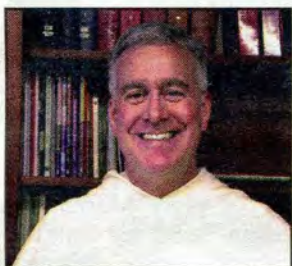


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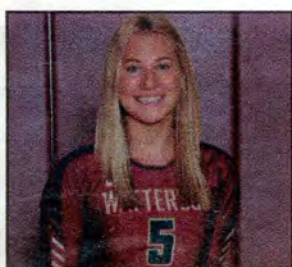
New prior:

The new prior's name at St. Patrick Priory in Columbus might sound familiar. Father Peter John Cameron, OP was the founding U.S. editor of the popular Magnificat worship guide used for Mass, prayer and spiritual reading, Page 3



State runner-up:

The Columbus St. Francis DeSales football team ended the 2020 season with a double-overtime loss to Chardon in the Division III state championship game on Saturday, Nov. 21 in Massillon, Page 11



All-American girl:

Columbus Bishop Watterson senior Sydney Taylor was named a first-team All-American after the recently completed 2020 fall volleyball season, Page 15



DIOCESE TO CELEBRATE FEAST DAY FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

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Catholic Travel

Winter getaway to Folly Beach, South Carolina

Traveling during coronavirus pandemic

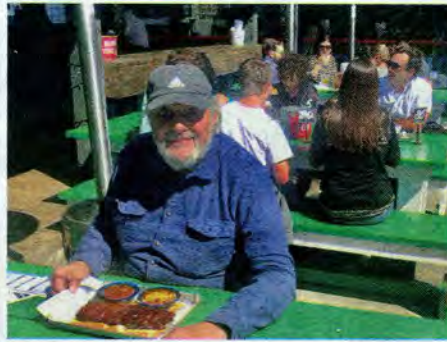
By Aaron Leventhal

With the coronavirus pandemic still raging and Ohio's dreary, cold winter days upon us, my wife Beth and I have decided to return for the third straight year to Folly Beach, SC with our five-year-old white Lab Lily. From personal experience we are assured of bright, sunny days; warm ocean breezes; and a laid-back ambiance. The pleasant, subtropical climate enables vacationers to enjoy a wide range of activities and dining options safely in outdoor settings.

Folly Beach is a popular Lowcountry island destination about a dozen miles south of historic Charleston. It is a welcoming community of 2,500 residents of all ages, geographic origin and social and political backgrounds. We love its laid-back, relaxed pace; proximity to a six-mile, wide sandy beach; and its downtown Center Street with a delightful mix of independent shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs.

Two local beach markets exemplify the unique character and small town feel of Folly Beach. For us, **Bert's Market** embodies Folly Beach's free-spirited community. The iconic grocery and community gathering place, open 24/7, stocks a delightful hodgepodge of food, baked goods, merchandise, wine and beer. It also offers a carry-out sandwich counter and free fresh-brewed coffee. **Crosby's Seafood** overlooks the shrimp and fishing boat docks at the entrance to the island. Two sisters own and manage this popular market and sell fresh catches daily.

The crowds and prices are reduced



Travel writer Aaron Leventhal enjoys outdoor dining at Martin's Bar-B-Q Joint on James Island.

during the winter months. With only a long, one-day drive from Central Ohio, including a beautiful stretch through the Smoky Mountains, we strongly recommend a winter escape to the island of Folly Beach, South Carolina.

Outdoor Activities: At **Folly Beach County Park**, on the western tip of the island, we enjoy shelling and strolling the wide sandy beaches along the Atlantic Ocean with Lily. Diving pelicans and seagulls add to the natural beauty of the island. Nearby **James Island County Park** offers miles of paved trails for walking and biking; saltwater fishing and crabbing, and Lily's favorite dog park with a large open meadow and a lake for swimming.

Charleston Outdoor Adventures is open daily with guided boat tours, fishing charters, kayaking and paddle board rentals.

Lowcountry golf courses are often lined with Palmetto trees, tall grasses and Bermuda grass on the fairways. My favorite nearby public courses are the **City of Charleston Municipal Golf Course**, **Patriot's Point Links** at Charleston Harbor and **Rivertowne**



Fishing boats bring shrimp and fish daily to Crosby's Seafood at the entrance of Folly Beach. Photos by Beth Ervin Leventhal



Beth Ervin Leventhal and Lily play along the Atlantic Seaboard at Folly Beach County Park. Photo by Aaron Leventhal

Country Club. Further afield is **Legends Golf Course** on the Parris Island Marine Base near historic Beaufort. Golf fees are significantly reduced during the winter season.

Catholic Worship: Folly Beach's **Our Lady of Good Counsel** is an intimate parish church attended by residents and visitors. Traditional Latin masses are conducted on Sunday. In Charleston, two **Catholic cathedrals** feature exceptional architectural design and are open to visitors. Downtown, **St. Mary's**, built in 1837, is filled with masterpiece paintings, stained-glass windows with Biblical images, and a graveyard of parishioners from 17 countries spanning two centuries. The **Cathedral of St. John the Baptist** was built in 1907 after the original 1838 church was destroyed by fire. It is revered for its Gothic-style exterior of Connecticut brownstone, Flemish oak pews, white Vermont marble altars, a French Romantic pipe organ and a gilded copper, 168-ft. towering spire.

Attractions: **Palmetto Carriage Tours** offers guided, mule-drawn rides through 25 blocks of Charleston's historic neighborhoods. Its popular Red Barn shop has a collection of miniature horses for kids of all ages.

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, on the National Register of Historic Places, is the original home of the Drayton family dating back 11 generations to 1676. Guided tours take visitors through

the plantation house and gardens. There also is a Nature Train, boat tour, petting zoo, playground and an area to dig for fossils. Pets on leash are welcome.

Dining: Our favorite Folly Beach and nearby James Island restaurants and cafes are small, independent establishments where often the owner also serves as cook and manager. Most have outdoor patio seating and welcome Lily. Lowcountry cuisine is often on the menu, with dishes such as she-crab soup, shrimp and grits, fresh oysters, fried chicken and pecan pie. Standard dress is shorts, t-shirts and sandals, and most eateries are moderately priced.

In Folly Beach, we recommend **Jack of Cups Saloon**, **Blue Beach Bar and Grill**, **Lost Dog Café and Wash-out**, with live music most nights. On James Island it's **Bowen's Island Restaurant**, **Ellis Creek Fish Camp** (Lily loves their special menu for dogs), **Mondo's Italian Restaurant** and **Martin's Bar-B-Q Joint**. Within a 30-minute drive I suggest the legendary **Marina Variety Store** established in 1963 on top of the City Marina, **Oyster House** and **Justine's Kitchen** in Charleston. We also enjoy **Graze Restaurant** in Mt. Pleasant; and **High Thyme Cuisine** on Sullivan's Island.

Where to Stay: There are hundreds of vacation rentals scattered throughout Folly Beach and nearby James Island and Mt. Pleasant. We rent a three-bedroom cottage each winter season from Kevin Edenborough, a Purdue graduate and former Air Force pilot who manages a number of lovely properties all within a short stroll of the Atlantic Ocean beachfront. He can be reached at 843-696-4503 or seasidefolly@gmail.com.

For more information, visit folly.com, explorecharleston.com, experiencemountpleasant.com

Columbus travel writer Aaron Leventhal is a frequent contributor to *The Catholic Times*.

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