mission to "transform lives for Jesus Christ."

Evans said, "Profound healing happens when a parishioner takes part in an Unbound session and experiences the healing mercies of Jesus and profound love of the Father." The Unbound session is a gentle, prayer-filled approach that releases a person from the burden of lies they believe about themselves, pain of trauma, repetitive sin, and other areas of negative influence that block their being free to receive the Father's love. As a result, one has a deeper relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Experience healing grace

According to Fr. Steve, "The Unbound Ministry provides an opportunity for parishioners to address areas in their life that need the healing grace of Christ. This could be in the areas of painful past experiences, persistent sin, broken relationships, harmful habits, or flawed patterns of thinking. Following the simple Unbound formula with trained facilitators is a great way to discern the areas of needed healing and conversion. The Unbound process could also be a

second step after the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or lead to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we encounter Christ and His healing grace."

Attend the conference

Taking the next step in development of the Healing Waters Ministry, St. Hilary will host The Unbound Conference on January 22 with presenter Matt Lozano, son of Neal Lozano. The conference presents the five keys to freedom in Christ: repentance and faith, forgiveness, renunciation, authority, and experiencing the Father's blessing. The cost is \$50 and includes continental breakfast, snack, and lunch. Register through the parish website at sthilarychurch.org/healing2022.

To kick off the conference, there will be a healing Mass the evening before at 7 p.m. in the Church. All are welcome.

Are you looking for a way to renew your faith or to experience the fullness of Christ's grace? Consider scheduling an Unbound session through the Healing Waters Ministry. For more information, visit the parish website or contact Evans Cottman at sthilaryhealingwaters@gmail.com or 234-303-1254.



Evans Cottman



St. Hilary's **Healing Waters** Ministry presents

A Weekend of Healing

MASS & HEALING PRAYER

Friday, January 21, 2022, 7pm - 9pm

St. Hilary, Main Church

Fr. Jacob Bearer, Celebrant

Healing Prayer by Peter's Shadow

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

No Registration Required. Free Will Offering



UNBOUND: FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 9am - 5pm

St. Hilary, Horning Hall

Registration Required

\$50, Pastry, Lunch, Snacks Included

Check-In at 8:30am

Register today - limited seating!
<http://StHilaryChurch.org/healing2022>



Questions?

E-mail: StHilaryHealingWaters@gmail.com



Led by Matt Lozano,
Coauthor of *Unbound
Ministry Guidebook* and
Abba's Heart.



*Unbound is a simple,
gentle, & powerful
prayer ministry where
you will learn how to
claim the freedom
that Jesus Christ
promised.*



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Transforming Lives for Jesus Christ

Advent & Christmas

Advent Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22 at 7 p.m. in the church

Communal Reconciliation

Tuesday, November 30 at 7 p.m.
at Guardian Angels Church

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Masses at the following times:
Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 8 at 7 a.m.,
9:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.

Gaudete Sunday Concert

Sunday, December 12 at 7 p.m. in the church

Christmas Eve Masses

Friday, December 24
4 p.m.*, 4:30 p.m. (Horning Hall), 6 p.m., and 10 p.m.*

Christmas Day Masses

Saturday, December 25
9 a.m.* and 11 a.m.*

*Live-streamed at sthilarychurch.org/live

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