

Improving Facilities Holy Cross Mission: Open House

Holy Cross Mission is our sister church located on Saint Helena Island, about fifteen minutes from Saint Peter's, at 83 Seaside Road. During the lockdown, our maintenance team worked a complete transformation.

We now have pews, new lighting and ceilings, improved insulation, better air-conditioning, a new confessional, and a modest social hall, which parishioners have already named "Mission Hall."

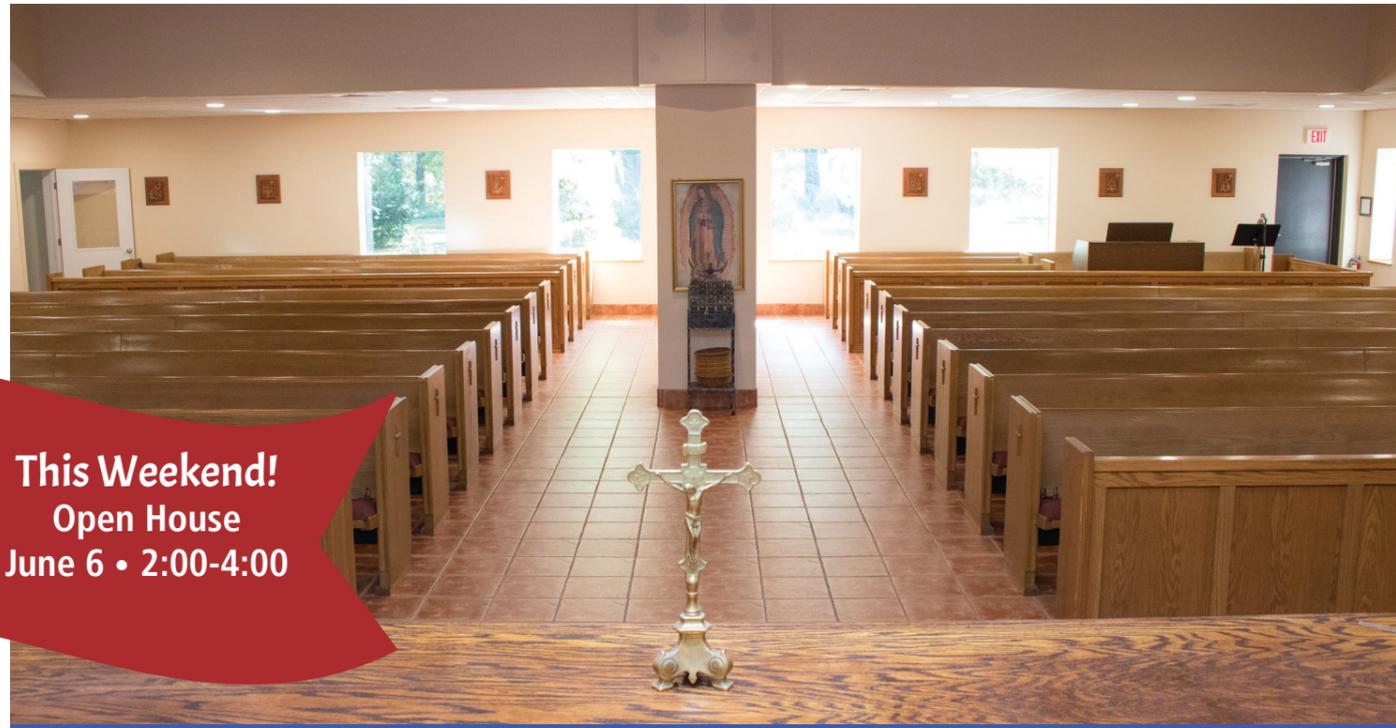
Please come and see for yourself at our upcoming **open house** on **Sunday, June 6** from 2:00 to 4:00. Our parish council will lead a discussion at 3:00 to brainstorm together our next steps at Holy Cross.



The view of "Mission Hall" as you first enter the building. A new window looks into the church, giving parents a place to take their children if needed.



The view as you enter the church itself. We were able to get refurbished pews and new kneelers. Our team created the "modesty rails" in the front of each section of pews.



This Weekend!
Open House
June 6 • 2:00-4:00

Looking from the altar, one sees the big difference! In the back left corner, a door opens to the new, larger confessional, with windows in accord with safe environment protocols.

In the back right section of pews, we have made a choir area with space for the organ and a cantor. We look forward to again celebrating one of our Masses out there each weekend!

A Light for Beaufort

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Newsletter | Spring 2021

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Coming Together Again

It has been wonderful to see so many of you coming back to Mass again! As life begins to return to normal, we look forward to joyful worship as a parish family around the altar!

Our parish staff and our ministry teams have been working hard to continue serving you throughout these difficult months. With hard work and creativity, we have been blessed to continue to minister to you and live out our mission as a parish.

In many ways, we are emerging from this pandemic stronger as a parish family and better equipped to serve you.

I am so grateful to all of you who have been pitching in and working behind the scenes during this time. We could not have kept everything going without your hard work and sacrifices!

And thank you for your ongoing generosity! Your sacrificial giving enabled us to keep all of our staff employed and serving you.

In this newsletter, you will see some of the beautiful ways that God has been blessing us during these times, and enabling us to bear fruit as a light for Beaufort.

Father Andrew



Save the Date!
Parish Picnic
June 26 • 12:00-4:00



Feeding the Hungry



Stories of Grace



Holy Cross Mission

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SAINT PETER'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
70 Lady's Island Drive, Beaufort, SC 29907

Forming Disciples



Despite the challenges of the past year, we have worked hard to offer you many opportunities to grow as faith-filled disciples of Jesus.

On the left, you can see many of the faith formation opportunities that we continued to offer throughout this year. For most of them, we offered ways to participate both virtually and in-person.

Our small faith groups have been especially fruitful and helpful during this time of isolation. During Lent, we were blessed to have 130 people participating in sixteen small groups, and we now have fifteen people training to be additional small group leaders for next fall.



Family Formation

Instead of teaching the children in different classrooms, we transitioned this year to family formation. The children and parents participated together in the Walsh Palmetto Room, sitting as a family. It was so fruitful and enjoyable for the families that we plan to continue this model next year.

Sharing the Faith

In a year when most parishes in our diocese only had two or three catechumen and candidates, we were blessed to have twenty people who became Catholic or received sacraments at the Easter Vigil!

The stories of the three participants pictured here are great examples of our parish efforts starting to bear fruit.

Richard and Ernestine ("Ernie") Wood were golf buddies with our parishioners, Adrienne and Dennis Bell. Ernie was raised Lutheran, while Richard was baptized Catholic but not raised in the faith. They were both spiritually seeking, and Richard had begun reading our faith articles in the newspaper.

Over golf, Richard asked Dennis about the faith articles, and in the conversation that ensued Dennis invited the two of them to the small faith group that Adrienne and Dennis were hosting in their home.

Richard and Ernie accepted this invitation, and as they read Scripture together and began to get to know the others in the group, they started to become interested in exploring the Catholic faith. Adrienne and Dennis eventually invited them to RCIA and offered to attend the sessions with them.

Richard and Ernie had a beautiful journey of faith over the past year, and they felt that God was calling them to begin living out the Catholic faith. At the Easter Vigil, they both received their first Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Susan Brooks, pictured on the right, had been spiritually searching for a long time. She had tried different churches, but she could never quite find what she was hungry for.



Richard and Ernie Wood, and Susan Brooks

When she saw one of our faith articles in the newspaper, she was moved and began cutting them out each week. She had always thought that the Catholic Church was kind of mysterious and not for her, but the more she read, the more she was attracted to learn more. When she saw our RCIA sessions advertised in the paper, she decided it was time to take a leap of faith and come see what the Catholic faith was all about.

Like Richard and Ernie, Susan has had a beautiful journey of faith this year. Ever since the first RCIA session, she knew that she was in the right place. She was hearing the truth that she was hungry for. She became Catholic at the Easter Vigil, and she is so excited to be part of our Catholic family!

Susan says that becoming Catholic has changed her life. She shares, "I now have a happiness that I didn't have before, and that I didn't even realize I was missing until I had it!" She has finally found what she was searching for.

These stories have happened because of your generosity, sacrifices, and prayers, which enable us to evangelize in the community and form amazing small group leaders like Adrienne and Denny.

Serving Those in Need

During this time of pandemic, we continued to tithe 5% of our weekly collection to support those in need in our area, as well as 5% to share the faith.

The Saint Francis Center is one of the many local organizations that we support through our tithes. Our monthly gift helps the sisters in their mission to serve the needy on Saint Helena Island. We collected groceries for their food bank, and we have purchased a trailer to be used for monthly food drives. We are working to partner with three nearby churches so that food can be collected in the trailer every weekend of the month.



This is a rendering of the trailer design. We will soon begin a monthly food drive at Saint Peter's for the Saint Francis Center.

Outreach Center: First Steps

We have begun to lease part of the insurance building next to Saint Peter's, as the first step towards beginning a parish outreach center to serve those in need. The lease payments count as down-payments for our purchase of the entire building, which we expect to happen in early 2023.

We will soon begin forming a governing board for the center. Using the information from our recent parish survey, the board will help the outreach center to begin offering its first services.

There are many kinds of ministries that are currently being explored. For example, there is a need for transportation for the homebound, so that they can have a ride to the pharmacy or the grocery store. There is a successful volunteer ministry in Horry County that we could replicate here out of our center.



The right side of the insurance building, shown here, is now being leased by Saint Peter's for ministry.