

# THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

COLUMBUS, GA

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*Parishioner Profile: Retired Lt. Gen. Carmen Cavezza*

## A Different Kind of Catholic Education *Meet the Cooper Family*

**F**or homeschooling families like the Coopers, “learning together” is a daily experience.

“I really enjoy growing and learning beside my children,” Ashley Cooper says. “I see things through their eyes more and I enjoy having that relationship where we can share ideas.”

Ashley, Derek, and their sons – Aiden, 8; Adam, 6; Arron, 3; and soon-to-be-born baby boy – are a military family who moved to Columbus last January. Due to Derek’s work in the military, they were aware that their time in Georgia would be short – however, they chose to become involved and make the most of wherever the Lord takes them.

During their time in Columbus, they found support and community, not only through Holy Family, but also through a local homeschooling group

“Columbus Catholic Homeschool group is a fantastic group of families that help support other each other,” Ashley says. “They come from a variety of backgrounds, but unite through faith, homeschooling and parenting. It’s great to bounce ideas or issues off each other, get support on topics that society or my non-Catholic friends might disagree with. There are some really devout and wise women who have lead me to more insight about our faith. It has been such a blessing and truly has touched our lives.



*The Cooper family – Derek, Ashley, and their boys (pictured with Ashley’s dad) – enjoy spending time as a family and with their parish and homeschooling communities.*



## A Different Kind of Catholic Education

*continued from front cover*

“Homeschooling is both the most rewarding thing and most difficult, just like parenting!” she adds. “It is nice to have experienced parents sharing ideas that helped their family.”

For the Coopers, passing the faith on to their children was the primary motivation in choosing to homeschool.

“I feel called by God to homeschool,” Ashley says. “I really liked the religious freedoms I have with homeschooling – we can interweave God into every topic of our day, any hour of our day.”

“Our hope in homeschooling is not only to foster a well-rounded child, but also to fan the flame of passion they have for God,” she adds.

Ashley enjoys having the freedom to incorporate the faith in her children’s daily lives and learning process.

“We actually use a Catholic curriculum for homeschool, *Catholic Schoolhouse*,” she says. “Daily prayer is so important for our family. Our day and relationships go much smoother if we start the day out in prayer together and sprinkle it throughout. We also enjoy celebrating the liturgical calendar together, it helps everything come to life.”

Whether through the parish or the homeschooling group, Ashley has found the importance of surrounding her family with healthy influences.

“It’s great to surround our family with people who are passionate and beliefs coincide with ours,” says Ashley, whose children also attend Sunday school at Holy Family. “It gives me and my children more role models. It’s great to hear it from others, see other kids excited, and hear what the others have to say about our faith.”

Ashley says that homeschooling has helped her grow closer to God, as she tries to lead her children to Him.

“It isn’t easy – God sends me so much grace to get through daily,” she says. “It helps me to rely on Him



more, and hopefully my children see that. Mother Mary is who I most often look to. Especially as a mother of all boys, I love her gentleness and patience.

“My boys know I’m wearing thin when I start ‘Hail Marying,’” Ashley adds, with a smile.

The Coopers are grateful for the support that they have found at Holy Family, even if only for a short time.

“I really enjoy the support and feeling of community,” Ashley says. “It’s hard being military who moves frequently. I feel welcomed to the Holy Family community, even if it is a short time. It’s hard to invest yourself in new parishes knowing your time there is temporary but it’s very rewarding and something I never regret!”

Ashley inspires others to get involved in parish life, even if they know their time in the area may be limited.

“You have nothing to lose and a lot to gain!” she says. She also encourages families who may be considering homeschooling.

“Pray about it and then pray some more,” Ashley says, “God will equip you with what you need to fulfill His desires – have faith and trust!”

**For more information on the Columbus Catholic Homeschooling Group, please contact Kim Anderson at [Shipperdog2001@yahoo.com](mailto:Shipperdog2001@yahoo.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10204777](http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10204777)**

*A Letter From Our Pastor*

# A New Year, New Challenges, New Opportunities

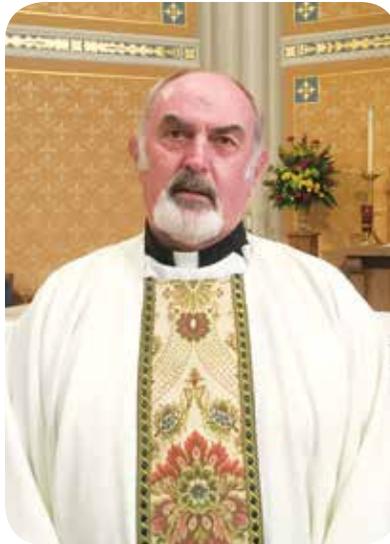
Dear Parishioners,

**I**t is a new year, and it is my prayer for all of you – and for me, as well – that we can take new steps on our faith journeys, and seek new ways to live out discipleship and stewardship.

Pope Francis once commented on his perspective of our modern approach to life. He said, “Certainly, possessions, money and power can give a momentary thrill, the illusion of being happy, but they end up possessing us and making us always want more, never satisfied. I have learned that the most important thing is to put on Christ in your life, place your trust in Him, and you will never be disappointed.”

The pope has been called “the world’s parish priest.” As we pray for one another in this New Year, may we all ask the Lord to help us appreciate Pope Francis’ approach to life, his simple way of seeing things, and his very basic way of appreciating things. I would hope that we see this year as a time for opportunity, a time to deepen our relationship to Christ, and for that matter to one another.

If we really wish to change our lives and the lives of others, there are two easy ways to do it. We are blessed with many opportunities in this parish to pray, but as much as it is important for us to take advantage of those, we also need to develop a strong personal prayer life. Recall the young Samuel, who was not quite sure what



to do with his life, or what direction to go. When he finally settled on that one important prayer, “Speak, Lord, for I am listening,” Samuel gave us the hint as to what we need to do. Prayer is a two-way street, and part of that is taking the time to listen to God.

The second important way is to exude joy. Christ certainly called us to do that. Pope Francis has had much to say about joy, as well. The Holy Father says, “Joy cannot be held at heel; it must be let go. Joy is a pilgrim virtue. It is a gift that walks – walks on the path of life, that walks with Jesus... proclaiming joy, lengthens and widens

that path.” We must seek that joy and then we need to share it. That is truly our call. Joy translates quite easily into “love your neighbor.”

Yes, there may be challenges ahead in 2017, but we must focus on the opportunities, and then exert the effort to benefit from those opportunities. Happy New Year!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Dan O’Connell  
Pastor



## “We Prepare Our Students to Be of Faith, Honesty, L *Catholic Schools Week at St.*

**N**ational Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year’s celebration is from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, with the theme of “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of a Catholic education. First, schools are communities – small families in their own right, but also members of the larger community of home, church, city, and nation. Faith, knowledge and service are three measures by which any Catholic school can and should be judged.

Catholic schools offer academic excellence and faith-filled education for students nationwide. National test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance, and other data show that Catholic schools frequently outperform schools in both the public and private sectors. While some Catholic schools face the challenges of declining enrollments and school closures, the good news is that there is a strong demand and enthusiasm for Catholic schools. Thirty-two percent of Catholic schools have waiting lists for admission and new schools are opening across the country.

“Catholic education works!” says Mrs. Jocelyn Smith, the Principal of the Lower School at St. Anne-Pacelli. “At St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School, the expectation is excellence. With academics rooted in the Gospels of Jesus Christ, we prepare our students to be leaders by instilling core values of faith, honesty, loyalty, and respect. We are the only Catholic, preschool-through-12th grade, college preparatory school serving the southwestern portion of our state. We strive to provide an excellent education in a faith-filled environment.”

Her counterpart at the high school is Ms. Ronie Collins, who also serves as the President of St. Anne-Pacelli.



“Research tells you that students who graduate from Catholic schools go on to stay friends and stay connected longer in their lives than children attending any other school – public or private,” Ms. Collins says. “I believe this is true because of the many opportunities Catholic school students experience, such as sharing Mass, getting to know smaller class sizes, and faith-based education.”

Catholic Schools Week offers an opportunity for the school to celebrate and also to thank the community, especially the parish community, for their support, as well as making them aware of the school’s benefits and accomplishments

To kick off Catholic Schools Week, St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School students are encouraged to wear their uniforms to church the weekend of Jan. 28/29 to show their school pride! Students who wear their uniforms to church will be rewarded with an out-of-uniform day. On Monday, Jan. 30, students in grades K-12 will go to Mass together. Throughout the afternoon, students will be learning about and doing activities with various community helpers.

# Leaders by Instilling Core Values Loyalty and Respect”

## *Anne-Pacelli Catholic School*

Tuesday, Jan. 31, is in effect student appreciation day. PK through eighth-grade students will watch peers perform in a Talent Show in the morning. Throughout the day, Lower School students will play board games and participate in Catholic Schools Week Trivia. Meanwhile, high school students will participate in *Catholic Across the Curriculum Day*, in which every class lesson will have a Catholic faith element. On Wednesday, Feb. 1, Pre K through 12th-graders will attend an International Rosary that celebrates Catholic schools and demonstrates how America is made up of many cultures. The International Rosary will be a student-led, all-school Rosary. The first and last decades are in English. The second and fourth decades are in Spanish. The third decade features all our other languages that we teach at St. Anne-Pacelli. On Thursday, Feb. 2, high school students will hear from a priest, deacon and nun about their call to vocations. Lower School students will participate in class service projects that help our school and/or community.

On Friday, Feb. 3, St. Anne-Pacelli’s Home & School Association will host Pastries with Parents. Parents of current students are invited to enjoy coffee, juice, hot chocolate, donuts and fellowship in the morning. Pre K through 12th-grade students will have fun playing teacher/staff-themed Bingo in the morning. During the afternoon, there will be a Catholic Schools Week-themed pep rally in the gym. On Saturday, Feb. 4, St. Anne-Pacelli families are invited to participate in a morning campus beautification project followed by a hot dog picnic lunch.



**St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School is located at 2020 Kay Circle in Columbus, Ga. For admissions information, please contact Director of Admissions Julie Davis at 706-561-8232, ext. 325 or [jdavis@sasphs.net](mailto:jdavis@sasphs.net). Applications for the 2017-2018 school year are being accepted now. Visit [www.BeAViking.com](http://www.BeAViking.com) to learn more about St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School.**



## Teaching Children to Live a Life of Stewardship

**H**ow old do you have to be to practice stewardship? Can a 5-year-old embrace stewardship? How about a 10-year-old?

Although there is no guideline to what the right age is to begin to live a life of stewardship, God's call certainly extends to each of His children – even the young ones.

It is especially important to show children that they are not too young to share their time, talent and treasure to help build God's kingdom.

### *Sharing Your Time*

A young child can share of his time in a variety of ways appropriate to his ability. For example, during the day, a child can pray for a loved one that is hurt, or say prayers with his parents or siblings. He can participate in Mass each Sunday, and even take time from his day to thank God for a veteran who has served our country.

Spending time being virtuous – such as being patient, generous and kind – is also a great example of sharing our time for love of God.

### *Sharing Your Talent*

Using God-given talents to glorify God can also be performed by both young and old. An elementary school-aged child can easily clean her room or perform chores such as raking leaves, doing laundry, or taking care of pets. Making cards for people who are sick or who have had a death in the family are other concrete examples of being a faithful steward.

Even using our talents – such as playing a musical instrument or football – to the best of our abilities to give God glory is an example of being a good steward.

### *Sharing Your Treasure*

Although children do not have the same type of treasure to share as adults, instilling the importance of sharing finances is an important lesson.

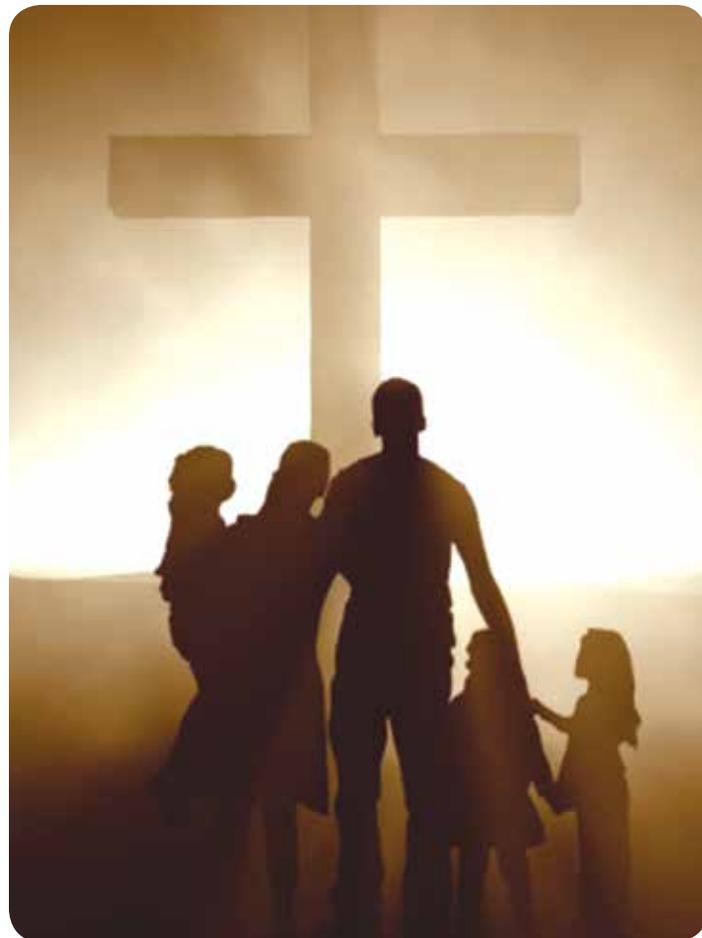
If a child receives an allowance, he can return a portion of it to the Church in the collection basket. If he gets money for his birthday, he can give a small portion of

it back to God in thanksgiving. Little ones can even share things like their Halloween candy with their siblings or friends as a way of demonstrating generosity.

### *The Most Important Lesson*

Above all, the most important lesson to teach our children is why we share. We don't share because we "have to." We don't share because our parents tell us to. We share our time, talent and treasure with God because we are thankful for the blessings He has given us and we want to thank Him for His generosity.

Teaching these lessons at a young age will allow a lifetime of good stewardship to follow for even the youngest of God's children.



# Former Ft. Benning Commander Exemplifies a Lifetime of Service

## *Parishioner Profile: Retired Lt. Gen. Carmen Cavezza*

The way we embrace the call to service is different for each of us – we may serve in grand gestures or in small acts of daily kindness; within the walls of our home or out in the broader community. For members of our Armed Forces and their families, service permeates every aspect of life – we do not call them servicemen and women for nothing!

Military personnel and their families dedicate their lives to serving our country, no matter the sacrifice – they move where they are needed, when they are needed, and are asked to put the needs of their country before their own.

For Holy Family parishioner, retired Army Lt. Gen. Carmen Cavezza, the call to a life of service led to a 33-year Army career that included two tours in Vietnam. Just a few months ago, Lt. Gen. Cavezza was awarded for his selfless service to our country with his induction into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

Although it may seem clear that this Silver Star and Purple Heart recipient – to name only two of his many prestigious military awards – is deserving of a place in the Hall of Fame, Lt. Gen. Cavezza is deeply humble about receiving this honor and quick to note that there are many other worthy servicemen and women.

“It’s an honor to receive something like that, but it’s also humbling because every veteran that has served deserves recognition for it,” Lt. Gen. Cavezza says. “I just happened to be lucky and had some friends who felt like I deserve it, so I got it.”

Throughout his military career, Lt. Gen. Cavezza was able to find strength and comfort in his faith in God. Even during times when he had to stay fully focused on his mission, faith remained a constant. And in wartime, trust in God’s providence became indispensable.

“I’d have to say that Vietnam was probably the toughest time [I’ve faced],” Lt. Gen. Cavezza says. “It is



*Retired Army Lt. Gen. Carmen Cavezza*

a very stressful time any time you have a very high risk of having soldiers killed or wounded. MacArthur said, ‘There are no atheists in foxholes,’ and I guess anyone who serves in combat has some kind of faith.

“I always had the faith that whatever was going to be, would be, and hoped for the best,” he continues. “Even when I received a pretty serious wound, I never worried – I just felt like things would take care of themselves.”

When Lt. Gen. Cavezza retired from the Army in 1994, he and his wife, Joyce – who celebrate 57 years of marriage this April – decided to put down roots in Columbus. The couple had lived here previously when Lt. Gen. Cavezza served as the commander of Ft. Benning, and their daughter, Peggy, had already settled in the area. Since the Cavezzas returned over 20 years ago, all three family members have enjoyed making Holy Family their parish home.

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# THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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## **Weekend Mass**

### ***Saturday Vigil***

5:00 p.m. Mass

### ***Sunday***

8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## **Daily Mass**

### ***Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday***

12:10 p.m. Mass

## **Reconciliation**

### ***Saturday***

4:00 p.m.

## Former Ft. Benning Commander Exemplifies a Lifetime of Service *continued from page 7*

Far from retiring from service following his military career, Lt. Gen. Cavezza continued to pursue service-related positions both in the community and in the parish. He served as a city manager for eight years, worked with the softball venue for the Olympics, and directed the Cunningham Center for Leadership Development at Columbus State University until December 2012. Here at Holy Family, he has served as a lector, was a member of the Parish Council for some time, and – with Margot Bradley’s encouragement – chaired the committee to start up the Deimel Ball fundraiser for St. Anne Catholic Church.

“If you’re a soldier or work in government, you are providing service to people, so I feel like my life has been one of service,” he says. “I went into the Army for two years and stayed for 33, so that tells you that I liked what

I was doing. I like people, in general – and I enjoy helping people, in general – so it’s something that just happened.”

Now, finally experiencing a “true” retirement after a lifetime of service, Lt. Gen. Cavezza is excited to move forward in faith and continue to live life to the fullest.

“As you get older, faith becomes even more important,” he says. “You tend to think of different things that may occur, and if you don’t have faith, you spend a lot of time worrying about what will happen. I don’t take that approach – I have faith, and it’s out of my hands. As you get older, you get some challenges that make it difficult to do what you truly want to do, so I try to enjoy life the best I can every day.”

We thank Lt. Gen. Cavezza for his priceless service to our country, to our community, and to our very own parish!