

# Saint Joseph Parish News

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## Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week 2010 kicked off on Sunday, January 31st with a school Mass and hot dog lunch provided by Knights of Columbus. On Monday morning, students began participating in Project Penny Wars benefiting Saint Timothy's School in Tanzania, Africa. The service project continued throughout the week as students competed to donate the most pennies. We raised \$1,655.59 for Saint Timothy's School! Students also had the opportunity on Monday to listen to guest speakers discuss how their Catholic education and faith guide them in their day-to-day life. On Wednesday, we celebrated all of our wonderful volunteers with a volunteer appreciation breakfast. We honored our students with a pajama and reading day on Thursday. HSA treated the students to donuts and milk. A student assembly gave students the chance to show their appreciation for their Catholic school. Each grade level wrote and performed a song to share with the school. The spirit and creativity were unbelievable! The week came to a close on Friday with Teacher Appreciation Day that included Mass and a delicious luncheon for the teachers. Catholic Schools Week 2010 highlighted some of the best qualities of Catholic education and Saint Joseph School!



SJS Principal Donovan Yarnall and students greet prospective families at the school's open house. photos by Pete Konenkamp



5th Grade Display at the February Open House.

**GRACE Scholars...** Thanks to the generosity of 57 donors who re-directed their state taxes to Saint Joseph School, SJS will award \$58,710 dollars in scholarships to new families this year. Six to eight new students will be awarded GRACE Scholarships for the length of their careers at SJS. Last year, four students were able to benefit from this unique program. "GRACE", or Georgia Residents Assisting Children's Education, is a 100 percent, dollar-for-dollar tax credit that allows taxpayers to redirect their tax payments to scholarships for students. Georgia is one of the few states in the nation that offers this program. GRACE makes Catholic education a possibility, not just a dream. If you missed the opportunity to be pre-approved by the state to donate your tax dollars this year, don't worry, you can do so when you file your 2010 income tax. For more information, answers to your questions and all the forms you need, please visit <http://www.gracescholars.org>, E-mail: [gracescholars@archatl.com](mailto:gracescholars@archatl.com), or call Saint Joseph School at 706-543-1621.

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# Parishioner Profile:

By Amanda Wilson



Cullen Timmons

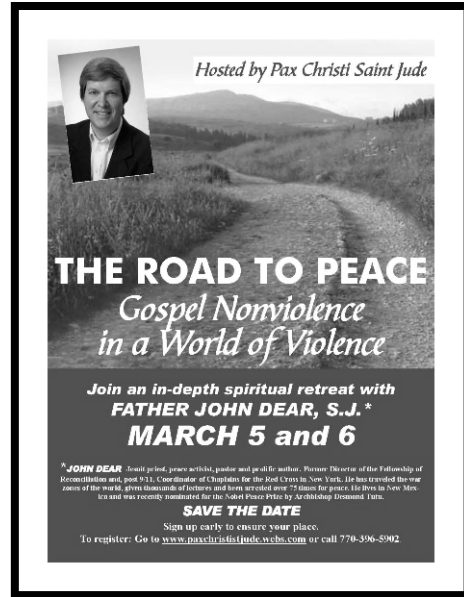
A native Athenian, Cullen Timmons has been a member of our parish for all of his life. He briefly attended St. Joseph School and went on to graduate from Clarke Central High School. He is currently attending the University of Georgia, majoring in Chemistry and Genetics. He has also been accepted to attend the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Since entering his teen years, Cullen has been active in the parish. As a high school student, he was a member of the *Life Teen* youth group, also known in our church as “Lighthouse.” As a freshman, he began teaching RE classes, and has “been involved with youth ministry in one fashion or another at St. Joe’s ever since.” For the last three years, he has served as a leader for Y4C (Youth For Christ), our parish’s middle school youth group. In addition, Cullen is a lector at the Life Teen Mass. In his spare time, he enjoys running, playing rugby, trivia, and is “trying to take up golf.”

When asked what his message to our parish’s youth would be, Cullen responded: “Try to make the Church as relevant to your lives as possible; it is too easy to separate your church life from your school life and to never mix the two. If you have questions about your faith, never be afraid to ask someone—a priest, deacon, parent, leader, etc. Your adolescence is the time to question yourself and grow from learning precisely who you are before it is too late. I think this fact is ultimately why I’ve chosen to be active in youth ministry.”

Looking ahead to medical school in Virginia, Cullen is reminiscent of his years spent in Athens. He says that many of the important times in his life were at St. Joe’s: “I have often heard that it takes a village to raise a child, and if it hadn’t been for parishioners such as Deacon Lakin, Father Joy, Joe Costyn, and Mary Mellein, I would not be who I am today. I will never forget my years at St. Joe’s.”

We won’t forget you either, Cullen, and we wish you the best on your journey.



## Lenten Prayer

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
 You have given the human race  
 Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.  
 He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man  
 And giving His life on the Cross.  
 Help us to bear witness to You  
 By following His example of suffering  
 And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.  
 We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your  
 Son.  
 Amen.  
 (Catholic.org)



A CENTURY OF PRIESTS...Imagine running a parish serving 23 counties and stretching from the Alabama state line all the way to South Carolina. That's more than 15,000 square miles! Knowing what he was up against, Father Harry Clark agreed to take the job when Savannah Bishop Benjamin Keiley asked him to leave Immaculate Conception in Atlanta and become the first resident Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish. Appointed in 1910, it would be another year before Father Clark would find lodging in Athens and begin the arduous task of building a church. Born in Pennsylvania in 1882, Harry Clark was one of three children. He knew early in his education that he wanted to become a priest. He studied at Dunwoodie Seminary in Yonkers, New York and was ordained to the priesthood at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on June 5, 1909. He was first assigned to a parish in Albany, then Atlanta. Not yet 30 years old, he moved to Athens in 1911. Like the traveling priests before him, Father Clark said Mass in a small wooden building on the corner of Prince and Pulaski Streets, a building that had once served as the University of Georgia Law School. Seeing the need for a more modern sanctuary, Father Clark traveled to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and New York to raise funds. He would stop at

northern brick factories to order bricks that would eventually be used in the construction of the new church. Construction began in the fall of 1912. On the Sunday following Easter in 1913, the new church was dedicated. Father Clark would remain in Athens for 17 years, boarding with a local family until the parish's first rectory was finally completed in 1916. He worked to establish a mission church in Gainesville. When he transferred to Saint Anthony's in Atlanta in 1926, he noted with pride that land had been purchased for Hall County's first parish. He wrote that he was leaving Saint Joseph's free of debt. That must have been with a sense of humor, since the entire parish treasury at the time was just 13 cents. Father Clark would continue to serve the Diocese of Savannah for another 9 years. In 1934, Pope Pius XI named him a Monsignor. Priests from throughout the state and former parishioners from Athens joined in the celebration at St. Anthony's. The day before Thanksgiving in 1935, Father Clark died at Saint Joseph's Infirmary in Atlanta. He was 53 and had served as a priest for 27 years. He was laid to rest in Savannah.



Remembering the victims of abortion, the Knights of Columbus erected red and blue crosses on parish property for the anniversary of the U-S Supreme Court's decision in Roe vs. Wade. The crosses serve as a powerful reminder of the lives lost. Photo by Pete Konenkamp



Thanks to the generosity of Father McGuinness, Lifeteen members huddled in the Rectory on Superbowl Sunday, to watch the New Orleans Saints and the Indianapolis Colts. It was a terrific party, one that the teens and Father won't soon forget. The best part...the Saints won of course. Lifeteen party photos: Courtesy of Lifeteen via Facebook





Boy Scout Troop 326 has been busy this winter with activities dedicated to fun as well as service to the community.

The boys braved sub-freezing temperatures to camp out in the rocky primitive campsites of Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area near LaFayette, Georgia over a December weekend. The highlight of the trip was the journey through Petty John's Cave, the third largest cave in Georgia. After a delicious dinner of hot chili the troop gathered around the campfire for S'mores and story-telling in typical Scout fashion.

But Saturday's adventures did not complete the story as Sunday included a visit to the Tellus Northwest Georgia Science Museum in Cartersville. Scouts and adult members enjoyed an impressive display of fossils including a dinosaur skeleton exhibit, a mineral and gem gallery, and a Science in Motion exhibit featuring replicas of early automobiles and flying machines up to present day models.

Less than a week later the troop gathered again. Although it was Christmas Eve, the goal was not to celebrate together but to serve some very special guests. Scouts and adult leaders joined to help the Our Daily Bread program serve a Christmas meal to local homeless individuals and families at Tuckston United Methodist Church on Lexington Road.

In January the troop visited Boone, North Carolina for the annual ski trip, a highlight of the year for young as well as experienced Scouts, many who might never have the opportunity to enjoy this winter sport. Scouts and family members stayed as guests of the Catholic Center at Appalachian State University and visited the resort at Beech Mountain for a fun-filled day on the slopes over the Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend.

Finally, Troop 326 united with Cubs from Pack 326 to celebrate Scout Sunday on February 7, dressed in Class A uniforms and assisting at the 11:45 mass. Every February the Boy Scouts of America recognize the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scout program by Lord Baden Powell in England. This year's celebration is significant because it represents the 100th anniversary of Scouting. Celebrated since the 1940s, Scout Sunday adds visibility of the Scouts to their church community and allows them to live out the pledge they make each week that a "Scout is Reverent", and Scouts of all ages to fulfill their promise to do their "Duty to God".

"Oh Lord, build me a Scout whose heart will be clear, whose goals will be high. A Scout who will master himself before he seeks to master others, one who will march into the future, yet never forget the past..." Story & ski photo by Linda Bell and Athens Banner Herald