



# OUR Parish Times

Special Edition  
Catholic Schools Week

JANUARY 2018

Living the Faith Together

FREE

## Celebrating Catholic Schools

By Chuck Short

**W**ishing everyone a blessed and joyful new year! Good luck with resolutions, challenges and opportunities in 2018. The new year is a great time to recommit ourselves to grow more deeply in faith, generously serve others, forgive those who may have hurt us, to engage in activities to strengthen our parishes and explore new ways to give thanks and glory to a loving God. Speaking of new starts, congratulations to Bishop Barry Knestout on his appointment by Pope Francis as Bishop of Richmond. Bishop Knestout served the Washington Archdiocese for nearly thirty years as a close advisor to Cardinal's Wuerl, McCarrick and Hickey. Parishioners at St John the Evangelist, remember him as their pastor. As the Archbishops nourished our souls, Bishop Knestout, a superb administrator, cultivated the day to day administrative work of a large, diverse archdiocese exercising pastoral charity, truthful open-



Chuck Short

Continued on page 32

## Celebrating Life, Equality and Education

**A**fter the excitement of Christmas and all the joy that surrounds that great feast, the cold and dark weeks of January can bring a bit of a let-down. And yet, this month provides several great opportunities for us to think about our faith as well as life in this great country of ours. The first is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which we just celebrated this year on January 15. At this particular time in our nation's history, we are conscious of the racial tension that continues to exist in our country. We have been unable to put aside color in our experiences of looking at one other, and sadly, the divisions can be sharp and deep.

Martin Luther King peacefully challenged all of us to see deeper than skin color to the equality we all share because we are children of God. His call is a reminder to each of us to reflect on country's experience of race and consider how we can do a better job of loving,

Continued on page 16



Fr. Enzler



## Love Saves Lives!

The "Pro-Life Generation" – young women in front of the U.S. Supreme Court cheering on the tens of thousands of marchers at the March for Life on January 19. Catholics will not be silent about the evil of abortion and will not acquiesce to a culture of indifference to the right to life of the most defenseless. Acquiescence is complicity: "Do not be afraid." Photo by Kathleen Hamm

## St Jane de Chantal's Pro-Life March Follows "Witness to Life" Mass

By Edward Tennant

**O**n Sunday, December 10, 2017, Bishop Roy Campbell led a Rosary Procession from St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church in Bethesda to the late-term abortion clinic run by LeRoy Carhart in the Wildwood Medical Center, located at 10401 Old Georgetown Road, a distance of approximately one mile. A total of 137 people participated in the Rosary Procession north on Old Georgetown Road

from St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church to the abortion clinic. As the procession passed Wildwood Baptist Church on the way to the abortion clinic, some members of Wildwood Baptist Church joined the procession. Other pro-lifers met the procession outside the abortion clinic and joined the group in prayers led by Bishop Roy Campbell and sang religious hymns.

Subsequently, pro-lifers received a com-

Continued on page 17



Following the "Witness to Life" Mass, the over 100 participants, many with protest signs in hand, start the Rosary Procession from St. Jane de Chantal Church to the newly-opened late-term abortion clinic that is located about one mile away.



Kathleen Ouyang with several students at their school in Suzhou

## Summer China Travel and Teaching Program Entices Local Teacher

**S**ome travelers want variety; they constantly seek new destinations and amass countries in their passport like collectors trying to get a complete set. But other travelers are happy to return to a place again and again, fascinated by its culture or beauty and desirous to know it better.

Kathleen Ouyang, a history and government teacher at Oakcrest in Vienna, Va., is the latter kind of traveler. Kathleen grew up in Montgomery County and attends St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish where she was baptized, received her First Holy Communion and her Confirmation. Her fascination with China has drawn her out of Potomac to China three times – most recently this summer, when she taught English for several weeks in

Continued on page 38

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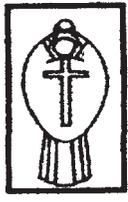
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St. Raphael's Religious Education and  
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### SCIENCE & RELIGION THE MYTH OF CONFLICT



**Professor Stephen M Barr, Ph.D.** will tell the story of the relationship between Christianity and science, and will argue that several discoveries of the twentieth century, primarily in physics, are more consonant with the traditional Jewish and Christian view of the cosmos and of human beings than with materialist philosophy.

Dr. Barr is Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Delaware and Director of its Bartol Research Institute. He received his Ph.D. in theoretical particle physics from Princeton University in 1978.

He was elected as a Fellow of the American Physical Society, and as a member of the Academy of Catholic Theology. He is currently President of the Society of Catholic Scientists.

**All are welcome to attend this lecture,  
discussion, and book signing.**

Copies of *The Believing Scientist*, by Dr. Stephen M Barr,  
will be available for purchase.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018 — 7:30 PM**

St. Raphael Parish • 1513 Dunster Road • Rockville, MD



**Free Will Offering - \$10 Suggested.**

## Index

CBN-MC .....	2	St. Francis of Assisi .....	28
Christ the King .....	30	St. Francis International School .....	20
Classifieds .....	39	St. Jane de Chantal .....	17
Holy Cross .....	6	St. John Neumann .....	33
Holy Redeemer .....	14	St. John the Baptist .....	21
Mary of Nazareth .....	9	St. John the Evangelist .....	16
Mother Seton .....	29	St. Jude .....	22-23
Our Lady of Lourdes .....	12	St. Martin of Tours .....	19
Our Lady of Mercy .....	15	St. Mary - Rockville .....	4
Our Lady Queen of Poland .....	36	St. Mary - Barnesville .....	34
Resurrection .....	31	St. Michael .....	35
Senior Resource Guide .....	27	St. Patrick .....	25
Sports .....	39	St. Raphael .....	5
St. Bartholomew .....	18	St. Rose of Lima .....	37
St. Bernadette .....	11	The Woods Academy .....	13, 26
St. Elizabeth .....	10		



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## CBN-MC February Breakfast

The Board of Directors of the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County invites you to its next monthly Second-Friday Networking Breakfast Meeting being held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 7:30am.

This month's speaker is This month's speaker is Judy Keane, Director of Public Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

We meet on the second Friday of every month at Lahinch Tavern and Grill in the Cabin John Shopping Center at Tuckerman Lane and Seven Locks Road.

To register online, visit: [www.cbnmc.com](http://www.cbnmc.com).

**OPT**



Maryland Catholic Conference Executive Director Mary Ellen Russell talks with other advocates on the first day of the 2018 Legislative Session.

## Catholics in Annapolis

The 90-day legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly got underway January 10 in Annapolis, and the 34th annual **Catholics in Annapolis** event will take place Thursday, February 22.

Catholics in Annapolis is an opportunity for Marylanders to meet with their State legislators and share the Catholic viewpoint on issues before the General Assembly. This lobbying night is one of the best attended advocacy events in Annapolis with hundreds of Catholics showing up each year!

The format for the night includes:

- Briefing at St. John Neumann Mission Church, Annapolis (3-4:30 p.m.)
- Shuttles to the state office buildings (beginning at 4:30 p.m.)
- Visits with legislators to deliver postcards and discuss the Church's stance on issues (5-6:30 p.m.)
- Dinner reception with legislators, Maryland's Catholic Bishops and other church leaders in the Miller Senate Office Building (6:30-8 p.m.)
- Shuttles available back St. John Neumann Mission Church (8 p.m.)

The agenda kicks-off with issue presentations from the Conference lobbyists at 3:00 p.m. at St. John Neumann Mission Church on Bestgate Road in Annapolis. Following the briefings, shuttles will be provided to the legislative complex so that participants can visit their legislators' offices from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

*Continued on page 8*



## 22nd Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit April 14

Benefit Chairs Maria Teresa Guadalupe, Lizzy Medeiros, Kate Riley, Laura Ryan and Fr. John. Honorary Benefit Chair His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, S.T.D.  
(See ad on back page.)

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## County Executive Candidate Forum Set for May 3

By Chris Farrell, Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County

Change is coming to the elected leadership of Montgomery County. The primary election, June 26, and general election, November 6, provide voters the opportunity to elect their county leaders. All nine members of the County Council and a new County Executive are to be elected for four-year terms. While much media attention is focused at the federal and state levels, the county government may have the most impact on our lives and the lives of our neighbors. Aside from the capital budget, the operating budget comes in at \$5.5 billion. Montgomery County's budget, like its population, is larger than that in several states.

As Catholics, we are commissioned to work for the public good. Pope Francis recently stated, "We must reaffirm the rights of healthy politics, its independence, its specific suitability for serving the public good, acting to diminish inequality and promote with concrete measures the good of the family and to form a solid framework of rights and obligations – both – to make it effective for all."

In Montgomery County, we are at a crossroad. Will we continue our tradition of openness to a diverse community and a tradition of helping people who are in need? This question and others drawn from Catholic Social Teaching and the advocacy agendas of the sponsoring organizations – the Justice & Advocacy Council of Montgomery County and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese



Chris Farrell

of Washington – will be the focus. Monsignor John Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, will moderate the Forum. All seven candidates have agreed to participate. They are: Roger Berliner, David Blair, Marc Elrich, Robin Ficker, Bill Frick, Rose Krasnow and George Leventhal.

Msgr. Enzler moderated the well-attended 2014 Candidate Forum that included the four candidates for County Executive. As he did in 2014, Rev. Paul Lee, Pastor of the Shrine of Saint Jude, will welcome Forum

attendees. The Justice & Advocacy Council is preparing a questionnaire for the numerous candidates for County Council. To find information about early voting, a list and links to County Executive and Council candidates use the website of the State Board of Elections: [www.elections.state.md.us](http://www.elections.state.md.us)

To learn more about the issues and the candidates who are running for County Executive, please come to the Candidates Forum to be held on Thursday, May 3, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, at the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church, 12701 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville (20853). Ample parking is available and all Metro Q buses between Rockville and Wheaton Metro Stations serve the stop for St. Jude's Parish. Please come and bring your friends. (For more information contact Cathy Couch (301/933-6120) or Ann Barbagallo (301/482-1022).

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Chris Farrell is member of the Justice and Advocacy Council and a Saint Andrew Apostle parishioner.



The St. Francis of Assisi Health Ministry Presents

### Honoring the Dignity of Life Seminar

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Saturday, February 17, 2018

9:30 am to 12 Noon

Knights of Columbus Father Cuddy Hall  
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#### PRESENTERS

**Father J. Daniel Mindling**, OFM Cap., Consultant to the USCC Bishops Committee for Pro-Life Activities and general editor of *Comfort and Consolation, Care of the Sick and Dying*.

**Elena Boisvert**, Esq. Attorney at Law specializing in elder law, living wills & estate planning.

REGISTRATION 301-412-1909

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dignity-of-life-seminar-tickets-42023620781>

For notice of inclement weather cancellation, call 301 412-1909 on February 16



"There is an urgent need to recover a correct perspective on life as a whole. The correct perspective is that of eternity, for which life at every phase is a meaningful preparation. Old age too has a proper role to play in the process of gradual maturing. And this process of maturing on the path to eternity cannot but benefit the larger society of which the elderly person is a part."

—Saint John Paul II Letter to the Elderly, 1999

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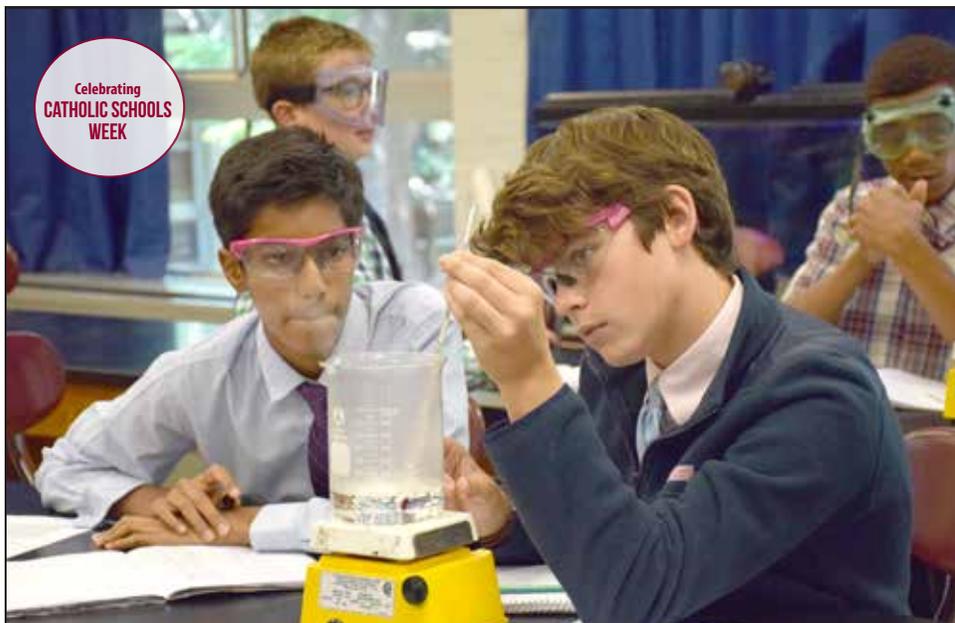
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At left, St. Mary's presented "A Christmas Carol" for the 2017 Christmas program. Students Kindergarten through seventh grade sang our favorite Christmas tunes and our eighth-grade students were featured as the lead actors.

Below, St. Mary's Parish celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas at our annual St. Nick's Festival. Young or old, everyone had a chance to see Santa!



Below, Parish and School families gathered to collect over 14,000 cans of hope for the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive on December 2.



## You Could Have Been Loved By Us

**O**n All Souls' Day sixth graders visited the St. Mary's Cemetery in language arts classes. They were asked to write a letter to a person of their choice describing the purpose of the visit and the experiences they had there. In the first paragraph they described sensory experiences. In the second they wrote about their thoughts and feelings. Lia Ilagan's paper was particularly moving.

November 2, 2017  
Dear Unborn Child,

Today is All Souls' Day, the day we pause to pray for those who are deceased. I visit the graveyard beside St. Mary's chapel. You could not have imagined the wonders of this dazzling fall day. The weather is perfect. It is slightly breezy, but rays of sunlight warm my cheek. I sit on a patch of fallen pine needles beneath a massive oak tree and take in a soothing gulp of the fresh autumn air with its fragrance of sun drenched pine. As I get up and wander the wide graveyard, I find F. Scott Fitzgerald's much visited gravestone where a middle-aged couple is leaving a gift and a little note. I brush my hand over a patch of green moss, and gently feel the texture of a newly sprouted pink flower in the midst of it. I lean against the flaky tree bark behind me, my head tilted back to gaze at the bright blue sky and the fluffy white cotton balls suspended above. Too soon, I am abruptly

**St. Mary's Parish**  
520 Veirs Mill Road Rockville, MD

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**St. Mary's School**  
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**Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor**  
301-990-4329

*Continued on page 16*



## St. Raphael School News

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrim Tilma Visits St. Raphael

By Nina Cardillo

Early in December, with pastor Fr. Michael Salah and parochial vicar Fr. Dave Wells, St. Raphael Parish was delighted to host a pilgrim image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and share in a special way the remarkable messages from Our Blessed Mother during her apparitions to a peasant named Juan Diego and miraculous appearance on his

tilma several centuries ago. The encased tilma, hand-stitched by contemplative nuns in Mexico, was given to the Archdiocese of Washington and used in the annual "Walk with Mary" procession. The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, travels to parishes across the archdiocese spreading the mission of conversion for all people. Fr. Wells celebrated a bilingual Mass welcoming the tilma to St. Raphael, which was displayed before the altar for veneration, reflection of its significance and meaning, and admira-

tion of its beauty.

Also in honor of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Raphael Spanish Sunday Mass featured a procession with Our Lady to the sights and sounds of mariachi music and Matachines dancers in colorful Aztec costume, as well as the Knights of Columbus. A re-enactment of the presentation of roses by Juan Diego to the bishop was performed at the beginning of the Mass concelebrated by Bishop Mario Dorsonville and Fr. Wells. The festivities honoring

*Continued on page 39*

## St. Raphael's Family Night BINGO February 9

St. Raphael's Respect for Life Committee will hold the third **Annual Family Night BINGO** on Friday, February 9, 2018 in our Trumpet Room. The doors open at 6:00 P.M. There is no admission fee; each bingo card is \$5.00 and *free space tokens* are \$5.00, which can be used during each game. This is a family-friendly event that is held before the beginning of Lent, allowing your family to enjoy a night of clean fun. This year, we will feature game prizes, which include themed family activities, restaurant gift cards

and some super surprises! Pizza, sodas and desserts will be available for purchase. Advance sales will occur at St. Raphael's the week before the event.

Proceeds will benefit **St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families** in Hyattsville. St. Ann's is administrated by the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul within the Archdiocese of Washington. Its mission is to strengthen and support families on their journey towards stability. Inspired by Catholic social teaching and Gospel values, St. Ann's Center

provides a nurturing community where families heal from the past, overcome barriers, and take hold of their future. Visit their website at [www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org) for additional information on the loving work St. Ann's accomplishes. Come and have a little fun and support an excellent organization that fosters life-affirming support for children, women and families in need.

For additional information, contact: Sandy Shamburek, SRO Coordinator at St. Raphael at 240-864-2514 or [sshamburek@straphaels.org](mailto:sshamburek@straphaels.org).

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## St. Raphael's Sodality News

St. Raphael's Sodality hosted Kevin Wells, brother of our Parochial Vicar, Fr. David Wells, on January 16. Kevin is the author of the book "Burst," former sportswriter and now VP of his family masonry contracting company, husband, father of three, and a freelance writer who is on fire for the Lord.

We will host our annual Sodality Tea on Mardi Gras Tuesday, February 13 from 1:30-4:00 pm in the parish library. All women are invited to wear their finest and bring their favorite tea cups. We will dine on fancy sandwiches and tasty desserts prior to praying the rosary and socializing. This event has become a perennial favorite.

Helen Alvaré, who founded Women Speak for Themselves, will be our guest on March 20 at 7:00 pm in the Trumpet Room. All members of the Archdiocese are welcome to join us.

Ms. Alvaré is an Associate Professor of Law who prior to joining the George Mason faculty was an Associate Professor at The Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. Professor Alvaré received her law degree at Cornell University in 1984 and a master's degree in systematic theology from The Catholic University of America in 1989.

For three years, Ms. Alvaré worked at the Office of General Counsel for the National

Conference of Catholic Bishops, where she drafted amicus briefs in leading U.S. Supreme Court cases concerning abortion, euthanasia and the Establishment Clause. For the next ten years, she worked with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at the NCCB. There, she lobbied, testified before federal congressional committees, addressed university audiences, and appeared on hundreds of television and radio programs on behalf of the U.S. Catholic bishops. She also assisted the Holy See on matters concerning women, marriage and the family, and respect for human life.

It's not too late to join Sodality. You may send your dues of \$30 to our Treasurer, Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

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### St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

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# Yes, Caroline, There Is a Santa Cause

**“S**anta, can I tell you what I want for Christmas, but it’s not for me?”

It all started with that simple question to Santa at the “Breakfast With St. Nicholas” event at Holy Cross School.

Third Grade student, Caroline Roe, continued, “My friends lost everything in a flood [during Hurricane Harvey]—all their toys, clothes, and all their stuff. I want to help them get new stuff. Can you please make sure to bring them extra presents this Christmas?” Santa (a.k.a. Holy Cross parent, Rich Godbout) promised he would.

Mr. Godbout was determined to keep his promise. His first step was to speak to Caroline’s mother, Mrs. Andrea Roe. Caroline had been talking about close friends of the Roe family, Don and Brandi, whose

*Continued on page 8*



Brandi Paullo and a Houston-area social worker, Laura Herbert, help to receive packages at Condit Elementary School in Houston.



A Houston family who received Christmas gifts as a result of the effort, along with Kathy Ballanfant, who promoted the effort in her newspapers, and members of Houston constable's office who helped deliver gifts to families.



A child whose face expresses the joy he felt at receiving a gift made possible by Caroline's generous heart.

**Holy Cross Parish**  
4900 Strathmore Avenue, Garrett Park, MD  
**Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor**  
301-942-1020

**Holy Cross School**  
**Lisa Maio Kane, Principal**  
301-949-0053

**Lurana Hogan, Parish Editor**  
l.hogan@hcross.org

## Christmas Eve Pageant Mass: A Holy Cross Tradition

*Contributed by Yvie Killian,  
Pageant Director at Holy Cross*

*“For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given...  
And he will be called Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.”  
– Isaiah 9:6*

**O**n Christmas Eve, forty-five children from the Holy Cross church and school community presented our annual rendition of the Christmas story. The Christmas Pageant Mass has a long history and tradition at Holy Cross.

Many of the costumes still in use were handmade by parishioners from simple materials, such as cotton sheets, sturdy cardboard, and Christmas garland. Pieces have been added through the years, including updated wise men costumes sewn by the current director’s mother, as well as sweet



Readers and Jr. Pageant Director from left to right: Maegan Mathews, Grace Armstrong, Maddie Zalewski (Jr. Director), Cole Rodia, Alberto Rodriguez.

*Continued on  
page 32*

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## Adopting Grandparents for a Day

**I**n December, teen parishioners of Holy Cross accompanied members of the Campus Ministry of Catholic University to Brighton Gardens for a morning of games and Christmas caroling with the residents. Teens assisted residents to the community room where some initiated card games, and all engaged the seniors in conversation. One lady recalled her time in France and gave one of the teens advice on how to find a job there, while another resident proudly spoke about his days in the military. The teens connected with their “grandparents for the day” in a very joyful way that brought the Christmas spirit into the nursing home.



A Holy Cross teen spends time with a military veteran residing at Brighton Gardens.

Some teens also visited rooms of Holy Cross parishioners who were unable to join the group in the community room. The teens went door to door to greet the less mobile residents, pray with them, and offer them a calendar from the parish. The morning was a beautiful experience in corporal works of mercy.

If you have an elderly loved one in Brighton Gardens (near Holy Cross) who would appreciate a visit, please call Sr. Veronica at (301) 942-1020 extension 19. Holy Cross brings the Eucharist to the nursing home weekly and celebrates Mass at Brighton Gardens once a month.

*I am a thinker, an athlete, an artist.*

SUMMER AT HOLY CROSS

**Co-Ed Summer Enrichment** *Grades 7-8*  
**High School Placement Test Prep (HSPT) Course**  
 June 18 - 22

*Morning Session:*  
 8:30 am - 12 pm  
*Afternoon Session:*  
 1 pm - 4:30 pm

**Girls Robotics Camp**  
*Grades 6-8*  
 Session 1: June 18 - 22  
 Session 2: June 25 - 29  
 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Girls Summer Sports Camps** *Grades 4-10*  
 Basketball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball  
 Session 1: June 18 - 22 • 9 am - 3 pm  
 Session 2: June 25 - 29 • 9 am - 3 pm

**Co-Ed Summer Stock Performing Arts** *Grades 6-11*  
 June 18 - 29 • 9 am - 3 pm  
*Classes in:* Musical Theatre Dance, Musical Theatre Singing, Improvisation, Filmmaking, Acting  
*Final Performance: Aladdin Jr.\**  
 Friday, June 29 at 7 pm

Music by Alan Menken • Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice • Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by Jim Luigs • Music Adapted and Arranged by Bryan Louiselle  
 Based on the Screenplay by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio  
*\*Disney's Aladdin JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com*



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**Middle School Application Deadline: February 16**

They told anyone who would listen, what they were doing. They sent out emails; everyone, including Mr. Godbout, posted to Facebook telling the story, seeking donations, and coordinating the effort. Mrs. Roe's mom wrote about it in her newspapers. The Holy Cross community rallied and responded generously. Local businesses got involved. Word spread, and the donations came pouring in.

Every child on the wish list received a present. Gift cards for food were donated for the hardest hit families. Houston-area restaurants made and delivered Christmas meals to those same families.

Mrs. Roe reflected, "What this experience really taught me, is that individually we may feel powerless, but when each individual does a small amount the effect is breathtaking."

Caroline summed it up with sincere simplicity. "I wanted to do something good for my friends, so I asked Santa to bring some of my presents to my friends. I wanted to have them have presents because of how they were suffering. Most of their money was going to rebuild their house, and I wanted to make sure my friends got something for Christmas."

OPT

## SANTA

*Con't from page 6*

children are close in age to Caroline and her brother William. They had been evacuated by canoe from their one-story home, and they could only save what they could carry in a few plastic garbage bags.

As it happened, Mrs. Roe had a Christmas wish list for her friends' children as she had already planned to send them Christmas gifts.

Mrs. Roe's conversation with Mr. Godbout sparked an idea. She called her mother, Kathy, who owns two Houston-area newspapers to ask, "Do you think we can make this bigger? Can we help more families that are hurting?" Mrs. Roe's next call was to her friend Brandi, whose children Caroline asked Santa to help.

Together, they got names of children from more than seventy families who had been devastated by Hurricane Harvey—and a Christmas wish list from each child. Mrs. Roe, her mom, and Brandi set up gift registries with Target and Amazon. They even arranged to allow gift notes to be addressed to a specific child and signed "Love, Santa."

## ANNAPOLIS

*Con't from page 2*

An evening reception with Maryland bishops, other Catholic leaders, and members of the General Assembly follows in the Miller Senate Office Building from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Cardinal Shehan School choir will delight attendees with

their world-famous talent as they perform during the reception. The group became a media sensation when their rendition of Andra Day's "Rise Up" went viral last fall. Since, they have performed live on Good Morning America and The View and sang the national anthem prior to a Baltimore Ravens game.

In addition, attendees will enjoy culinary creations provided by The Light House Bistro/B.E.S.T. Catering. B.E.S.T. Catering is the culinary job-training enterprise of the Light House Homeless Prevention Support Center that, together with the Light House Bistro, provides skills and job opportunities to those who have experienced homelessness. Located at 202 West Street in downtown Annapolis, The Light House Bistro, a 50-seat full-service restaurant, provides employment opportunities for more than 40 workforce development graduates of the support center.

Catholics in Annapolis is a free event, but registration is required. If you cannot make the 3 p.m. briefing, you are welcome to attend for legislator office visits or just the 6:30 p.m. reception. To register, visit: [www.mdccathcon.org/lobby-night](http://www.mdccathcon.org/lobby-night).

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# Eighth-Grade Students Celebrate Last Year on NYC Trip



MON Class of 2018 pictured in St. Patrick's Cathedral during the school's annual NYC trip.

Mary of Nazareth's graduating class of 2018 had a wonderful time on the school's annual eighth-grade trip to New York City. Each year, following the High School Placement Test (HSPT), our eighth-grade students depart for a special visit to some of New York's most iconic places. The trip began with a tour of the 9/11 Museum and Ground Zero, which students found moving. Next, they got a chance to explore Madame Tussauds wax museum, posing with many of their favorite celebrities.

The day was rounded out with a night tour on the top of Rockefeller Center, featuring incredible views across the city. The next day, before heading home, students enjoyed seeing Christmas Spectacular show at Radio City Music Hall. The final part of the trip was celebrating Mass together in St. Patrick's Cathedral together, with a special homily reminding students to be

present with God in all they do. Students recall the trip as being a once in a lifetime experience, sent with lifelong friends.

This trip is one of the many ways Mary of Nazareth School honors it's students and their hard work. Congratulations to each member of our eighth-grade class. We look forward to saluting you again in the spring as graduation draws near.

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**Mary of Nazareth  
Roman Catholic School**  
14131 Seneca Road, Darnestown,  
Maryland 20874

**Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel**

**Assistant Principal:  
Mrs. Rosemary Adams**  
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301-869-0942 (fax)

**Mary of Nazareth  
OPT Editor: Sara Jamison,**  
sjamison@maryofnazareth.org

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St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the  
Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the  
Visitation, Darnestown.

## Students Brighten the Holiday Season with Community Service

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's mission is to prepare students for lives of service to God and neighbor. By providing classroom instruction and volunteer opportunities, Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Program raises students' awareness of the plight of the poor and encourages students to fulfill their respon-

sibility to help those who lack life's basic necessities.

Students have abundant opportunities to serve their communities through extracurricular clubs and activities. This Christmas season, our students and families worked to bring joy to their neighbors in need. As in previous years, the school partnered with A Wider Circle, with

numerous homerooms "adopting" local families in need. A Wider Circle receives Christmas wish lists from families in need, which are then forwarded to participating Mary of Nazareth homerooms. "Adopted" families are assigned to homerooms based on the size of the family and class. Many of the participating

homerooms decided to dedicate class time to wrapping gifts together. Other classes made Christmas cards to accompany their gifts. As the school year continues, students are encouraged to participate in service projects that directly benefit others in their local communities.

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## Breakfast with St. Nick *A Tradition and Family Favorite*

Mary of Nazareth's Home and School Association welcomed families again this year for its annual Breakfast with St. Nick celebration. The theme of this year's event was Nativity Gallery, featuring a variety of handcrafted decorations that reflect the true sentiment of the Christmas season. The entire school building was transformed into a winter wonderland for families and children to enjoy. In addition to a hot breakfast prepared by Mary of Nazareth parent volunteers, children could write their wish lists and deliver them personally to Santa. A Christmas shop was available where guests could purchase gifts for loved ones. Additionally, children got to enjoy creating their own Christmas crafts in



Students enjoyed presenting their Christmas wish lists to Santa.

the craft room. Breakfast with St. Nick is one of the school's most beloved holiday events, as it brings all members of the school community for a morning of fellowship and festivity. Our schools is deeply grateful to all members of the HSA, especially those on the decorations committee, for helping to continue this tradition from year to year.

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Handcrafted decorations filled the school's hallways to create a Nativity Gallery.



## Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

Mary of Nazareth prepares children for **lives of service** to God and neighbor, through a **rigorous academic program** rooted in the faith and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, as professed in the Creed, celebrated in the sacraments, lived in **Christian virtue** and affirmed in prayer.



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**January Open House**  
Sunday, January 28  
1 PM—3 PM

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[www.maryofnazareth.org](http://www.maryofnazareth.org)



Above, the St. Elizabeth library became a magical Santa's Workshop in December.

At left, our school is filled with many smiling sets of twins!



First-grade students performed beautifully at their annual Christmas concert.



In our 8th-grade pageant, our Mary holds baby Jesus surrounded by Joseph and the angel, Gabriel.



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St. Elizabeth students collected over 5,300 cans for the Greg Gannon food drive. A record amount!

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## An event not to be missed in 2018!

All St. Bernadette school families, grandparents, alumni, parishioners, neighbors and friends of St. Bernadette are invited to attend St. Bernadette's Annual Gala celebrating our 70th anniversary.

If you are interested in: Volunteering? Sponsoring the Gala? Making a Donation?

Advertising in the Program Catalog?

Please contact Nicole Perraut, Director of Development at [nperraut@saintbernadetteschool.org](mailto:nperraut@saintbernadetteschool.org)

Stay tuned for ticket sales and more details.

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### The Buzz from The Hive

## Fr. Dan Gallagher Rides for Vocations

By Emma Gallagher, Grade Seven, and Riley Peake, Grade Seven, St. Bernadette School Student Council Directors of Public Affairs

On September 23, 2017, St. Bernadette Parochial Vicar, Fr. Dan Gallagher participated in The Ride for Vocations which is a 100 mile bike ride. As you might suspect, a good deal of preparation was needed in order for him to be ready to participate in this ride. His elliptical machine was a big factor in his preparation. He also slowly increased his biking mileage each week leading up to the race. He had to learn how to eat and drink while riding his bike. He stayed hydrated with water and sports drinks and maintained his energy by eating energy bars, dried fruits and synthetic sports gels.

For a ride this long, Father had to purchase a new bike that was appropriate for the route he would ride. When asked what he thought about during this long ride, he shared, "During

*Continued on page 25*



Fr. Dan Gallagher with his bike in front of St. Bernadette Church



St. Bernadette Troop 440 at Arlington National Cemetery on December 16 for Wreaths Across America.

### St. Bernadette Troop 440 Participates in Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery

By Carolyn Hoskinson, St. Bernadette Troop 440 Scoutmaster

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout Oath

*Continued on page 25*

**St. Bernadette Parish**  
70 University Blvd., East  
Silver Spring, MD  
**Rev. Msgr. K. Bartholomew Smith, Pastor**  
301-593-0357

**St. Bernadette School**  
**Mr. Ted Ewanciw, Principal**  
301-593-5611

**Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor**  
301-593-5611

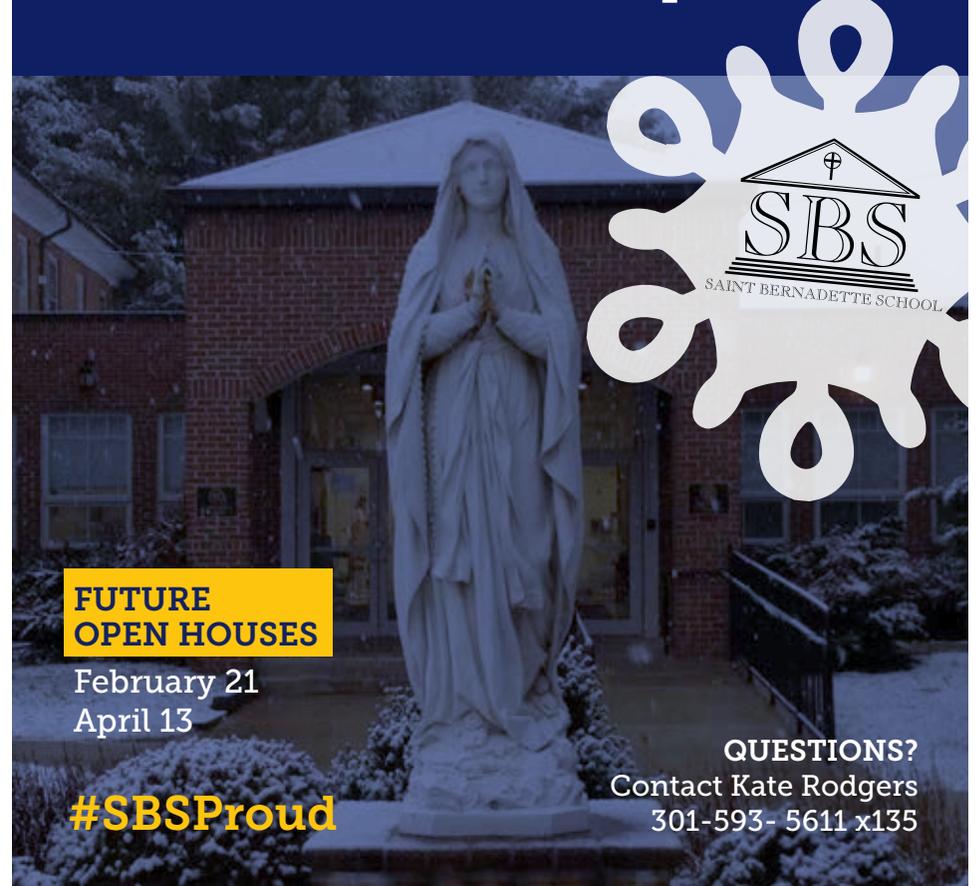


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Sunday, January 28  
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



**FUTURE OPEN HOUSES**

February 21  
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**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Kate Rodgers  
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Student Artwork on Display at Our Lady of Lourdes School

# Art is Coming Alive at Our Lady of Lourdes!

The art world is coming alive this year for the students of Our Lady of Lourdes. Ms. Mester is new to our school, but she has already made a huge impact on the students of Lourdes. Ms. Mester's quiet manner, and her willingness to allow students to explore their own creativity have already become evident throughout the building. Ms. Mester can be

found rescuing all kinds of found items – from fabric to feathers to pencil tips and plastic spoons. She is teaching our students to see the possibilities in the world around them!

Seventh grade students explored the differences between 2D and 3D art, stable vs. mobile sculpture, and the use of mixed media when creating clay birds. While creating

their own sculptures, the students studied the art of Chinese sculptor Ai Wei Wei.

The sixth through eighth graders explored textile and fabric art, especially the work of Louise Bourgeois. The fourth and fifth graders explored landscape painting, and used found objects, even credit cards, as painting tools. Third graders had the opportunity

to create their own lego characters, but they did it with found objects like popsicle sticks, toothpicks and wooden blocks.

Inspired by Wassily Kandinsky, musician turned artist, the students in grades K through six explored the connection between art and music. While listening to jazz or classical music, they paint the sounds of jazz and classical music. They used

pastels, crayons, and highlighters to explore the way these materials looked next to one another.

The students' artwork is on display throughout our building, and we can hardly wait to see what comes next! Ms. Mester is bringing out the artists in our students, and we are so grateful to have her as a part of the Lourdes family!

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**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish**  
7500 Pearl Street  
Bethesda, MD  
**Msgr. Edward Filardi,**  
Pastor  
301-654-1287  
**Patricia Kilroy McGann**  
Principal  
301-654-5376

## Inclusion Symposium at Our Lady of Lourdes

### *Changing Minds, Changing Lives*

"...our communities are still struggling to practice a true inclusion, full participation that finally becomes ordinary, normal. And this requires not only technical and specific programs, but first of all recognition and acceptance of faces,

tenacious and patient confidence that each person is unique and unrepeatable..." (Pope Francis, June 11, 2016)

These words from Pope Francis provide the inspiration for the first annual Our Lady of Lourdes

Inclusion Symposium. Teachers, staff, and families of Lourdes will welcome visitors to the school in early May of 2018. During the two-day symposium visitors will have the opportunity to visit classrooms and experience inclusive education firsthand. Teachers, administrators, parents, and Catholic Schools Office personnel will present infor-

mative sessions that will provide attendees with the practical information and the inspiration necessary for them to take the first steps to including children with special needs in their own schools.

Registration information for the Symposium will be available on the Lourdes website at [www.Bethesda-lourdes.org](http://www.Bethesda-lourdes.org).

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**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
A 2015 National Blue Ribbon School  
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January 30, 2018 - 9:30-11:30 AM & 1-2:30 PM



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## Our Lady of Lourdes Church Renovation

The renovation of the vestibule and enclosure of the porch at Our Lady of Lourdes was completed in January with the installation of a statue of the Blessed Mother atop the new entrance facing East-West Highway. A blessing will occur at the beginning of the 5pm vigil Mass Saturday on February 10 at which Cardinal Wuerl will be the principal celebrant. Pictured in front (L-R) are contractor Danny Gannon, Msgr. Edward Filardi, Pastor, and Sheri Golden, Office Manager, with Abel Gomez and Ernesto Perez on the ladder.

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MLK Jr. Day

# A Day Off from School Work, A Day On for Service Work

As has become a tradition in our country and now at The Woods Academy, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a day of service. This year, The Woods made a commitment to serve the “UNS” in our local community. Several opportunities were organized for our students and families to support those who are unclothed, unfed, unhoused, and all who are underserved.

On Monday, January 15, at school, over 20 families gathered to make chicken pot pies for the clients of Bethesda Cares, one of our community’s charity partners. Our families were also encouraged to make an appointment to assist another one of our charity partners, A Wider Circle at their Silver Spring headquarters at various times throughout the long weekend. Additionally, The Woods is collecting winter



Ryan (5) and Brandon (Class of 2017) Curry, Mia D’Augustine (7), Kevin Reese (7), and Gonzalo Marina Alonso (7) helped make chicken pot pies for clients of Bethesda Cares on MLK Jr. Day of Service at The Woods.

clothing in dignity condition as well as cloth and plastic reusable grocery bags for our charity partners at Dorothy Day House, Housing Unlimited, and Saint Ann’s Center for Children, Youth,

and Families.

This work is an important way for us to live our mission as a school to lead lives of significance.

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Head of School Joe Powers (left) and Religion Coordinator Chris Maloney (right) present Chef José Andrés with one of the plaques that adorn the walls at The Woods reminding us to love God’s “UNS.”

## Chef José Andrés Inspires Upper School Students

The Woods was blessed to start the month of December and the season of Advent in the presence of Chef José Andrés. Chef Andrés is a Woods dad (Lucía ’18, Inés ’15, and Carlotta ’13) and a notable model of loving God’s “UNS” – the unfed, the unhoused, unloved.

Chef Andrés visited with students in Grades 5-8 during Monday Morning Chapel on December 4. He spent time sharing his experiences and the challenges he faced while working to serve the thousands affected by the hurricanes that devastated Puerto Rico in the fall. His organization World Central Kitchen has served over two million meals in Puerto Rico. And it has since moved on to help those facing the natural disasters in California.

Chef Andrés and his animated delivery left an indelible mark on the audience. Head of School Mr. Joe Powers thanked Chef Andrés for his time and energy and remarked how he is a model for our students who strive to lead a life of significance.

Students identified the following as some of the key takeaways from the morning:

“Cooks need fire to work. Nothing will happen without a dependable fire. But we can apply that lesson to life – what is your fire? How can you light your own fire to help the world?”

“Self-awareness is absolutely crucial in this world. If you know your strengths and how to interact with people thoughtfully with kindness, you can do anything.”

“You have to feed the few before the many. One person at a time.”

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Leila Sarkarzadeh (7), Sasha Mikita (8), Mia Bujak (8), and Mia Hugo (8) joined friends at The Woods on MLK Jr. Day of Service to make chicken pot pies for clients of Bethesda Cares.



Alexandru Dragoi (4) shows off the chicken pot pie he made for clients of Bethesda Cares..

## Dr. Kurt Newman, President and CEO of Children’s National Health System, to Visit The Woods

Please join us for an evening with Dr. Kurt Newman on Tuesday, January 30, 7:00 – 9:00 PM at The Woods Academy.

Dr. Kurt Newman, President and CEO of Children’s National Health System, is a surgeon and nationally recognized leader in pediatric health. At Children’s he has fostered a culture of patient-centered care and championed innovations in research, operation and clinical care. He has forged productive partnerships with other health systems in the region, with government and community entities and with industry at the local, national and global level. He is a strong advocate for expanding mental health access for kids and has led two national forums on this issue.

We hope you can join us for this informative evening and lively discussion. Contact Traci Grigg, Director of Development, at tgrigg@woodsacademy.org or 301-222-0780, to reserve your seat. His Book “healing children” will be available for sale for \$20 at the event.

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More Woods Academy News on Page 26

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 Principal  
 301-942-3701

# Snow Days? ... S' no problem!

**S**tudents at Holy Redeemer love snow days like anyone else. But before and after that day off due to weather, we have teachable moments galore! Student from age three through eighth grade have learned something about winter weather in recent weeks, both inside and outside of the classroom. Beginning in PreK, our three-year olds enjoy imitation snow in their sensory tables, as they push, smush, fill, dump and move the

snow around for some wintertime fun. Four-year olds this year played a Frosty the Snowman game that involved catching giant paper snowballs in hats and keeping score for a math lesson. Kindergarten students copied words to their own decorated posters about how to catch a snowflake, and finished with their own words to describe what it tastes like on your tongue. Apparently, snowflakes can not only taste like water, but also like cake, a snowman, or a sno-cone!

Second graders practiced journaling by writing about what they would do if they had a snow day at home. Among the entertaining stories were tales of building snow forts, snow cars and snowmen, going shopping, staying in your PJs, and almost universally, drinking hot cocoa. Similarly, in Foreign Language, our fourth-grade Spanish students wrote *en español* about why winter (*invierno*) might be their favorite season.

In our middle school hallway, the science of winter was the hot topic. Students conducted experiments in their lab periods to determine the effect of adding salt and sand to different bags of ice. They offered hypotheses, and recorded their results. Then came the “aha” moment of realizing why the County trucks spread salt and sand on our snowy icy roads at this time of year.

Other fun snow activities involve



PreK 4 bringing “snowballs” to the classroom

mitten matching games, painting with water colors on ice blocks, and plenty of snowflake decorations in the classrooms. As one four-year old put it, with an excited smile,

“It’s a BLIZZARD in our room today!” Enjoy the beauty of winter, everyone!

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Holy Redeemer parishioner & school parent.

**\$500 donation to Holy Redeemer when you buy or sell.**



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## “Catholic Schools Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed”

*Celebrating Catholic Schools Week*  
 January 28 – February 2, 2018

**O**ur Holy Redeemer School community prays daily for Christ’s help to “speak and act with courtesy...treat others with compassion...show commitment to our faith, family, school work and activities...build up our community by loving others”.

**Sunday, January 28:**  
**OFFERING OUR WEEK TO GOD:**  
**9:30 Mass and Open House**  
**10:30am – 1:30 pm**

Students, parents and teachers will gather with our parish community for Mass. HRS students will participate as readers, petitioners and gift-bearers. Everyone is invited to our Open House immediately following Mass through 1:30 pm. Faculty and staff will be on hand at displays in the Herb Young Auditorium. Please stop by to meet our teachers and enjoy student work on display in the halls.

**Monday, January 29:**  
**SPEAKING AND ACTING WITH COURTESY: Career Day at Holy Redeemer**

Students in every grade will get to practice their courtesy skills as they

enjoy presentations by career speakers in the morning. This year’s keynote speaker is renowned Christian songwriter/performer, Marie Miller. Ms. Miller will address Grades 5-8 to share how her love of classic literature inspires her lyrics and how her Catholic faith informs her music. Lower grades will also have the opportunity to hear from Ms. Miller. Special thanks are due to a parent sponsor.

**Tuesday, January 30:**  
**TREATING OTHERS WITH COMPASSION: Day of Community Service**

Our whole school will work throughout the day with their buddy classes to prepare breakfast meal kits for Catholic Charities’ Cup of Joe program. Packing 750 breakfast bags, our students will help feed the homeless men at the city’s largest shelter. Students will wear their dress HRS sweatshirts with play clothes and bring \$1 for charitable giving.

**Wednesday, January 31:**  
**SHOWING COMMITMENT TO OUR FAITH, FAMILY, SCHOOL WORK AND ACTIVITIES:**

Prayers for Parents. We will

*Continued on page 16*



Sister Ann Crawley, a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace, visits with the children of College Marie Immaculee during lunch.

## Feeding the Children of Marie Immaculee

By Judy Walser

**M**erci, Mercy! was the theme for Our Lady of Mercy's November 2017 Second Collection that benefitted the College Marie Immaculee (grade school) in Milot, Haiti. This year's collection is a continuation of the parish's project which started with last year's 2nd Collection in November, whose theme was "Feed the students for a year." The 2016 goal was to feed the 277 students each day of the school year with a nutritious lunch that often includes beans, rice, butter and fish. Sister Ann Crawley, a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace, who works in several capacities in Milot, is the parish connection and keeps the parish informed about the relationship between proper nutrition and the students' ability to learn.

Participation in the collection was encouraged by Miss Roo Byrne, Father Bill's canine companion, who wore a Mercy coat and a badge designating her as the "Official Canine Ambassador". Whenever she appears on the Mercy campus, her human friends are drawn to her,



Father Bill and Roo, ready to greet Mercy Parishioners

and she generated lots of attention for the collection.

Our Lady of Mercy began a formal relationship with Immaculate Conception parish in 2014. At that time, Msgr. John Enzler, Msgr. Bill English, and OLOM parishioners visited the parish and responded to the request by then pastor Pere Tijwa to build a parish center. This building was financed by the parishes of OLOM, Most Blessed Sacrament and Little Flower. Several rooms inside the parish center became the school of College Marie Immaculee. For more information about the town of Milot, visit the Crudem Foundation at [www.crudem.org](http://www.crudem.org).



Miss Roo Byrne, Official Canine Ambassador

OPT

## Mercy's School Counselor to Speak on Domestic Violence

**O**ur Lady of Mercy School counselor, Mrs. Susan Gibeson has been invited to speak on behalf of Mercy's Domestic Violence Ministry Committee at "The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Catholic Social Ministry" workshop in early February of this year. She will participate in a panel discussion titled: "How parishes can set up a domestic violence

ministry."

Mercy's domestic violence committee has received recognition for its work on this very important issue by bringing education and awareness to its community. Mrs. Gibeson has been asked to share Mercy's approach with other parishes. She will be joined on the panel by several other representatives from Catholic Charities.

OPT

## School Open House and Pre-Kindergarten Program Seminar

**O**n Thursday, February 1, from 8:30-10:30 we will host our second Open House event of the school year.

Members of the Mercy Student Council will be assisting our parent tour guides, providing personal tours of our school.

At 10:00 am, we will be holding a Pre-Kindergarten Program Seminar led by two experts in the field of Early Childhood Education. This seminar is open to everyone.

OPT

## Catholic Schools Week Program

**M**ercy students and staff have a wonderful program of activities planned for 2018 Catholic Schools Week:

- Sunday – Mercy students will lead the Masses at 11:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- Monday is Student Day – Griot Janice Green, an accomplished storyteller, will do two presentations for students and staff.
- Tuesday is Spirit Day – Mercy students will participate in a service project led by the Student Council to collect care packages for the homeless.

• Wednesday is Parent Day – the school Mass will focus on parents and every student will write a personal note or poem to their parents.

• Thursday is Open House and Pre-Kindergarten Program Seminar.

• Friday is Teacher Appreciation Day – our MPTO will provide another delicious breakfast for the faculty and staff.

OPT

## Choral Arts Showcase

**M**ercy choir students will be participating in the Archdiocese Choral Arts Showcase at Our Lady of Good Counsel on Friday, February 2, from 7 to 9pm. This promises to be an evening of beautiful choral performances!

OPT

22nd Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit April 14 See Back Page

Our Lady of Mercy Parish  
9200 Kentsdale Drive  
Potomac, MD

Fr. William Byrne, Pastor  
301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School  
Ms. Deborah Thomas, Principal  
301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor  
301-330-5676



OUR LADY OF MERCY  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**OPEN HOUSE**

**February 1, 2018**

**8:30 am – 10:30 am**

*Pre-K3 thru Grade 8*



Advanced curriculum ♦ Small group instruction ♦ STEM  
*Two-time National Blue Ribbon School award winner!*

Applications now being accepted for the 2018-19 school year. For more information please contact the school: 301-365-4477 or visit our website: [www.schoololom.org](http://www.schoololom.org)

**SCHOOLS**

*Con't from page 14*

dedicate our work and prayers in gratitude for our parents and for their special intentions as we gather to pray the Rosary and 4C's Morning Offering, our noontime Angelus, and our closing Prayer of St. Michael the Archangel. Parents will receive an all-school digital thank-you message from our students and teachers.

**Thursday, February 1: BUILDING UP OUR COMMUNITY: Student Appreciation Games Day**

Enjoying a free red-and-white "tag" (out of uniform) day, the whole school will meet in the auditorium for cooperative games. We will cheer on our schoolmates from PreK4 through 8<sup>th</sup>-grade as we share our "Go RED (Respect Everyone Daily) school spirit! A visit from RED, our Cardinal mascot, will rally our school spirit!

**Friday, February 2: CELEBRATING THE 4C'S-- COURTESY, COMPASSION, COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY:**

Teacher Appreciation Day, Mass and Variety Show! We close the week as we began, with Mass followed by quarterly awards for Middle School Principal List/Honor Roll students and Grade PreK-8 students who are 2nd Quarter exemplars of Compassion and other hallmarks of achievement. Parents, family members and parishioners are always welcome to join us. At 10:45 am participating students in Grades 3-8 will entertain teachers and students in the annual Variety Show. Parents and siblings are invited to this special event. There will be a 12:30 pm all school dismissal. Aftercare will be available on this day. Teachers will be treated to lunch by HR Home and School!

OPT

**St. Mary - Rockville**



Eighth grade students lent a helping hand and spent quality time on a cold day with our preschool friends in the library.



St. Mary's Eighth Graders, NJHS Members Bring Joy to City of Rockville. On Friday, December 15, the St. Mary's National Junior Honor Society members, along with the school's eighth grade students, went to the Rockville Community Center to set up for the annual Toy Drive. The City of Rockville Toy Drive provides toys to almost 500 children in the local community. After setting up tables, sorting toys, and making decorations, the community center looked as though it had turned it into a magical winter wonderland.

**40 Days for Life**  
Feb 14 to Mar 25 in Bethesda  
<https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/bethesda/>  
**Take a Stand for Life**

**LOVED**

*Con't from page 4*

disturbed from my trance by honking cars from the busy street nearby. Having lost the peace I had felt two seconds ago, I head toward the other side of the cemetery, kicking the tiny pebbles that make up the stone path. Suddenly, I hear the sweet voice of a beautiful bird singing. As my sixth-grade class leaves the cemetery, I see a grave dedicated to all the unborn children, and I think of you.

You were aborted. In other words, you were never given a chance to set foot here. I cannot imagine what it is like never having the chance to live on this beautiful earth. It hurts me to know you never got to see what people look like or what colors are. You never even got to hold your parents' hands! You never experienced love or friendship. It is truly mind boggling to me that any person would kill an innocent baby. You could have been loved by us, touched by us, and warmed by the gift of life! Living, quite obviously, is a daily thing. To deprive a child

of the chance to live is wrong. It is heartbreaking to know that you could have been here by my side in the cemetery, gazing at the same beautiful wonders I am seeing. You could have been here living your own life just as I am doing right now. Even if you never walked on the earth, you are still a soul in heaven.

I pray that you are joyful and blessed, even if you were not given a chance to live among us.

Truly,  
Cecilia Ilagan

**ENZLER**

*Con't from page 1*

respecting and welcoming every person who comes our way.

Dr. King spoke to us of freedom, of determination and of the need to protect those who are hated, treated unfairly or left behind because of the color of their skin. Here in Montgomery County, let's celebrate our rich diversity and embrace the challenge to welcome all as part of our family, our Church, our community and our nation.

January is also the month of the March for Life, when sometimes hundreds of thousands of people gather to make a strong but peaceful statement about the need to protect life. The Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that made abortion a part of our landscape was handed down on January 22, 1973, and it's hard to believe that was now 45 years ago. The passage of time has not dulled the heartbreaking sadness that we are able to take the life of the unborn with such ease and, in some cases, little consideration for their innocence and defenselessness.

I've attended the March for Life several times, and I always find it inspiring. It is a strong reminder that we are all called to bring an

end to abortion and to speak out strongly for God's gift of life from conception to natural death.

I take a pastoral view of this issue. Let's start by admitting it's wrong and admitting that abortion is in fact taking the life of an innocent baby. At the same time, let us as a Church be welcoming to all who may be considering or have had abortions. We don't condone it, but we need to meet them where they are, recognizing that people are forced to make decisions in all kinds of circumstances. While we don't agree with the decision, they still need to be welcomed and loved in our Church as part of God's family.

I gave a homily on this subject a few years back at Blessed Sacrament, where I was pastor at the time, and I remember it well. Afterwards, I was approached by quite a few people who knew someone who had recently had an abortion. In some cases, arrangements were made for me to talk with them, which I happily did. My job was to show them the love of Jesus, welcome them back to the Church and help them on the path to healing from such deep pain that was difficult to overcome.

Let us pray for all of the unborn babies that have been killed, that all babies in the future will experience

God's gift of life for them, and for all those who have had abortions or are facing the terrible decision.

Finally, we end January with Catholic Schools Week from January 28-February 3. This is a week worth celebrating! I'm a product of Catholic schools, and I remain a big believer and huge proponent of Catholic schools. Our schools are such a blessing not only because of the wonderful faculties and staffs but also because they are free to teach our faith, the wonderful gift of God's love for us and how we as Christians can respond. Our schools do such a great job, and many of them partner with us at Catholic Charities to better serve the poor and help form hearts of service in our young people.

Maybe this year our schools could put extra emphasis on the issues of racism and protecting life. Addressing head on the continuation of prejudice, bigotry and racism as well as the need to protect life from conception to natural death would be a great way to celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

Our Church calls us to cherish every life and to treat all with respect and dignity. May we as individuals and as a body of believers be prophetic in that call, as we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord.

OPT



**St. John the Evangelist School**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
SUNDAY  
**February 11**  
10:30 - 1:30 PM


**Grades Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Before- and after-school care**  
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[www.sjite.org](http://www.sjite.org)  
**(301) 681 7656**

**MARCH**

Con't from page 1

munication that sidewalk counselors observing the abortion clinic this Sunday afternoon noticed that one woman at the abortion clinic did not go through with her abortion. This was credited to the large gathering of people outside the abortion clinic and their prayers.

Prior to the Rosary Procession, Bishop Campbell was the principal celebrant and homilist for a "Witness to Life" Mass at 12:00 Noon at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church. The Archdiocese of Washington Department of Life Issues sponsored this Mass.

As background, the abortion clinic in Germantown, MD, where Carhart worked, closed its operations in



Washington Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell Jr. (center) celebrates "Witness to Life" Mass at St. Jane de Chantal Church along with Pastor Fr. Samuel Giese (right) and Fr. Keith Burney (left).

September 2017. On October 13, 2017, Carhart moved into a suite in the Wildwood Medical Center, opening an abortion clinic a few days later. Carhart specializes in late-term abortions, typically using a procedure that commences on Sunday and finishing several days later.

In the State of Maryland, abortions are legal through all nine months of pregnancy based on the U.S. Supreme Court decisions of January 22, 1973 in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. The Roe v. Wade decision legal-

izes abortion through all nine months of pregnancy when the life or the health of the mother is endangered. The Doe v. Bolton decision defines the health of the mother to encompass- "physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age" factors.

Notwithstanding U.S. civil law, the Catholic Church unequivocally condemns abortion. Paragraphs 2270 and 2271 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church state, in part:

*"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. Since the first century the Church*

*Continued on page 32*



Participants carry signs, some handmade, to get their message out, such as the one displayed and others, including "Civil rights begin with the right to life".

# Happenings in Our Blue Ribbon School

School reports provided by Mrs. Catherine Skibo

## DAR Essay Contest Honors

Every year students from St. Jane de Chantal enter an essay contest organized by the Daughters of the American Revolution. This year the theme was: "World War 1: Remembering the War to End All Wars." Students were asked to write an essay addressing how the war changed life and impacted society in the future. Congratulations go to three winners from St. Jane de Chantal School - Michael Blackstone, Reese Long, and Braden Groce. They were praised for their excellent writing and research.

## Impressive Outcome in Catholic Math League

The scores from the second round of testing are in and St. Jane de Chantal School once again came out on top! Here is a quick recap: fourth grade is 1st in the state; third and fifth grades are second in the state; sixth and seventh grades are 3rd in the state, as well as 13th and 11th respectively in the country! Special congratulations go out to the following students: Kevin Emerson who is 21st in the country for sixth-grade students with over

1500+ participants; Paige Koger is in the top 100 in the country with over 1300+ participants; and Reese Long is 41st in country out of 1000+ participants. The entire school community was very proud of the outcome and was very thankful to the math teachers and all the students for their hard work.

## Holiday Band Concert Impresses Attendees

Once again, the incredible band director of St. Jane de Chantal School, Mrs. Tifford, wowed parents, faculty, and students alike with the winter beginner and advanced band concerts. The beginner band is comprised solely of fourth grade students brand new to playing a

*Continued on page 24*

### St. Jane de Chantal Parish

9601 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD

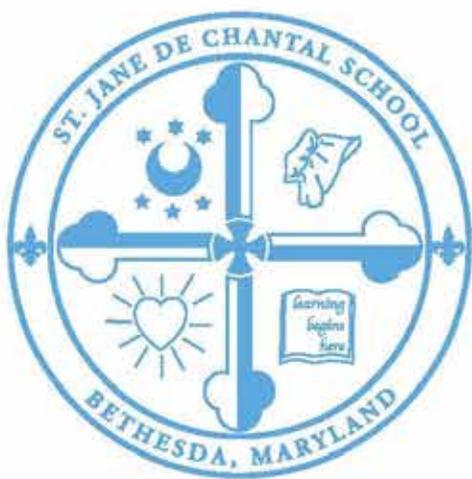
**Fr. Samuel C. Giese**  
Pastor

301-530-1550

**St. Jane de Chantal School**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton

301-530-1221

**Susana and Mario Cerritelli,**  
OPT Editors



## St. Jane Frances de Chantal School

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 8

The School where your Child will grow in spirit and mind. The School where your Child will be known and loved. The School where you can be involved.

**Open House January 29, 2018 9:00 – 11:00 AM**

For more information, visit us at [Dechantal.org](http://Dechantal.org)

# Classroom Social Media links Teachers and Families at St. Bart's

Call it an example of social media 'done right.'

Using specially designed classroom apps, St. Bartholomew teachers are giving families an insider's glimpse of classroom life. Throughout the day, parents might see pictures of children collecting leaves for science, videos of students reciting scenes from plays, or photos of playground fun. In what has become a real element of community building, parents are able to "like" posts and comment on them.

The invitation-only Homeroom app is used by kindergarten teacher Ann-Marie Coakley and fourth-grade teacher Julia Constable-



The homepage for St. Bart's 4th grade social media page, which is enjoyed by parents and grandparents.



A photo shared on the kindergarten social media page shows Assistant Superintendent, Wendy Anderson, smiling after reading to Kinders.

Allen. "It couldn't be easier. I just click and share," says Mrs. Constable-Allen. "I use it as a way to help parents feel a little more connected and a little more relaxed about how their child is doing. If a parent is having some anxiety about how their child is doing socially, it's kind of nice for them to see that he or she is clearly having a great time."

The popularity of the app prompted fourth-grade parents to suggest adding grandparents to the list of approved users. "My parents live in

*Continued on page 24*

### St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout  
Pastor  
301-229-7933

St. Bartholomew School  
Frank English, Principal  
301-229-5586

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor  
202-512-8226



St. Bart's Youth Group takes a break from skating at Cabin John Ice Rink. Photo by Maria Kauffman Archer

## Single Digit Temperatures Can't Slow Busy Youth Group

The fierce cold this winter has not kept the St. Bartholomew Youth Group from serving their neighbor and having fun. The youth group joined the rest of the St. Bart's community by handing out bags and collecting donations for the Thanksgiving food drive. The group also visited the residents of the St. Bart's House in the days nearing to Christmas. The group played sports, had a movie night,

*Continued on page 24*



Angels, farm animals, and others celebrate Christmas at St. Barts.

## "Standing Room Only" Christmas Eve Pageant Sparkles

The Christmas Eve Pageant, now a tradition at St. Bart's, featured a Star of Bethlehem, angels, wise men, shepherds, a camel, innkeepers, and an adorable baby Jesus. The concert included

beautiful, seasonal music throughout, including performances by the St. Bart's Children's Choir and soloists from the parish communi-

*Continued on page 24*



St. Bart's Pastor, Fr. Mark Knestout (center) joins in takes part in the festivities at St. Bart's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

## St. Bart's Hosts Volunteer Dinner

On January 6, St. Bartholomew Parish held its annual "Twelfth Night" dinner to recognize the many people who offer their time and talents to make St. Bart's a wonderful place for worship, fellowship, and service.

The dinner was a sumptuous affair, filling the church hall. A band serenaded the assembled volunteers and guests. All parish

volunteers were honored. Father Knestout commented, "Since I came to St. Bart's, this has been one of my favorite evenings. I have the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and to show them by the number of people in attendance how many volunteers it takes to run a vibrant parish. My thanks to all the volunteers who regularly organize the party."

OPT



St. Bart's Volunteers and Guests fill the parish hall for a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

## St. Bartholomew School

# OPEN HOUSE

### Thurs. 2/8 @ 9-10:30am

9:1  
Teacher:  
Student  
Ratio

Extensive  
afterschool  
options

Fr. Mark Knestout (Pastor), Mr. Frank English (Principal), teachers, and the families of St. Bartholomew School invite you to

DISCOVER ST. BART'S!

A Blue-Ribbon PK - 8th Grade School

admissions@stbartholomew.org | 301-229-5586  
school.stbartholomew.org  
6900 River Road, Bethesda MD 20817



Eighth grader, Gabriel Amores, pictured here with his grandmother and Principal Sahadi, wins the school Geography Been competition. This is his third time winning the school competition. Way to go! Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



St. Martin parishioners gather at the homes of families who hosted the 2017 Posadas to commemorate the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Photo courtesy of Sister Judith Maldonado, O.P.



St. Martin school and parish families enjoy the annual Breakfast with Santa. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



Students from St. Martin's School create winter art projects during the afterschool club, Amazing Afternoons. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



Second graders from St. Martin's School celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with Rev. Jonathan Vanegas. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

# St. Martin's Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

During Catholic Schools Week (January 28-February 3), St. Martin's School community in Gaithersburg, looks forward to a whirlwind of activities. Since 1974, this nation-wide annual week of events is a celebration of education, faith, and service, which are traditional trademarks of Catholic schools.

This year we are also participating in the National Catholic Education Association's, Many Gifts, One Nation: A Day of Giving on Tuesday, January 30. This inaugural event is a 24-hour social media campaign, encouraging those who have benefitted from Catholic education, to donate to a local Catholic school. For over ninety years, St. Martin's has offered academic excellence rooted in Catholic tradition. Through participation challenges, matching gifts, and the involvement of our generous school community, we hope to raise money that will benefit the school's greatest needs. Through social media, St. Martin's will be inviting alumni, parents, students, faculty, parishioners, and all those who have been impacted by Catholic school education in ways big and small, to donate to St. Martin's. St. Martin's is on three social media platforms, Facebook @smsmd.org, Twitter @SMSCrusader, and Instagram @smscrusader. The NCEA is providing St. Martin's with a safe and secure online payment portal for the 24-hour event. Cash and check donations may be mailed or dropped off to the school office.

In addition, each day during Catholic Schools Week, we will honor different con-

tributors to the school community.

- Saturday, January 27: Children's Mass at 5:30 pm
- Sunday, January 28: Parish Appreciation, Principal Sahadi Speaks during Masses
- Monday, January 29: STEM Assembly, School Mass, Lenten Food Drive Begins
- Tuesday, January 30: Open House for Current and New Families from 9am to 1:00 pm and Many Gifts, One Nation: A 24-Hour Day of Giving starting at 9am (ending on Jan. 31 at 9am)
- Wednesday, January 31: Student Appreciation Day, Wacky Dress Day, Bingo
- Thursday, February 1: Parent Appreciation Day, Volleyball Game (Eighth Grader vs. Staff)
- Friday, February 2: Living Rosary, Tuition Raffle Drawing, Teacher Appreciation Lunch

OPT

## St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. Richard Gancayco, Pastor  
301-990-3203

St. Martin School  
Anthony Sahadi, Principal  
301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey, Parish Editor  
240-477-8706  
www.smsmd.org



## St. Martin's Catholic School

Prekindergarten – 8th Grade

# OPEN HOUSE

January 30/9:00-1:00 pm

Come see the difference our academic excellence, Catholic identity, and community service can make in your child today and in the future.

115 S. FREDERICK AVENUE GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND  
WWW.SMSMD.ORG 301-990-2441



Happy children, learning and growing together in a family atmosphere!  
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 at Saint Francis International School in**

**Full-Time Pre-K for ages 3 and 4  
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 Elementary Grades 1-4  
 Middle School Grades 5-8**

**plus Extended School from 6:45 am to 6:30 pm  
 and Summer Academy every July**

**See what a difference our Catholic school can make  
 and learn how we can make it affordable for your family  
 on Thursday, Feb. 2 from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm**

*Can't make it Feb. 2?*

**We will have another open house on Feb. 16**

**We're also happy to give you a tour  
 and answer questions  
 on any regular school day!**

**Be sure to come learn more soon  
 because the financial aid application deadline  
 is Feb. 20th!**

*Hablamos Español*

**www.SaintFrancisInternational.org**

**301-434-2344**

**1500 St. Camillus Drive  
 Silver Spring, MD 20903**

*1 miles south of Beltway Exit 28 / New Hampshire Ave.*



SFIS students get ready for Christmas by going to confession at the Advent Penance Service.

# God is present at Saint Francis International

**T**he Advent and Christmas seasons are always a very special time of each year at Saint Francis International School ... and this year was no different. In Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Our Lord at Christmas, we sing the words "O Come, O Come Emmanuel!" time and again. This ancient hymn reminds us of that special name for Jesus that we meditate on during the Advent and Christmas seasons – *Emmanuel* – which



Every student at SFIS participates in the holiday concerts. The evening concert features the school bands and students in grade 1 through 8.



Above, SFIS alumnae from Elizabeth Seton High School come back to DJ the winter dance for the middle school students.

means "God with us."

Throughout Advent and Christmas at SFIS there is a major focus on what it means for us as human beings to desire God to be with us

*Continued on page 38*

**St. Francis International School**

[www.saintfrancisinternational.org](http://www.saintfrancisinternational.org)

**Tobias A. Harkleroad,  
 Principal**

**St. Camillus Campus**  
 1500 Camillus Drive  
 Silver Spring, MD 20903

**St. Mark Campus**  
 7501 Adelphi Road  
 Hyattsville, MD 20783



At right, three students portray the Magi before the baby Jesus at the SFIS Epiphany mass.

## Outstanding Advent!

**T**hank you to all who participated in our Advent events and activities this year!

The Alternative Gift Bazaar was well attended, and all vendors exceeded last year's sales. This is wonderful news for the organizations that benefit from these sales. We are proud to say that we are the only Fair-Trade bazaar in the area!

The C4 toy collection and distribution was well received by the almost 600 children who will have a special Christmas this

year.

One generous parishioner donated 250 Christmas Gift backpacks for those in need in our community ages 4 to 84. Each package was personally designed, coordinated, and assembled and included items for the children as well as crafts for them to make to give to others for Christmas.

Parishioners sponsored over 15 families for Christmas with gifts and food for a special celebration.

OPT

## Alternative Gift Catalogue News

**O**ur Alternative Gift Catalog surpassed all prior years. There were two new additions to our Alternative Gift Catalogue: the Spanish Catholic Center Clinic and TASSC: **Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition.** Both agencies are recipients of monthly grants through our Community Fund.

OPT

## Spanish Catholic Center Clinic

**T**he Archdiocese of Washington, under the umbrella of Catholic Charities, operates a medical clinic that provide primary care to adults and children. If you have been putting off visiting the doctor because you are uninsured or under-insured, make an appointment today. They offer very affordable care. They serve people of all ages and work primarily with low-income

families who do not have health insurance.

They provide low-cost, patient-centered primary care services and specialty services on-site, including minor surgery, Gynecology, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Dermatology, Orthopedics, Acupuncture and referrals to other specialty services including Physical Therapy. For more information, visit: [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/scc/](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/scc/)

OPT

## TASSC

**Who We Are:** TASSC is a coalition of torture survivors and volunteers, representing countries and ethnic groups throughout all parts of the world.

**Our Mission:** The mission of TASSC is to end the practice of torture and to support survivors as they empower themselves, their families and communities.

For almost 20 years, TASSC has been dedicated to ending the practice of torture worldwide and empowering torture survivors and their families. Most TASSC survivors are in the United States legally, they go through all the proper channels in applying for asylum in the United States. TASSC is committed to make survivors feel welcome and safe when they come through their doors, and to continue delivering outstanding services. The range of services TASSC offers-- psychological counseling, case management, pro bono legal assistance, English classes, employment counseling, stress reduction

workshops, yoga and advocacy training—is constantly expanding and adapting to the survivors' needs.

TASSC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization governed by their Board of Directors. Day-to-day operations are led by the Executive Director who oversees a small staff and excellent volunteer staff who assist with program coordination within TASSC such as our employment assistance program and our truth speakers program. At any given time, TASSC has between 3-6 graduate and undergraduate interns, as well as loyal volunteers who build TASSC's capacity to serve and empower survivors.

Early totals were:

- C4 - \$300
- EMEAN - \$200
- Gabriel Network - \$415
- MidCounty United Ministries (MUM) - \$450
- Shepherd's Table - \$1,045
- Haiti Sister Parish - \$1,595
- Spanish Catholic Center Clinic - \$300
- TASSC - \$235
- Veterans Support Services - \$865

OPT

## Lenten Supper Talks 2018

**E**ach year, the Social Justice Education Committee at St. John the Baptist Parish organizes the Lenten Supper Talks, which are held on Friday evenings during Lent. This year's theme is "Finding Jesus Everywhere." Our goal this year is to increase our members' commitment to scripture, Catholic social teaching, and action.

Each evening begins with a free, simple supper of soup and bread at 6:00 pm. The talk starts about 6:20 and lasts about 40 - 50 minutes, followed by 15 or 20 minutes for questions. We end by 7:25, so that people can go up to church for the Stations of the Cross at 7:30 if they want to.

2/16 Fr. Jacek: How can we reach out to our immigrant family in Langley Park

2/23 Bob Simon: Ecologically Smart use of Energy. Mr. Simon is a former advisor to the

Assistant to President Obama for Science and Technology. He works within the ADW to promote ecologically smart use of energy among the diocesan properties.

3/2 TASSC (survivors of torture and abuse)  
3/9 Jordan Duffner: Finding Jesus Among Muslims

Miss Duffner is a research fellow at Georgetown University's Bridge Initiative, a research project on Islamophobia. She authored "Finding Jesus among Muslims: How Loving Islam Makes Me a Better Catholic," and the Bridge Initiative report, Danger and Dialogue: American Catholic Public Opinion and Portrayals of Islam.

3/16 Spanish Catholic Center Clinic in Wheaton

3/23 Haiti Sister Parish Project

OPT

## Haiti Update

**C**handeleur Belanston was ordained a priest on December 27 in Anse-à-Veau. He celebrated his first mass on December 28 in St. Pierre Baradères. He tells us, "I am your son and the recipient of your generosity. Again, I say thanks to SJB parishioners, SJB Sister Parish Staff." Chandleur began his journey as a seventh-grade student of College St. Jean Baptiste. A note written by Fr. Belanston to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of our twinning relationship with St. Pierre in Baradères still resounds:

"Twenty years ago, life was sadly difficult in Baradères. The situation was so difficult that it attracted the St. John's parishioners' attention up to Maryland. One of the biggest difficulties people in Baradères faced was in education. There was only one high school in the community. This school could only accommodate approximately 20% of the students who came from the elementary schools, and didn't function well. To continue after elementary school if a pupil didn't find a place in this public high school, he or she might go elsewhere, often in Port-au-Prince where life is



Fr. Chandleur Belanston

by far more expensive and where the best high schools are very expensive. Because of this, many students didn't continue after the sixth grade.

I experienced this firsthand. I had doubts about my education after elementary school, until October 1999, with the support of Saint John's parishioners, St. Pierre founded the Collège St. Jean Baptiste (CSJB). It was like a beacon of light in the night of our anxieties; a breeze which allowed us to hold release our breath. Joyfully and proudly, I attended this high school, which I knew from the beginning, was going to be one of the best high schools in Haiti. Like the psalmist who praises the Lord for his favors, I also praise the Lord for his

favors. The time I spent at Collège Saint Jean Baptiste is engraved in my heart. In this school, I was well educated. In addition to this school, thanks to St. John's parishioners a lot of other social projects have been realized in Baradères. Seriously, you don't know deeply what you have done for the community of Baradères has changed our lives, but God knows, and time will tell. What the St. John parishioners have done is an act of faith, hope and love."

Please keep Chandleur, his family, and our sisters and brothers in Baradères on this joyous occasion. The team traveling to Baradères in 2018 is looking forward to celebrating Mass with him.

OPT

**St. John the Baptist Parish**  
12319 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD  
**Rev. Y. David Brault,**  
Pastor  
301-622-1122  
**Brian Blomquist,**  
Principal  
301-622-3076



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# St. Jude Regional Catholic School: Come, Catch Our Spirit!

**S**t. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) is more than a Catholic day school for grades pre-K (3- and 4-year olds) through 8 in Rockville at SJRCs the spirit of community and our Catholic faith are infused in everything we do.

At St. Jude, We ARE...educators of the whole child. SJRCs prides itself on providing a vibrant arts, music and community service education with a strong physical education program. Our sixth-graders experience the world first hand in Outdoor Education, our Drama Club gives our children a creative outlet beyond the classroom walls,



"We are St Jude" is a daily cheer at St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Pictured is Principal Glenn Benjamin surrounded by faculty staff, and students.



We ARE...a community. We encourage parents to become an integral part of our school through numerous volunteer positions—helping with the hot lunch program, planning events through the Home School Association, chaperoning a field trip, or monitoring the halls. We want parents to feel as at home at St. Jude as their children do.

We ARE...people of faith. Ever mindful of our Catholic identity, SJRCs fosters a strong faith commitment and religious spirit, values, and morals. Students attend weekly mass and adoration and monthly penance as well as participate in annual May Crownings and Christmas pageants, attend Rosary Group, and recite the school prayer and other prayers throughout their

school day. Additionally, priests from the Shrine of St. Jude are involved with our students every day.

We ARE St. Jude...and you can be, too!

To learn first-hand what makes the St. Jude community unique, attend the upcoming Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., or schedule a visit to see students and teachers in action. You can also learn more about St. Jude Regional Catholic School on its website: [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org). Additionally, Mr. Glenn Benjamin, principal, can answer any questions you may have about the school or the application process. He can be reached at 301-946-7888 or [Glenn.Benjamin@stjuderockville.org](mailto:Glenn.Benjamin@stjuderockville.org).

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**Shrine of St. Jude Parish**  
 12701 Veirs Mill Road  
 Rockville, MD  
**Rev. Paul Lee, STD,**  
 Pastor  
 301-946-8200  
**St. Jude Regional Catholic School**  
**Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal**  
 301-946-7888  
**Maureen Martin,**  
 OPT Editor  
[MaureenCMartin@verizon.net](mailto:MaureenCMartin@verizon.net)

and our students who may need an extra helping hand can draw on the expertise of a full-time resource teacher.

We ARE...academic excellence. At every grade level, we deliver a curriculum designed to prepare students for the rigors of high school. In fact, a large majority of our 4th- through 8th-grade students attain honors of achievement each marking period. Additionally, nearly every single 8th grader who applies is accepted to a Catholic high school, and a majority of our graduates attend one.

We ARE...compassionate toward

others. We turn our students' hands and hearts toward good works—from collecting much-needed goods for St. Ann's Infant and Children's Home, to preparing bagged lunches for service men and women, to gathering canned goods to feed the hungry. St. Jude children learn their role in the community of caring. Even within the school the spirit of lending a hand up is ever-present in the buddy system—every older child has a younger child to mentor, teaching the buddy good behavior in church, working on projects together, and watching over them in the halls and at recess.

## Biennial Gala Set for March 10

By Karen Sanders

**A**Tropical Evening Awaits the St. Jude community as they prepare to celebrate the spirit of "Ohana" (family) with a festive luau gala on March 10, 2018, on the not-so-sandy beaches of the Thaddeus Room of the school.

Following a similar format as galas of the past, the evening will include a 50/50 raffle, silent auction with new mobile and online bidding, buffet-style dinner, open bar, and live auction. Tickets are available at [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org); click on "Giving" and then "Luau 2018." Cost to attend is \$55 per person or \$100 per couple until Feb. 2, then pricing increases. All funds raised from the biennial celebration will be used to create a state-of-the-art STEM lab at St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

In the spirit of Ohana that the St. Jude community provides, former students are encouraged to contact the gala committee to provide testimony on the importance of their St. Jude science instruction and the influence of Ms. Hampe in their lives.

For more information, please contact Kim Lora at [kiml119@msn.com](mailto:kiml119@msn.com).

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**Aloha!**

**Please join us March 10, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Silent Auction \* Raffles \* Live Auction**  
**Buffet Dinner \* Live Entertainment**

**Casual Dress (Hawaiian and Tropical attire encouraged!)**

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Jeep Courtesy of:

## Open House at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, Jan. 31

**A**s part of the annual national Catholic Schools' Week events, St. Jude Regional Catholic School will open its doors on Wednesday, Jan. 31, for prospective students, their families, and the community to learn about the school and its mission to provide high-quality, values-based education. Doors will be open from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. Admissions information will be available at both times; however, teachers will be available to speak to prospective families in the evening.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School serves students from 3 years old through eighth grade of all religious, racial, ethnic, and



income backgrounds. Its location at 4820 Walbridge Street in Rockville is perfect for commuters as it is convenient to Veirs Mill Road, Connecticut Avenue, Georgia Avenue, and Rockville Pike.

For information on the curriculum, admissions policies and registration, contact the school office at 301-946-7888 or visit [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org).

OPT

# St. Jude Regional Catholic School Goes Blonde!

By Michelle Ardillo

St. Jude Regional Catholic School's drama club, under the direction of Ms. Becky Sella, SJRCS middle school math teacher, will be producing the musical *Legally Blonde Jr.* for its spring production. Students involved in drama club have been meeting once a week since the beginning of the school year doing acting exercises, role playing, character studies, and more. Auditions and callbacks for the spring musical were the week of December 4, 2017, with the cast list being announced on December 8, 2017. Rehearsals will begin after Christmas break and the performances are April 20 and 21, 2018, in the Thaddeus Room at St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

The cast of thirty includes: eighth graders Nico Abreu, Emeli Araniva, Noel Belardo, Angelica Braswell, Paula Cherre, Alex Condori, Ashleigh Dansker, William Etti, Daniel Rojas, and Diego Sarca; seventh graders Isabelle Flores, Brigid Gibbons, Nicole Koehler, Michael Nicolas, Andrew Rapisura, Jazmine Santis, Katie Sheetz, Rachel Shrestha, Sara Stanley, Alyssa Tull, Breanna Valcarcel, Amira Villanueva, and Tina Young; and sixth graders Kalkidan Alelegn, Coralie Arias,



Cast and crew of St. Jude Regional Catholic School's production of *Legally Blonde Jr.* Photo by Mrs. Rebecca Durfee

Naomi Barish, Isabella Grijalba, Raquel Liriano, Tim Sanders, and Isabella Turner. Equally enthusiastic is the backstage crew which includes eighth graders Nathaniel Barish and Kacy Horne, seventh graders Daniel Landry and Anellize Morales, and sixth graders Marco Duran, Benjamin Lopez, and Lily Weiksner.

The production team for *Legally Blonde Jr.* is Ms. Sella; Mrs. Amy White, music teacher; Mrs. Meghan Regan, art teacher; and Mrs. Michelle Ardillo, mid-

dle school language arts teacher. Director Becky Sella is looking to hire orchestra pit members for the production, specifically a pianist, guitarist, and bassist. Compensation is available and inquiries can be directed to Ms. Sella at [Rebecca.Sella@StJudeRockville.org](mailto:Rebecca.Sella@StJudeRockville.org).

*Legally Blonde Jr.* is licensed by Music Theatre International's Broadway Junior program. It is based on the 2007 award-winning Broadway musical and the 2001 smash hit motion picture, *Legally Blonde* starring Reese

Witherspoon. This "G" rated version is designed specifically for younger audiences, with music scored for the vocal ranges of middle school students, all while still maintaining the witty scenes and sassy dialogue of the movie. *Legally Blonde Jr.* features large, energetic dance numbers featuring the cast of sorority sisters, law school students, law firm employees, hairdressers, and more. Save the date—you won't want to miss this great show!

OPT

## Montgomery County Christian Unity Service

January 28 at Shrine of St. Jude

Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox churches in Montgomery County will come together in observance of the annual worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, January 28th at 3:00 P.M. at the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church, 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville. The theme of the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power – was developed by the Churches in the Caribbean.

Father Paul Lee, STD, Pastor of St. Jude's, will preside and Pastor Jeff Jones of North Bethesda United Methodist Church will preach. Special music will be provided by a combined choir of the participating churches and the Trinity Lutheran Church Handbell Choir. A free-will offering will support needy communities in the Caribbean. A reception and fellowship will follow the service.

All are welcome to join with other Christian congregations of Montgomery County in our 24th annual celebration of song, scripture, and prayer in fulfillment of the Lord's will "that all may be one."

OPT

## St. Jude Catholic School Celebrating 62 Years 1956–2018 OPEN HOUSE

January 31, 2018 • 9:00 – 11:30am & 6:00 – 8:00pm



- Resource & Learning Skills Program
- High School Preparatory Focus
- Spanish K-8
- Small Class Size
- Challenging Academic Curriculum
- Resources & Learning Skill Programs
- Extended Day Program
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-Glenn Benjamin, Principal

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4820 Walbridge Street  
Rockville, MD 20853  
301-946-7888  
[www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org)



## CHRISTMAS

Con't from page 18

ty. Organizers of the pageant included Diana Carter, Bonnie Perkins, Kathy O'Connor, Kathy Hurl, Kelly Forbes, and several others. Daniel Villar was in charge of the music and the children's choir. Copies of Joy to the World, by Scott Hahn were passed out as Christmas gifts to attendees.

Fater Mark Knestout commented. "This Mass is always a joy to celebrate; it is always standing room only and attracts people from all generations, young, old, and in between, even persons without young children who come to enjoy the liturgy and reenactment of the Nativity. The St. Bart's Children's Choir is the best of all of the five parishes I have served."



The St. Bart's Children's Christmas Choir, led by Daniel Vilar, Duncan Ballentine, and Carole

## GROUP

Con't from page 18

and played laser tag.

This coming winter the youth group will go ice skating, collect donations for disadvantaged mothers, play board games, go rock climbing and more! Events of special note in the near future include a visit to EarthTreks in Rockville for rock climbing on February 11 and tackling dodgeball and pizza on February 18. Please contact Maria Kaufman Archer (32kaufmann@cua.edu) for further information or if you would like to receive weekly emails about the group's upcoming activities.

OPT

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Con't from page 18

New York," says Kelly Stevens, the mother of a fourth grader. "This is a wonderful way for them to stay engaged in how our daughter is growing, and her wonderful experience at St. Bart's."

Any parent who has asked their child, "What did you do at school today?" knows that the answer is hardly ever complete. Classroom social media is changing that. "Using this app has been a great addition," says Stevens. "As soon as I pick my daughter up, we can discuss her day, and what she and her friends were doing in class. It has definitely added to the depth of conversation on what she is learning, and it also gives us much more insight into how she is learning."

OPT

## HAPPENINGS

Con't from page 17

musical instrument, but both bands are strong in numbers and sound! Attendees were treated to holiday favorites such as Jingle Bells and Jolly Old St. Nicholas performed by the ensemble, as well as more traditional pieces, such as the French carol Il est Ne and Good King Wenceslas. Everyone agreed that the band brought the Christmas spirit to de Chantal with their beautiful music, talented playing, and their festive Christmas attire.

Middle School Students Visits the "Tomb of the Christ" Exhibit

In December the sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students visited the National Geographic Museum in Washington, DC, to see the exhibit entitled: Tomb of the Christ. Students were virtually transported to Jerusalem to discover the fascinating history of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in an immersive 3-D experience. Students were able to virtually visit the church and learn about its storied history and enduring mysteries. They were also able to visit the other active exhibits including an exhibit about Jane Goodall and photos of animals in the wild.

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**Welcome to The Church**

On December 6, 2017, Shay and Makayla Cihlar were baptized as members of the Catholic Church. The brother and sister are students at St. Patrick's School and affirmed their desire to join the faith of their classmates and participate fully in the sacraments. Msgr. Charles Parry, pastor, and Fr. Martino Choi, parochial vicar, baptized Shay and Makayla at a weekly school Mass with the full support of the entire student body. Following the Mass, there was thunderous applause to welcome Shay and Makayla into the Catholic faith!



**Spreading Good Cheer**

In December, members of the fifth-grade class visited Grace House Assisted Living in Silver Spring to share some Christmas cheer with the residents. They led the men and women in singing Christmas carols and enjoyed some exciting rounds of Bingo!



**The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe...And Fr. CHOI!**

One of the highlights of the seventh-grade Reading Unit on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is Fr. Martino Choi's visit to discuss Christian symbolism in the novel. Following a six-week study of the novel, Fr. Choi, parochial vicar at St. Patrick's, offered a fascinating lecture to conclude the classroom unit.



**We Love Our Grandparents and Special Friends**

On November 15, 2017, St. Patrick's School held its biennial celebration of our grandparents and special friends. Everyone attended Mass together and gathered afterwards for coffee, donuts, musical selections by our Flex Choir, and school tours. Prizes for the essay contest, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care, were also awarded. All students were asked to write on the topic: "How my grandparent has helped me grow in my faith." One winner from each class was selected. Winners are pictured. (Back Row L-R: Namika Sekamanya, Alex Guarini, Alex Horwhat, Brody Shabler and Sophia Mascari. Front Row L-R: Janie Pitcher, William Miller, Charlotte Baker and Ashley Osuri)

**RIDES**

*Con't from page 11*

the ride, I was really focused on not making any wrong turns but during the last section, all I was thinking about was the finish." There were four rest stops along the way at each 25 mile mark where he could recollect himself. Fr. Gallagher said that he was happy to participate in the ride and hopes to do it again with others joining him. The entire St. Bernadette community is so proud of Fr. Gallagher on completing this huge accomplishment. For more information about this annual ride, you can visit [dcpriest.org](http://dcpriest.org) and look under "Promote" for more information.

**OPT**

**CEMETERY**

*Con't from page 11*

includes, "To do my duty to God and my country." Boy Scout Troop 440 of St. Bernadette Church put that mission and oath into practice on December 16 when we participated in a very moving experience as we joined an impressive number of volunteers at Arlington National Cemetery for the national Wreaths Across America day. We raised funds from friends and neighbors to sponsor 128 wreaths to honor the heroes buried at Arlington Cemetery. As part of the opening ceremonies that day, we were reminded that we were not there to "decorate graves." We were there to remember their

lives. As we took one wreath at a time to a specific grave, we would pause, read the person's name, and think about the life they dedicated to our country, then reverently place the wreath. It was an amazing experience for both the scouts and the adults who participated.

Another part of the Scout Oath is "To help other people at all times." Cub Scout Pack 440, also of St. Bernadette Church recently demonstrated their helpfulness by volunteering at A Wider Circle. Located in Silver Spring, A Wider Circle provides furniture, clothes, and supplies for families transitioning out of shelters, escaping domestic violence, or otherwise living without their basic need items.

**OPT**

**Socks of Love**

A meaningful part of the Catholic Schools Week celebrations at St. Patrick's School includes a buddy service project. This year's project is Socks for Love to benefit the Men's Shelter on Gude Drive in Rockville. Teams of junior high students and lower grade students (buddies) will create care packages. A pair of socks will become the bag to be filled with snacks, small-sized toiletries, and a written prayer. The sock is then closed with a ribbon and a tag to make a small gift package.

The goal of the project is make several hundred of these socks of love. The school already assembles more than a thousand bagged lunches during Lent to send to the shelter and the Socks of Love will

be donated along with the lunches as a special gift to bless the men at the shelter.

**OPT**

**St. Patrick's Parish**  
4101 Norbeck Road  
Rockville, MD

**Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Parry**  
Pastor  
301-924-2284

**St. Patrick's School**  
**Ms. Christie Anne Short,**  
Principal  
301-929-9672

**Parish Editor**  
New Volunteer Needed  
Contact rectory to apply

The Woods Academy



## Mothers' Visiting Day 2018: We love sharing our school day with our Moms!

Students in Grades 1-8 enjoyed a special visit from their moms this month. The students took their moms to art class, read books with them, wrote stories for them, taught them some new Spanish and French words, and reveled in the busy activities.

We look forward to hosting our dads at Fathers' Visiting Day on February 2.

St. Bernadette



St. Bernadette Parish 2017 Sharing Tree

## St. Bernadette Sharing Tree 2017

The St. Bernadette Parish community once again provided generous support to the Sharing Tree. Many less fortunate families and individuals within and outside the parish were able to share in the Christmas celebration. There were numerous needs and our Parish once again responded to the call. The donations spilled all around the tree and far back into the pews. Your support was vital in

making this an amazing success. A special "thank you" to the incredible parish volunteers who helped to sort, organize, and deliver the donations to six different organizations.

The Social Concerns Committee is grateful for the wonderful participation. Please contact Daina Scheider at [familysg@yahoo.com](mailto:familysg@yahoo.com) or 301-593-5273 to join us, as we are always in need of more volunteers.

OPT

# St. Bernadette's Tuesday Club Celebrates 45th Anniversary!

By: Mary Ann Fitzgerald

St. Bernadette Parish's Tuesday Club is an active group for seniors which this year celebrated its 45th anniversary. At the beginning of December, the Tuesday Club

celebrated with their annual catered luncheon for all members as well as the rectory staff. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed seeing friends and the opportunity to visit with the Monsignor and his staff in a social setting.

For their annual Christmas trip, at the end of November, the Tuesday Club members and guests, traveled to the American Music Theater, in Lancaster, Pa., for their outstanding program "Home for the Holidays, which consisted of over three dozen favor-

ite Christmas carols, with powerful singers, dazzling costumes, beautiful sets, and a live orchestra. It also featured over a dozen very talented children who took part in the production. Everyone greatly enjoyed the program, which ignited the Christmas spirit in all of us. The program was followed by a delicious Amish style family luncheon at the "Good and Plenty" restaurant. The wait staff was excellent and kept the serving platters and beverage glasses filled. We showed movies on the bus both going to Pennsylvania, Hallmark's "A Christmas Kiss", and returning home, the iconic "Home Alone," which were also very entertaining. Everyone had a terrific time. This was our third visit to the American Music Theater for the Christmas program because it always such a high caliber shows.

In November, the Tuesday Club attended an outstanding Deluxe Tea at the Elkridge Furnace Inn, in Elkridge, Md. The restaurant is an historic landmark, built circa 1744 as an iron smelting furnace, which has been lovingly restored and converted into a fine dining experience. We were served a scrumptious feast. All of the food was freshly made and the vegetables were grown on site in their extensive gardens. Service was excellent and the owner gave a wonderful talk about the Inn and its history.

The Tuesday Club is open to all parish seniors interested in joining. Please contact us via the rectory if you would like additional information.

OPT

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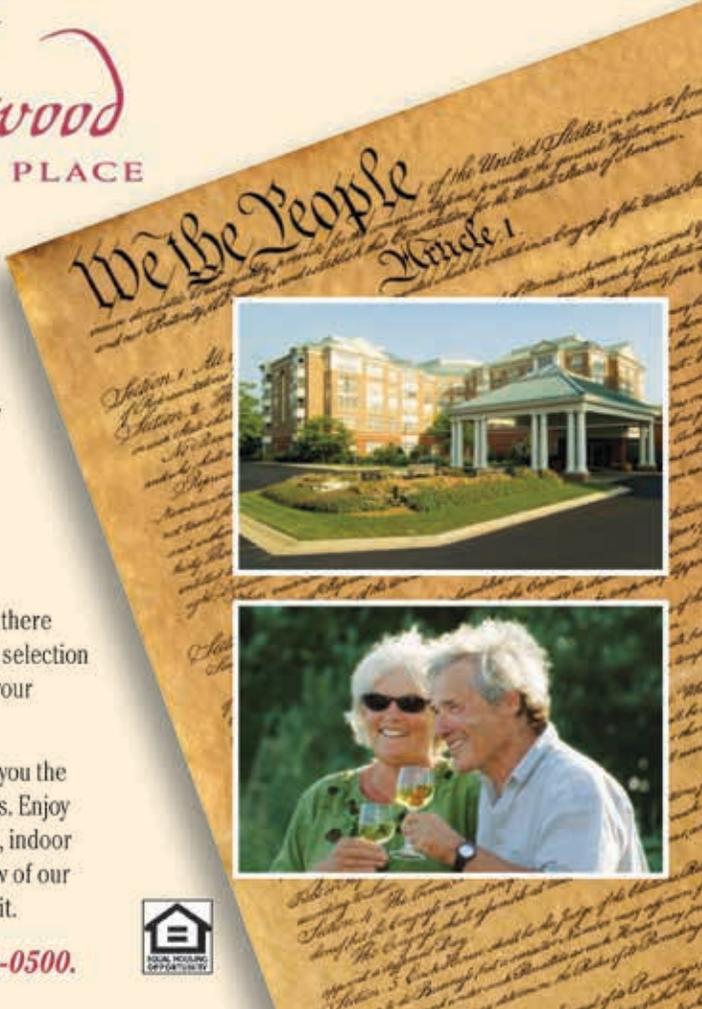
You will notice the difference at Maplewood Park Place because it is managed distinctly different than other communities. Maplewood is self-governed, run for residents, by the residents. Working hand in hand with a premiere management firm, the board is able to focus on the community's success from the only perspective that matters ... the residents.

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## 50+ Volunteer Network Connects Skilled Volunteers with Nonprofits in Need

On January 16, the Montgomery County Volunteer Center officially launched a new program that focuses on the rapidly growing 50+ population as a valuable resource for nonprofits and government agencies. Through personal consultations, the 50+ Volunteer Network will effectively match agencies needing assistance with skilled volunteers seeking purposeful opportunities.

In announcing the new initiative, County Executive Ike Leggett noted that “Volunteers make Montgomery County special. The new 50+ Volunteer Network harnesses the vast reservoir of talent offered by skilled, diverse, and experienced volunteers to benefit the County’s resource-stressed nonprofit organizations. This innovative program helps serve our neighbors in need while providing our older residents with meaningful ways to give back.”

The 50+ Volunteer Network works by actively recruiting professionals who are retired or considering retirement, empty nesters, and others aged 50 and older who want to make a significant contribution of time and talent to serve the community. Volunteer Center advisors help them find an opportunity consistent with the individual volunteer’s skills, interests, and availabil-

## Montgomery County VOLUNTEER CENTER

ity. Staff also work directly with nonprofit and government agencies to ascertain the types of volunteers and assignments that are the most valuable to them, as well as provide follow-up services.

The opportunities offered by this program will include:

- Ongoing, program management and support – possibly editing a newsletter, providing administrative and client intake services, managing an event or program, or as a member of a board of directors

*Continued on page 38*



### Senior News

Sign up for Montgomery County Government’s Senior News, an electronic newsletter that will update you about events and meetings of interest in your community, new or modified programs, benefits and services, changes in policies and/or laws, and other relevant information for seniors and caregivers. Go to E-Subscription: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDMONTGOMERY/subscriber/new>

Click on Create An Account or Update An Account. Select Senior News under Health and Human Services.

OPT

### Leggett Unveils Final Capital Construction Budget

Ike Leggett – now in his final year as County Executive – released his recommended FY19 Capital Budget and six-year FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) on January 16.

The six-year CIP totals \$4.521 billion. It includes \$1.751 billion for the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the highest level ever. Including this recommendation, MCPS capital funding under Leggett has grown by \$577.8 million – a 49.2 -percent increase – over the past 12 years.

The budget also includes \$281.2 million for Montgomery College’s Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses.

Capital budget support for business and job creation includes funding for Marriott’s new headquarters in Bethesda and development in White Flint, White Oak, and Wheaton. It includes a \$33 million boost in support for affordable housing and a \$36.6 million increase – a 28 percent - in road maintenance funding over the previous CIP.

To see the recommended FY19 Capital Budget and amended FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program, visit: <https://apps.montgomery-countymd.gov/BASISCAPITAL/Common/Index.aspx>.

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## Surprises Are For Birthdays



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[www.VictoryHousing.org](http://www.VictoryHousing.org)



# St. Francis tries out small group format as modality for catechist certification

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

When St. Francis catechist Grace O'Brien approached Fr. John Dillon about forming a small group of her peers, the invitation illuminated a potential opportunity for formation and support for lay instructors of the Catholic faith. If the experiment works well, then the small group model – parishioners meeting in groups of eight to 10 people to discuss their faith in people's homes – could become an opportunity for catechist certification.

St. Francis of Assisi Church is poised to find out soon, as the Small Group for Catechists meets Jan. 24 for the first of a seven-session series. It's a format that Susan Anderson, director of religious education for St. Francis of Assisi Church, feels could work well, as the seven catechists explore catechism, Scripture and methodology in bi-monthly sessions taught by Fr. John.

"The Small Group format is especially well-suited for faith sharing and gives opportunity to learn more about the faith," Anderson said. "I think the dynamics of how this will work in this particular small group



St. Francis catechists chat during the Catechetical Breakfast in September 2017, as they prepare for the 2017-18 school year.

is something that Fr. John and the participants will work out as they begin to meet."

"It is my hope that this group might continue beyond this series, offering support to one another as catechists and encouragement as all work toward certification."

Catechists can receive archdiocesan catechist certification

when they've completed coursework in seven catechist formation courses – *Living Catholic*, five *Faith Foundations* courses, plus *Catechesis 101* – as well as attended an archdiocesan retreat for catechist formation. The coursework is in addition to having been interviewed by a priest or catechetical leader and having passed the VIRTUS

screening and fingerprinting process to comply with child protection policies.

While the certification curriculum can be delivered in-person or online through the learning platform My Catholic Faith Delivered, Sara Blauvelt, director of catechesis for the Archdiocese of Washington, said she finds the notion of delivering the content through a small group "exciting."

Her one reservation, she said, is that the somewhat looser small group dynamic still allows for the expectation that a course assessment be completed by catechists. Still, Blauvelt said, small groups will be "the best way to form people in their faith."

"We need to say, 'This is an intentional small group,' but put enough rigor so we check off all the assessment boxes without losing the beauty of the small group environment," Blauvelt said.

Fr. John said he will inform participants at the onset that they must be present for all sessions to receive credit for their certification, as well as complete an assessment as part of course completion. He said he believes the small group format will be a "communal learning process,"

which will be particularly well-suited for adult learning.

"I think the small group format will promote faith sharing, which is an essential part of catechesis, and will give more opportunity for participants to share prior knowledge and experience than more traditional lecture style classes," Fr. John said. "Participants will need to be more actively engaged in the conversation since the small group format requires interaction with others."

The process of coming together with her fellow catechists and Fr. John is something to which O'Brien – the hostess of the Small Group – looks forward. A veteran catechist, O'Brien has fielded questions from her past eighth grade students dealing with perspectives of cynicism toward Catholicism and atheism – questions to which she hopes to provide answers.

"I think it's important to keep our priests involved," O'Brien said. "If I can field some of [my students'] questions from a priest, then I'm doing my job, in liaising between my students and the priest."

OPT

## Mass for All God's Children shows "everyone has something to bring"

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

On Epiphany Sunday, St. Francis of Assisi Church celebrated its sixth annual Mass for All God's Children, demonstrating inclusion for people with developmental and intellectual differences and permitting their contributions in the Mass to shine.

The Mass, celebrated annually since 2013, featured young and middle-aged adults with developmental and intellectual differences taking on most of the lay roles of the Mass, including serving at the altar, lecturing, ushering, bringing up the gifts, singing in the choir and greeting people before Mass. Sylvia Jones, coordinator of the Special Needs Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the mother of an adult daughter with



Patrick Jones (left) and Sean Hume prepare to serve as ushers during the Mass for All God's Children held at St. Francis of Assisi Church on January 7, 2018.

Down Syndrome, said the Mass celebrates that "everyone has something to bring."

"It really touches people," Jones said. "And [the young people] are so proud to do this."

Serving on an altar still bedecked with Christmas trees and flowers, participants in the Mass represented St. Francis of Assisi Parish and at least 10 Catholic parishes in Montgomery County and Washington DC, according to Jones. Several participants also came from outside the Catholic faith, including

people from Unitarian, Muslim and Jewish faith communities.

To assist the young people serving the Mass, several members of the St. Francis of Assisi Youth Ministry helped mentor ushers. St. Francis parishioners John and Kelly Tomon helped coach the lectors and those reading the Prayers of the Faithful. And former parishioner Maureen Pagan served as sign language interpreter, as she has done for many years at the Mass.

Fr. John Dillon said the Mass

Continued on page 38

## Catholic Charities Coat Drive collects winter gear and provides opportunity for service experience

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

When notice of the Catholic Charities Coat Drive began circulating at St. Francis of Assisi Church earlier this winter, 13-year-old parishioner Ryan Fitzgerald rec-

ognized the event for the opportunity it was – a chance to do good and fulfill one of his service experiences for his upcoming Confirmation.

The eighth grader at St. John's

Continued on page 38



A St. Francis of Assisi parishioner places a coat on the items collected for the Catholic Charities Coat Drive on January 14 in the St. Francis Gathering Space.

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# The Sodality and Seton Seniors at Mother Seton

By Dorrette Paulin

*Hurry, the Lord is Near ...*

The Advent season started with days of Thanksgiving and at Mother Seton Parish preparation for Christmas started with a frenzy of activities. The Sodalists set up the Giving Trees with cards for gift requests from various charitable organizations in the area, the Seton Seniors prepared for their annual Christmas lunch and the parish children rehearsed for their Emmitsburg Performance for the Retired Sisters. On the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Seton Seniors journeyed to the Dutch's Daughter in Frederick for an enjoyable meal, a gift exchange and caroling.

Two weeks later, with the season's celebrations now in full swing, the Sodalists traveled to Emmitsburg to deliver the gifts from the Giving Tree to the Retired Daughters of Charity and the parish children narrated a poetic version of the Nativity interspersed with caroling that concluded with the Panis Angelicus. Of course, a Christmas visit to the Sisters is not complete without the Sisters' favorite carol: Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer with the witty parts--Rudolph's



Seton Seniors Christmas Party



MSP children performing in Emmitsburg

nose shining like a lightbulb and glows like a flashlight. Santa Claus

paid a surprise visit and helped with the distribution of the gifts. Refreshments were enjoyed by all.



Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg



Parishioners celebrating the Posadas

## Posadas Navideñas at Mother Seton

By Maricarmen Soler

For the fourth consecutive year, the Posadas were celebrated at Mother Seton. The image of the Holy Family in its pilgrimage to Bethlehem traverses through nine different houses accompanied by the faithful. Singing, they ask for lodging (Posada) and once you receive them, the Christmas Novena is prayed, and carols are sung. Nine families in the Hispanic community of Mother Seton have received the Holy Family and offered them lodging and all the faithful who joined in their journey.

OPT



Children listen to the story of the Epiphany.

## The Good News of The Epiphany

By Rossana Sobalvarro

Mother Seton Parish celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God. Epiphany means manifestation. Today the Church celebrates the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem, He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the Far

East to adore Him.

The Magi being the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their way all the peoples of the earth to Jesus and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. This feast is the fulfillment of all the purposes of Advent and not only marks the liturgical crown of the Advent-Christmas but also illuminates the mysteries of the season.

And today our parish, celebrated

*Continued on page 37*



The Three Wise Men visit Mother Seton parish.

OPT

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# Christ the King and the Cao Family

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor, with Frank Deckelman, founding parishioner

Christ the King's outreach to the refugee has a history all should remember. In August 1975 through the Archdiocese's Catholic Charities Immigration coordinator, its Parish Council voted to sponsor a family fleeing the invasion of Communists from the north into, and overtaking, the independent country of South Viet Nam.

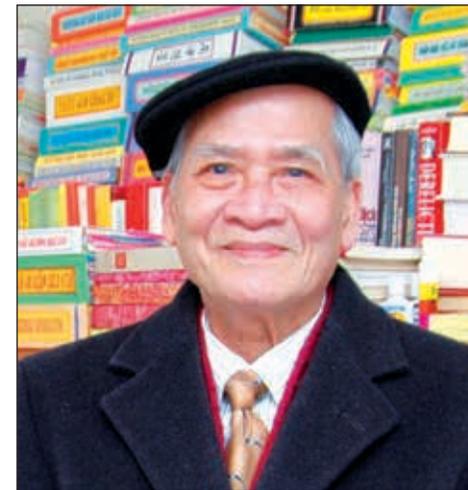
The Cao family had escaped in a small raft, rescued at sea by the US Navy and given temporary shelter in a refugee camp at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. It was from there the fam-

ily departed to arrive at Christ the King. They were housed by the Deckelman family for one month until an apartment became available, clothed and fed by parishioners with the children enrolled in the neighborhood Rock Creek Elementary school. Very soon, Dung, the father, a former history professor, had worked out a proposal for work through the help of Tom Walsh, husband of still-current parishioner, Maria Walsh.

The family became American citizens and has prospered. All of the children went on to college with the help of some affluent Christ the King lady-parishioners. Dung wrote over 100 published articles and twenty books, four

of which on the Catholic Church in Viet Nam. Late last November Cao The Dung, father of this courageous family, died. His funeral Mass was at Our Lady of Viet Nam where Christ the King parishioners, the Deckelmans and their daughters, Renate Mordecai and the Hurleys (formerly at Christ the King) were in attendance with the Cao family, which now includes fourteen grandchildren.

As Frank Deckelman ended his words after the wake, "Well done, my good and faithful friend! I have one last request. Since you are closer to God now, please beseech Him to continue to protect our families and our country."



Cao The Dung

OPT

## March For Life: Were You There?

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

The annual March for Life was held this year on Friday January 19, always on a weekday so as to enable marchers to visit with their Congressional representatives at the end of the walk, after joining others on the steps to the Supreme Court. Christ the King did not have a formal contingency this year but families went downtown, as many families across the country did, and have done both in Washington DC and in cities across the country.

Our own Deacon, Steve Mitchell, and his family make this an annual commitment and did as well this year for the 45th March4Life. Deacon Mitchell made it a part of his Homily at the 8:30am Mass Sunday January 14, reiterating the points of Faith requiring our attention, as a reminder of this intrinsic evil so casually dismissed by

today's secular media. There are many issues within any parish that must be addressed for the benefit of the souls and life being of its parishioners. Christ the King has always held the value of life, the precious state of the unborn, in the forefront (we protested actively until the neighborhood abortuary closed, for example).

Deacon Mitchell in his Homily captured the importance of the event, emphasizing public participation in defense of life as one example of this inherent element of Faith. We are, yes, here to know God, "to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him for ever in heaven." And in defending life at the March4Life we acknowledge the singular purpose of this life, to die in a state of grace. The Mitchells are a fine example of Christ the King and represented us well.

OPT

## Epiphany/Three Kings Day Honor Volunteer Luncheon

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

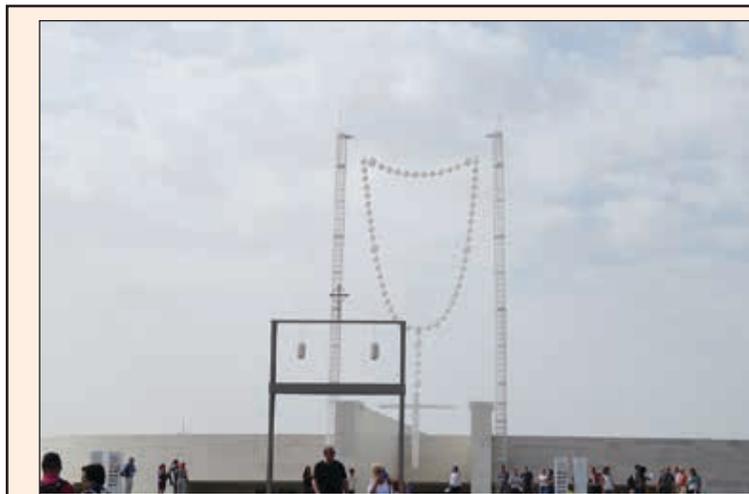
Christ the King honored its volunteers with a luncheon after the 12:30pm Mass on Sunday, January 7. All lay ministers of the parish were invited to attend this luncheon in the Msgr. John J. Dressel Colonial Room. All Catechists, musicians, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, ushers, altar servers and those serving as Sacristans were celebrated for the service they had given weekly to our parish. The event began with the entry into the Church of our Three Kings, portrayed by student-parishioners,



Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, the 3 Kings with LIMS volunteer Lita deCastro

Dagoberto Lopez, Rene Mendoza and Jesus Medina.

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Rosary statue-display at Fatima as taken by Pilgrim, Maria Kendall

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima

By Maria Kendall, CTK parishioner

As one of 42 pilgrims to Lourdes and Fatima in October, I joined Fr. Andy Gonzalo of Washington's St. Vincent de Paul Parish (and celebrant of CTK's Tagalog Mass), our "family's" leader. In Lourdes,

Continued on page 36

## Italy and I

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

My first adventure overseas was Christmas 2017 to visit my daughter in Rome. Attached to the agenda was my desire to "find" our former Pastor, Fr. Jose Cortes, FSCB, our former seminarian Giovanni Gemmani (who had done so much to develop our Altarservers) and to return the favor of hosting to Cristina Grisanti the "sister" of our former assistant



Fr. Jose Cortes, FSCB, former CTK Pastor, with OPT editor Katie Holland and her daughter, Tess, in Monte San Giusto



Former FSCB seminarian, Giovanni Gemmani with his wife, Rosalie, standing behind are Katie & Tess Holland, in a Milano pizzeria

priest in residence, Fr. Roberto Amoruso, FSCB.

My daughter indulged me. In the province of Macerata, we visited Fr Jose who is working, along with another FSCB priest, to provide Masses on a farm for men with addiction difficulties and is, as well, helping in town with the local Church nearly

devastated by the earthquakes in Italy last year. Monte San Giusto is high in the hills with narrow, unpaved farm roads. We attended Mass in the school auditorium for the 3rd Sunday of Advent then joined him for dinner at a local restaurant.

We stayed overnight in a beautiful little bed-and-breakfast, Villa de Carlonis, owned by a local family that had hosted his father and brother on a recent visit. In the morning we joined Fr. Jose for lunch after his Mass at a little café

Continued on page 37

## Upcoming Events: Jan. 24 – Mar. 13

Bookstore while open is currently only staffed before, during and after the 12:30pm Sunday Mass. Our first bookstore, it has Bibles, books, religious articles and remaining Commemoratives (CTK wristbands for the children, the stained glass replica/suncatchers, notecards bearing the image of

the Christ the King stained glass window). It is located in what was once the vesting room in the vestibule of the Church.

Sunday, Feb. 4 9:15am (in English), 11:15am (in Spanish) The Office for Family Life of

Continued on page 37

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# Awakening Faith Series Calls Catholics Home

By Susan Ahearn

The Church of the Resurrection will host a four-week series called "Awakening Faith: Reconnecting with Your Catholic Faith" beginning the evening of January 18. The series was developed by the Paulist Evangelization Ministries (PEM). Paulist seminarian Richard Whitney said by email that the effort was aimed at Catholics who are inactive or disconnected with their faith. "It specifically looks to serve the needs of those Catholics who have, for whatever reason, just stopped practicing their faith," explained Whitney.

Whitney said Resurrection's Parish Administrator, Father John Barry, welcomed the effort developed by the Paulists, including Father Frank DeSiano, who has presided at weekend Masses at

Resurrection for a number of years. "So, this seemed like a great opportunity to do specific outreach at Resurrection. We thought it might be a model for other parishes," described Whitney. He said between eight and 12 individuals attended the sessions last year, which included meditation, prayer, reading and discussions. Whitney said the Awakening Faith Series allowed participants a chance to talk about the practical aspects of being a Catholic today. "...connection with the Holy Spirit, reconciliation, sin, understanding God, all those topics vital to our faith that can be quite challenging to really grasp without talking about them. Awakening Faith creates just such a dialogue," he said. More information about the Awakening Faith series is available at pemdc.org

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Resurrection Religious Education students and their parents create pet treat bags for Montgomery County Humane Society in December

## Learning the Gift of Compassion for God's Creatures

Instead of going to their classrooms for Religious Education, first-seventh grade students from the Resurrection program and their parents gathered together in the parish's large Amadeo Hall during class time Sunday, December 10 to create pet treat bags for adopted pets from the Montgomery County Humane Society. The Advent service project was to demonstrate the compassion and the love that

people should hold for all of God's creatures.

The morning began with an Advent wreath lighting and prayer service led by Resurrection's Director of Religious Education, Helene Stever. Sitting side by side at large, round tables, everyone then went to work decorating 150 lunch bags. Messages of hope, kindness, and love were drawn and colored on the paper. Carefully placed inside

each bag was a St. Francis prayer card, a chew toy, and a food treat. The bags were then assembled, evenly divided between dogs and cats.

The bags were collected and placed into boxes to be delivered to the Humane Society for the Christmas season pet adoptions, a happy time for both human and beast!

OPT



Students gather to learn about their Catholic faith

## Teaching CCD – A Call-to-Service

By Ana Maria P. de Jesus EPS DC15

The recent First Reading in the Liturgy of the Word recounts how Samuel's call-to-service by the Lord failed twice at first. Until Eli instructed young Samuel on how to respond to the Lord's invitation, the bidding initially did not get the desired response. Such was not because the listener was uncooperative or inattentive but because the youngster did not recognize the voice of the Lord. How fortunate Samuel was to have Eli point the right words to answer the Lord's summons!

Fast forward two thousand years after Samuel's encounter and the Divine Invitation still beckons virtuous hearts to spread the word about God's love. Alas! With the interference of enjoyable gadgets, communication devices, and other pleasurable tools, any youngster in today's world will understandably have trouble focusing on life's demands for survival much more have difficulty hearing the divine request to accept an invitation to be of service. Here is where today's Eli's are needed. Coaches are wanted to direct young hearts to the reality that they are meant to be happy in heaven with the Creator and that they are also invited to lead others to be happy as well.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine or CCD, as it is commonly referred to, is the teaching of catechism to Catholic students studying at secular schools. Although this mission is primarily the obligation of the Catholic parent(s), the Church of Resurrection parish, like other parishes in the area, provides a solid curriculum and stimulating activities for students to assist parents in the important responsibility of continuing the religious education that begins at home, the Domestic Church.

Regular weekly classes are conducted by members of the clergy and lay volunteers who receive appropriate and continuous training for the task. Most often lay catechists are the concerned parents themselves who want to ensure that the Catholic doctrine, religious principles and Christian traditions are passed on to the next generation. Joyfully fortunate are the occasions when dedicated clergy find the time from their busy pastoral duties to drop by a class and exchange personal insights on living a life dedicated to God's service.

For any catechist, teaching CCD has its challenges and rewards. Most of the challenges stem from the unfortunate assumption that the CCD teacher has the sole responsi-

Continued on page 37

## Winterfest Craft Fair – Success for All Ages

By Amy Horn

Winterfest is Resurrection Parish's largest fund-raising event. On the first weekend in December, more than 70 crafters and vendors congregated in the Amadeo Room and Keffer Parish Life Center to sell countless items including jewelry, candles, and handmade goods. Parishioners donated two roomfuls of new and softly used items to sell. Tables offered homemade baked goods, wine, raffle chances, White House Christmas ornaments, and fanciful silent auction baskets - all donated efforts by the parishioners themselves.

But Winterfest is more than a way to raise funds to pay down debt on the Keffer Parish Life Center. For 17 years it has brought together parishioners of all ages in a concerted effort of brainstorming, planning, organizing, making phone calls, baking, decorating, cleaning out closets of items for donation, and setting up and tearing down. Efforts this year were led by the able trio of Co-Chairs Phyllis Bottegali, Bill Ratcliffe, and Bill Auld. The two days themselves require many cheerful volunteers and helping hands. This year the numerous volunteers and Tables were under the leadership of Mary Lou Ponton and Tina Peachman (Wine Cork Pull), Bill and Elaine Auld (Silent Auction), Maureen Armbruster (Organizing Volunteers), Kelly Maltagliati and Sue Berger (Raffles), Amy Ratcliffe (Crafters Raffle), Mary O'Malley and Margaret Pratt (Treasure Chest), Sally Curley (White House



Maddie Rose Halpin (front) and teen volunteers at Resurrection Winterfest volunteer for the good of the Parish

Ornaments), Phil Kane and Paul Hill (Winterfest set-up and clean-up), Mary Ann Maurey (Advertisement), and Jeanne Webster, Frank Curley, Mary Ellen Howarth, Jim Torri (Money Counters). The Bishop Thomas W. Lyons Council #9808 Knights of Columbus served food. Super heroes and Santa made appearances. Fr. John Barry gave free tours of his vast, tiny Christmas village as well as sang a set or two of songs accompanying himself on guitar. Names were learned and new friendships were made. With a tradition like this happening year after year, the youth of the parish especially make memories and learn values to last a lifetime. One of these young persons is Maddie Rose Halpin.

Maddie Rose is an eleventh-grade student at Paint Branch

High School and her parents, Chuck and Cat Halpin have been in charge of the Baked Goods Table for five years. This year she and ten other young people (teen elves), helped in setting up and selling the donated cakes, cookies, and other delectables. They also tore it all down after. But the Baked Goods Table was not just about the baked goods - the presentation of the baked goods created the night before by Maddie Rose and her friends was wonderful. Long, cascading, sheer curtains created a magical, wintry backdrop and white lights twinkled to beguile the shopper's eye as well as fulfil the craving of their sweet tooth. Maddie Rose loves digital art and the artistic enchantment she and her friends created at this year's Baked Goods Table was the first thing visitors to Winterfest saw when they entered the main doors of the Amadeo Room. The students volunteering made an effort to look festive and Maddie Rose remem-

Continued on page 38

### Church of the Resurrection Parish

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## SHORT

Con't from page 1

ness and quiet humility. Like bishops, Dorsonville and Campbell, Bishop Knestout was appointed by Pope Francis and personifies the virtues we deeply admire in the Holy Father. We wish him well in Richmond.

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States, in particular our parish schools. It starts the last Sunday in January and continues throughout the week. Schools typically observe National Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members. Through these events, schools focus on the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to our church, our communities and our nation. The week is a special time to honor and thank those who contribute to the success of Catholic schools including students, families, clergy, faculty and staff, volunteers, community supporters and local and national leaders.

Catholic schools develop talent, intellect, hearts and souls. Immersing children in Catholic faith and values, incorporating spirituality into every aspect of the curriculum, worshipping daily as a community, and putting the Catholic faith into action by serving others distinguishes Catholic schools from other schools. Catholic school students are identified not only by distinct uniforms or disciplined attire, (with skirts properly hemmed and shirts neatly tucked!), but especially by their strong faith foundation, disciplined behavior, and compassionate service. A recent survey by the CARA Institute at Georgetown University confirmed that fostering strong moral values is the top reason parents choose to send their child to a Catholic school.

So during this week, we celebrate the schools and honor the parishes, staff, and families that support them. The faculty and staffs are dedicated to their profession and our faith. Every Catholic school teacher is a highly qualified and state certified professional and could easily earn more money in the local public-school system. They have chosen our schools because of their commitment to the mission of Catholic schools. Those working in Catholic schools have responded to Christ's call to serve and evangelize by selecting careers as Catholic educators. Their choices make them wonderful Christian models for Catholic children. We admire and thank them.

Catholic schools are legacies of Catholic evangelization in the United States dating back to the Ursuline Academy in New Orleans begun in 1727. Other forms of Catholic education have evolved over the years including CCD and more recently a growing home schooling movement. These,

and other innovations, are valuable efforts to fulfill the Church's responsibility to teach children about their faith and they operate almost entirely with dedicated volunteers. These, too, deserve our thanks and support.

We know that Catholic schools excel academically. Most of them have been recognized by the US Department of Education as Blue Ribbon Schools. Just recently, Little Flower School in Bethesda was honored as a 2017 Blue Ribbon awardee. Congratulations! We are proud of our schools. Especially since they achieve excellence in education with substantially fewer resources than the public schools. Nevertheless, our schools require continuing financial assistance from the greater Catholic community to maintain the highest standards of educational programming while being accessible to families of all income levels and children with unique learning styles. We often think in terms of saving Catholic schools. Shouldn't we have a higher objective for these wonderful hotbeds of Christian service and learning? Why not commit ourselves to **enhancing and growing opportunities for excellence in learning and spiritual development.**

Here are a few ways each of us can do more to advance Catholic schools:

Visit a Catholic school during Catholic Schools week. If your parish does not have one, choose one close by. Go and be thrilled by it and thank the staff.

Provide financial support through your parish or directly to the school. A modest contribution goes a long way in these well managed and efficient institutions.

Contribute to The Shepherd Foundation ([www.shepherdfoundation.org](http://www.shepherdfoundation.org)) which provides tuition assistance to families in need or in crisis.

Contribute to the Catholic Coalition for Special Education ([www.ccse-maryland.org](http://www.ccse-maryland.org)) which assists Catholic schools in providing special education services to children with unique learning styles.

Support the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County ([www.cbnmc.com](http://www.cbnmc.com)) which provides tuition assistance and grants to local Catholic schools.

Sign on to the annual Cardinal's Appeal which allocates a portion of it's collection to scholarships and other support for Catholic schools.

With Catholics working together and parishes collaborating we will strengthen our valued Catholic schools and discover new effective ways to assure our children have opportunities to learn and practice our cherished faith. These children are our post cards to the future Church.

God Bless!  
Chuck Short  
[cshort5@verizon.net](mailto:cshort5@verizon.net)

## PAGEANT

Con't from page 6

little sheep hats knitted by former parishioner, Esther Rodriguez's knitting circle. Each piece tells its own story within the pageant, as a living legacy of those who have participated over the decades. When offered to have new costumes purchased for the parish, the offer was kindly declined. There is something so quintessentially authentic to the manger story in these simple costumes, so lovingly made, that needs to be preserved.

This year's pageant was especially beautiful, with the support of our Parish Music Director, Linda Ng. Over the past year and a half, Ms. Ng has brought the children's choir alive at Holy Cross, where the children lead one Mass each week. This Christmas, nearly twenty children participated in the Pageant Choir, accompanied by Ms. Ng on the piano and parishioner Matthew Tifford on the cello. Not only did they provide choral interludes during the pageant, but they led the congregation in traditional carols throughout the Mass and served as cantors. Highlights of the evening included a duet of "What Child is This" and "Child of The Poor," by middle schoolers, Caroline Killian



Our Heavenly Host at the dress rehearsal.

and Mary Tifford; as well as, the heartfelt Meditation Song, "Silent Night," led by one of our youngest cantors, Sofia Flaim.

In addition to the pageant players and choir, middle school students served as lectors, reading the pageant script, first and second readings, and prayer intentions. Leading these students was our first Jr. Pageant Director, Holy Cross alumna Maddie Zalewski, now a sophomore at St. John's College High School. Using skills she developed while at Holy Cross School and during her years participating as a lector in the pageant, she worked with the middle school students to help them prepare the Mass read-

ings and sageant Script. Her efforts paid off with parishioners praising the strong reading abilities of these students, and Father Robert Buchmeier's reflection at the end of the Mass, "This is true evangelization."

The single most special moment occurred when one of our eldest parishioners, sitting in her reserved front pew seat beside the angels, beamed with absolute joy as the angels entered the pew. It was at that moment Christmas arrived at Holy Cross.

From everyone at Holy Cross, the light is on, and we welcome you to join us in the New Year!

OPT

## MARCH

Con't from page 17

*has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable. Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law...*

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church is grateful to the Archdiocese of Washington Department of Life Issues for arranging the "Witness to Life" Mass and Rosary Procession and particularly to Bishop Roy Campbell for his leadership in this matter. Photos courtesy of James Caulfield.



Led by Bishop Roy Campbell (not shown), participants carry signs and pray the rosary as they walk alongside Old Georgetown Road to the Wildwood Medical Center, site of the newly-opened abortion clinic.

OPT

# Save the Date!

## AN Enchanted EVENING

### St. Martin of Tours School's Annual Dinner, Dance and Auction

Saturday, March 17, 2018

Doors open at 5:30

The Hilton Hotel, Gaithersburg



# St. John Neumann's Jesus Bible Camp

By Rus Wester

It has been 30+ years since our kids attended Bible Study. Oh, how it has all changed. During her busy Jesus Summer Camp, DRE, Maureen Joseph took a little time out to tell us about her exciting program for SJN children – a FIRST for our parish!

RW: “Maureen, the parish is buzzing with excitement over this new Religious Ed program you’ve introduced. What’s this ‘Jesus Camp’ all about?”

MJ: “It is the first time we’ve offered this type of program...it’s religious education for children that runs all day long and is compressed into two weeks. Our children learn everything they would normally learn in Religious Ed during the entire, regular school year.

The advantage of condensing it this way is that instead of getting 30 hours of religious education, the kids in our summer camp get 70 hours of instruction. Over twice the amount of material can be covered. So in addition to the regular curriculum approved by the Archdiocese, the children also get a total immersion in Holy Scripture. They



Father Bill Wadsworth keeps the Jesus troops together another day during JESUS CAMP this past summer.

learned about salvation history, the covenants of the Old Testament, the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul’s journeys...it’s a much richer curriculum. Another advantage is that the kids go to Mass every single day at 9am.

RW: “In addition to countless hours for you and your RE Staff, it must have required a lot of adult-leaders to make it all work.”

MJ: “We had 10 [energetic and

engaging] Catechists with us each day. I thought it would be difficult recruiting Catechists, but true to our parish history of giving...the adult leaders came on board for this, our inaugural year of this program.

RW: “How many kids signed up this past Summer? Forty-six for this inaugural year.

RW: “And how is that monthly family Religious Ed get-together working out?”



Over 45 students registered for the JESUS SUMMER CAMP that ran two consecutive weeks.

MJ: “We have a catered dinner for attending families. We offer family-based Catechesis, then everyone breaks out to different classrooms, with the parents staying for adult-level religious instruction that enables them to better teach their children the faith at home.

MJ: “We’re thinking and hoping this Jesus Camp will become the future for Religious Education. Children and their families will stay involved with the program all

year long by attending our monthly Family Program activities, anchored to the concentrated curriculum of our Summer Jesus Camp.

Footnote: Be on the lookout for announcements for the 2018 Summer Camp or contact Maureen Joseph, Director of SJN Religious Education at 301-977-7990 to see how you can include your family in next summer’s Jesus Camp program.

OPT

## Catholic Solidarity

By Rus Wester

Most of us had our first brush with the word “solidarity” during the papacy of St. John Paul II as he helped align the Catholic Church with the people of Poland. The success of that effort led to the removal of Communism from their landscape, and helped reverse the persecution of Christians in Eastern Europe.

Today the Church has asked Catholics worldwide to begin solidarity with Christians in the Middle East, in an effort to stop Christian genocide that permeates that region.

A recent letter from our Cardinal Wuerl to priests of the Washington Archdiocese encouraged them to appeal to local



Bake Sale benefitting our persecuted Middle Eastern brothers and sisters.

Catholics to have solidarity with Middle East Christians who are suffering. The language of the church is prayer and parishioners of SJN have come together to pray and also provide tangible help by raising funds for those being persecuted.

This year (4th consecutive), over 30 SJN Homeschooled teens and five of their mothers came together in December to create, bake and present a huge assortment of Middle Eastern desserts, which have always pleased our parishioners. Decorative plates of varieties of Baklava and rarely-seen-in-Maryland delicacies found their way from the SJN church to parish homes.

Christmas cards filled with encouragement and hope, love and support were developed by our home-schooled children and have accompanied this year’s bake sale, charitable donation of over \$5,000 going to the Bishop of Syria to distribute to our brothers and sisters in the Middle East for food, medicine and other life essentials.

Student bakers making delicacies, their Moms in support and everyone in the parish who bought the goodies were participants in this great example of “solidarity” with Middle Eastern Christians.



SJN Home Schoolers mark their fourth year of baking and selling Middle Eastern desserts and pastries to help fund much needed food, medicine, and life essentials for our brothers and sisters in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

OPT



Our Lady of Guadalupe Council #12127 draws another crowd for their Annual Chili Cook-off

## The Knights Chili Cook-Off Not Just Another Bowl of Soup

By Rus Wester

The Knights of Columbus are forever bringing folks together. It’s usually involves some type of hospitality. In mid-November over 60 parishioners filled the SJN Parish Center for the Knights’ Annual Chili Cook-off. Not just another bowl of soup. We’re talking nine crockpots of family chili secrets, some probably originating on Conestoga wagons as they moved eighteenth-century settlers across the great American west.

Our highly-discriminating judges chose the top chilies of the night and crowned three champion chefs for this year’s Chili Cook-Off: Dan Cipra took 1st Place, Susan Firestone captured 2nd place, and Tom Radovich grabbed 3rd Place honors.

Knight, Tom Firestone gave another stellar performance as the event’s emcee in providing warm comradery and rousing laughter that marked the delicious chili and



Nine Pots of Chili in all.

cornbread offerings. No one walked away un-convinced that this event is destined to get better every year!

OPT

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**Rus Wester**  
OPT Editor



Fr. Delich with Food for the Poor, Inc., and Feast of the Epiphany Mass; Altar Servers Mina Prasada-Rao and Joe O'Brien.

## Shepherds and Wise Men, by the Light of that Star

by Diane Yendrey

St. Mary's celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord on January 7, 2018 with the annual blessing of the doors to the church. Following mass parishioners were invited to take blessed chalk and the blessing prayer home to bless their homes for 2018.

Parishioners were joined in the last Sunday mass of the Christmas season by St. Mary's Music Ministry alumni, home from college, and in reunion with our student Contemporary Ensemble. Christmas carols rang out once again, the familiar songs about the shepherds, wise men, and Jesus Christ, the true "star" of Christmas; while the celebrant, Fr. Delich, a visitor from Bread for the Poor, emphasized the need for all of us as shepherds to care for the destitute, to share our gifts, and to shine the light of Christ where the world is in most desperate need.

OPT



Contemporary Ensemble Reunion for Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord (left to right, and year joined St. Mary's Music Ministry). Dottie Ballmann (2012), Allison Jones (2005), Julianna Lang (2010), Ethan Goldberg (2013), Mycheal Brandful (2015), Kathleen Albert (2011), Jennifer Owen (2012), Patrick Budd (2013), Rosie Ballmann (2012), Helen Matia (2011), Charlie Matia (2015), not pictured: Diane Yendrey (2000).



Christmas Eve Pageant



Carson Smith reading during Christmas Eve Mass.

## Welcoming Children in the Liturgy

By Liz Smith

The children of St. Mary's are encouraged and enjoy being actively involved in various liturgies throughout the year. The first Sunday of each month is Youth Sunday. Children from the various grade levels in our Faith

Formation program participate as either reader of The Word, leading the congregation in songs of praise, singing or playing instruments in the choir. Children ages three through eleven years old are invited to attend Children's Liturgy each Sunday.

Christmas Eve at the Children's

Mass the Gospel is told through a Pageant. The children look forward each year to having a part in this beautiful presentation, all children are included. The Pageant, musicians, and children's choir leaves the congregation feeling they have been in the presence of angels.

OPT



Children leading the congregation in song on The Epiphany.



Smallest members of the congregation provide the rhythm.

## St. Mary's to Host Fourth Annual Antique Show and Sale to Benefit Local Charities

What do a 130-year old German carved-oak hunting cabinet, a 100-year old American chaise lounge, and a 600-year old British ark, all have in common? Each of these wonderful antiques was awarded to a lucky raffle winner by Saint Mary's church in Barnesville, during the last day of the annual President's Day Antique Show and Sale since 2014.

"This year we have obtained another impressive prize for a future winner," said Donald Patti of the Knights of Columbus (Our Lady of Fatima Council #6901), the organization that's coordinat-



Local patrons peruse historic postcards and antique furniture



Locally donated antique furniture for silent auction

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ing the charity event. "Our expert antique scouts recently discovered a 200-year mahogany flip-top gaming table." The prized antique's value and history is currently being researched and assessed by several antique experts.

When and where can you possibly win this wonderful treasure?

The charity event will occur from February 17-18 at Saint Mary's church in Barnesville. This year over 400 visitors are expected to peruse and buy hundreds of antiques, some dating back 400 years, from 15 regional antique dealers. The cost of admission is only \$5 with proceeds benefit-

ing local charities. "Last year, the Knights of Columbus donated nearly \$4,000 from this event to local charities," said Stephen Waechter, the council's Grand Knight. "This year, with everyone's help, we hope to surpass that amount."

Toward this goal, the Knights of Columbus are asking the public

to donate any unwanted antiques, which would be sold at silent auction during the event. Those, who wish to donate or participate in some other capacity, are requested to contact Donald Patti at 866-478-8080 or send an email to info@saintmarysantiques.com.

OPT

### Parishioners Attend Annual Hispanic Christmas Festivities

St Michael the Archangel celebrated its annual Hispanic Christmas celebration, open to everyone in the parish, on Sunday, December 17, 2017. The occasion began with mass celebrated by Father Alberto Biondi. After mass, parishioners crowded the Williamsburg Room for food, entertainment and the nativity play. Fellowship and fun were the main elements of the celebration in preparation for the Christmas celebration.



Parishioners enjoyed a nativity play by the Hispanic Young Adults.

### St. Michael's Crafts Ministry Celebrates First Anniversary

The Crafts Ministry at St. Michael the Archangel Parish is successfully completing its first year of activities. Started in January of 2017 by three parishioners, the Crafts Ministry had grown to 11 active participants by December.

The Ministry meets monthly and focuses on building faith through scripture and prayer while making prayer shawls, preemie hats and "snuggles," blankets, Christmas ornaments, and other craft items to raise money for those in need. Many of the items produced by the Crafts Ministry are donated directly to the sick and homebound of the Parish, local hospitals, and children. The Ministry also sells its craft items at Parish events such as the June Sip and Shop fundraiser and

December's Christmas Delight.

During its first year, the Ministry raised over \$500 and set in motion plans for continued growth in 2018.

Ministry Leader Jackye Flowers says, "I am so humbled by the warm and enthusiastic support we have received from the Parish. If you had told me back in January that our first year would be this successful, I would have laughed at the thought! But where we are today just reminds us all of what we can accomplish when we work together, and the Holy Spirit is working with us."

The Crafts Ministry meets on the third Friday of each month in the Parish Rectory. For more information, email us at [stmichaelscrafts-ministry@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelscrafts-ministry@gmail.com).

OPT

### Year of Service: All Are Called to Serve

Advent 2017 marked the beginning of a year dedicated to service at St. Michael the Archangel Parish of Silver Spring, MD. The call to service is inspired from the Book of Matthew, chapter 20 verse 28, saying, "Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Parishioners are encouraged to take

up the call to serve through a year of reflection, prayer, community engagement, and service to others.

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, the parish distributed "pledge cards" to each parishioner with a call to serve and a prayer card. Each card noted that stewardship is a spiritual expression of an active commitment of faith. Parishioners were encouraged to

give their time to God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving, and to care for others. Parishioners were encouraged to give their talents, special gifts, and skills, to glorify God and to help other people. Parishioners were also encouraged to donate their treasure, God's share of financial resources, to Christ and His Church and to others who may

*Continued on page 39*



The Fil-Am Ministry at St. Michael the Archangel celebrates "Simbang Gabi" with evening mass and a party on December 17, 2017



Parishioners caroling during our annual Christmas Delight celebration.



The three wise men visit the children at St. Michael the Archangel. The children asked for gifts only Jesus could give them, and made petitions for the homeless, their families, and the sick.



Paul and Jane Molloy congratulated on their award by Monsignor Eddie Tolentino of St. Michael the Archangel in Silver Spring.

### Knights of Columbus Celebrate November Family of the Month

Paul and Jane Molloy were chosen as the November Family of the Month by the Knights of Columbus Council 15084 for their service not only to St. Michael the Archangel Parish but to communities around the world.

They are familiar participants at the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays where Paul regularly serves as Eucharistic Minister and Jane is a frequent lector. Jane has served on a number of committees and has been the unofficial photographer at many parish events over the years.

Paul struggled with alcoholism

and was living in a halfway house which the county decided to close. Paul and the other members of the house decided that they needed to maintain the structure of that halfway house to support their sobriety. To do so, they ended up creating Oxford House.

These houses, which are self-run, self-supported and individually chartered, now number over 2,300. There have been more than 300,000 people who have been Oxford House members. Jane "retired" 6 years ago from federal service but Paul keeps her busy with Oxford House tasks.

OPT

### Attend Marriage Prep at St. Michael the Archangel Parish

*Planning a Spring or Summer 2018 wedding?*

St. Michael the Archangel in Silver Spring, MD for your required Marriage Preparation classes. The Marriage Ministry at St. Michael's, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington Family Life Office, will be offering Marriage Preparation classes during

the month of February.

The classes will present materials from the newly developed Transformed in Love ([www.transformedinlove.com](http://www.transformedinlove.com)) program and will be held from 9AM until 1PM on four successive Saturdays: February 3, 10, 17, and 24.

For more information and to register, email the Family Life Ministry at [flm@adw.org](mailto:flm@adw.org) or call the Events Office at 301-853-5337.

OPT

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## Celebrating the Christmas Season at OLQP



Ojczyzna, the Polish dance troupe from Baltimore, sang and danced at the OLQP Parish *Oplatek* Dinner on Jan. 14, 2018. Pictures courtesy of E. Buda-Okreglak.

By Bozenna Buda, ED

Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish celebrated the Christmas Season with parish community events that engaged parishioners of all ages.

During the noon Holy Mass on the feast of the Epiphany on January 7, children joined in an Offertory procession to bring their special gifts to Baby Jesus in the manger. These were heart-shaped notes on which were written the good deeds that

Mrs. Izabela Macander, OLQP parish council president, and Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, OLQP Pastor, welcomed everyone. Among the guests present were several clergy as well as Ms. Jolanta Kessler-Chojecka, Head of the Section on Culture, Science, and Information at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland.

Students from the OLQP Polish Saturday School performed the Nativity Play, *Jaselka*, under the guidance of Mrs. Ewa Chlebowska, director, and teachers from the School. The Polish School had previously staged the *Jaselka*

in their uniforms.

The play was followed by a blessing of the Christmas wafer, *Oplatek*, by OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych. As everyone shared the wafer and good wishes, some were reminded of Rev. Frydrych's inspiring words from a recent homily, where he stated that:

*On the threshold of the New Year, I wish for you three gifts: The gift of strength and valor, so that you can overcome adversity; The gift of God's wisdom – so that you will be able to recognize the highest values; The gift of courage, because we need courageous hearts ready to do God's work in the world.*

After the sharing of the wafer, everyone sat down to enjoy the delicious Polish dinner and the camaraderie.

Then, the Polish Drama Club presented its new play entitled *Anioły za Oknem* ("Angels behind the Window") authored and directed by OLQP parishioner Dorota Ponikiewska. It was a story about faith and hope at Christmas-time. The cast was composed mainly of youth.

Ojczyzna, the Polish dance group from Baltimore, under Artistic Director Malgorzata Bondyra and Managing Director Michael Carnahan, also performed. They played on their instruments and sang *Koledy*. Later, they showcased traditional dances, dressed in costumes from the various regions of Poland.

It was a delightful and memorable afternoon. People left feeling blessed and uplifted. Many renewed old friendships; others made new acquaintances.

OPT



The Polish Drama Club performed the play "Angels behind the Window" *Anioły za Oknem* at the OLQP Parish Dinner *Oplatek* on Jan. 14, 2018. Picture courtesy of E. Buda-Okreglak.



Washington, DC, Scout Leader Bozenna Buda with Scouts Artyiom and Daniel at the manger of Baby Jesus with the good-deed hearts that they had carried in the Offertory procession at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish on Jan. 7, 2018.



The OLQP Youth Choir who sang and played on various instruments at the *Koledy* Concert on Jan. 7. Picture courtesy of Dominik Mikolajczyk.



The OLQP Polish Saturday School students performed the *Jaselka* Nativity Play at the school and at the Parish *Oplatek* Dinner on Jan. 14, 2018. Picture courtesy of E. Chlebowska & E. Czajkowski.

each child had done during Advent.

After Mass on the same day, parishioners and friends were treated to a Polish Christmas Carol Concert, *Koncert Koledy*. It was organized and directed by OLQP organist Mr. Janusz Bilinski. OLQP Youth, as well as Mr. Bilinski, sang and played *Koledy* on various instruments.

The Annual *Oplatek* Christmas Dinner was held on Sunday, January 14, 2018, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Silver Spring. Parishioners and friends filled the hall to capacity.

### Our Lady Queen of Poland

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## PILGRIMAGE

Con't from page 30

we joined the nightly candlelight procession and rosary, where pilgrims, including many disabled in wheel chairs, recited the Rosary in their many different languages. Fr. Andy celebrated Mass daily in two of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception chapels. He joined other priests in procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction in the Underground Basilica of St. Pius X. We prayed at the Grotto and the Crypt collecting holy water from the Water Taps.

We toured Moulin de Boly, the family house of St. Bernadette and Il Cachot where her family had moved to after financial hardship. My roommate Manuela and I did an early start to get in the Baths, where in the waiting area, separated for men, women, children and disabled, we prayed the rosary.

On the way to Fatima, we stopped in Burgos, Spain in the Castile-Leon region touring the cathedral and museum. Fr. Andy celebrated Mass in one of its chapels. We also went to the Cathedral of St. James in Compostela, attended Mass where the giant censer Botafumeiro operated by 8 men was used to incense the altar. We gazed in admiration at the beautiful altar, sculptures, and domes in these magnificent cathedrals. Many

travelers who were trekking The Way were seen in town. We stopped in La Coruña in the Galicia region of Spain for a delicious and hearty dinner at Restaurante Manolito. In Santarem, Portugal at the Shrine of the Most Holy Miracle we visited the Blessed Sacrament and the Miraculous Eucharist.

We reached Fatima two days after the centennial celebration though its aura was still there. We attended the nightly rosary in the Chapel of Apparitions and the candlelight processions. We walked through the Holy Door and spent time with Jesus in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. We walked through the art exhibit in the underground Hall of Saints Peter and Paul. Fr. Andy celebrated Mass in the Chapel of Apparitions. In town, we toured the place of the first apparition atop the rocky hills where Lucia, Marto, and Jacinta tended their sheep. There was a 100-year old olive tree among many olive trees. We visited the homes of the three children and the barns that sheltered the farm animals.

Before flying back to DC, we went to Lisbon and visited the Church of St. Anthony de Padua where Fr. Andy celebrated Mass and exposed the Blessed Sacrament for people to kiss, another blessed event. Thanks be to God and Mother Mary for this wonderful and prayerful pilgrimage.

OPT



The Teens Love Christ Choir lead Christmas Carols alongside our friends with special needs from the parish and community.



The men of St. Rose Parish are raptly watching the TMIY video presentation (at 7:00 am on Saturday morning no less).

## CCD

Con't from page 31

bility for the faith formation of the student and that the matters of class preparation and homework follow-up are not necessary. Usually early communication and compilation of ground rules prevent disastrous confrontations.

On the other hand, the rewards of teaching are, as most teachers will reveal, not uncommon. They come as the result of hard work, sincere dedication, and consistent efforts to relay the concepts that will form the basis of a moral life.

When a teacher hears the students discuss and choose a representative to report before the class the relevance of the week's lesson to their lives as students in secular schools, the lively exchange of ideas affirms the fact that the teacher has created a positive environment to assess that assimilation of the topic has occurred.

Some students are funny and

some are pensive: in any class activity, there will always be a *Charlie Clown* and a *Serious Sally*. More than likely, there will also be one who is brutally frank and tactless at times. When a catechist observes flexibility in the change of personality to fit the importance of the topic for discussion, there is assurance that the good seed planted is alive in the hearts of the listeners.

Guided weekly lessons have that part that extract ideas to show relevance in daily life. When what comes out of their deliberations reflect conflicts, discontent, and the struggles in their lives at home and in school, how they approach them, and how they apply the lessons learned, then there is affirmation that hearts will hear the voice of God when he beckons.

David Haas' song lyrics relays the message: "Come live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!" Will you be Eli for the Lord in 2018?

OPT

## St. Rose's Catholic Men's Fellowship Program

A handful of St. Rose of Lima Parish men started up a Catholic Men's formation group this past fall. The men's formation group was formed with a Core Team largely composed of Knights from the St. Rose of Lima Knights of Columbus Council 14297. The Core Team consists of the following men from St. Rose parish:

- Core Team Leader – Lecturer Frank Avenilla
- Master of Ceremonies – Grand Knight Steve Pope
- Audio Visual Coordinator – Past Grand Knight (PGK) Stan Fisher
- Registration and Recruitment – Financial Secretary and PGK Mike Janus
- Small Group Coordinator, Brother Joe Rice

During the summer months of July and August, the core team spent several hours preparing and training for the initial kickoff week 1 meeting on September 9. The St. Rose of Lima Catholic Men's Fellowship is conducted on a semester basis every Saturday morning for 13 weeks. Up to 40 men from the St. Rose of Lima Parish attend the men's formation group.

The men's fellowship program uses **That Man is You** ([www.thatmanisyou.org](http://www.thatmanisyou.org)), which has been used to guide the men in our Catholic faith and fellowship formation. The program focuses on man's relationship with God, with his wife, and with his children. This program has been successful in countless parishes and dioceses across the country. Each program session consists of a

30-minute video presentation, followed by 30 minutes of small group discussion. The fellowship sessions are held on Saturday morning from 6:45 to 8:00 AM and began on September 9. The Year 1 session theme, which includes 13 weeks in the fall semester and 13 weeks in the spring semester, is "Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart."

OPT

### St. Rose of Lima

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## EVENTS

Con't from page 30

The Archdiocese of Washington will present at Christ the King "Protecting Our Families: Educational Talk for Parents" on the harmful effects of pornography. Registration is requested: 301 495-2306 or email at [imolina@ctkcatholicparish.org](mailto:imolina@ctkcatholicparish.org).

Every first Sunday of the month (Feb. 4 & Mar. 4 for this calendar listing) Christ the King hosts the Mass in Tagalog at 4pm in the Church, with Fr. Andy Gonzalo,

LIMS Spiritual Advisor. The prayer group also invites all to the Recitation of the Holy Rosary every Sunday at 1:30pm in the Religious Education building chapel, followed by a prayer meeting from 2-4pm. For more information, contact Jocelyn La Cap 202 910-7514.

The Spanish Charismatic Prayer Group invites all to be part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Vigils of evangelization and healing in the parish every month, in the Church. The next Vigil will be dedicated to unite in solidarity and in prayer with our brothers who suffer from uncertainty today in the country. There will

be praise, testimony, Eucharistic Hour accompanied by Intercessory Prayer and refreshment. 6:30-10pm Friday Feb. 2, 2018.

Colonial Room rentals have been reinstated. The Msgr. John J. Dressel hall is reopened for rental, by the hour and with a cleaning fee, for family events (never during the hours of religious services in the Church). Call the parish office in advance to check for availability and to obtain more information: by phone at 301-495-2306 or on email at [ctk.pariah@icloud.com](mailto:ctk.pariah@icloud.com).

OPT



Consecrated Religious within the Communion and Liberation movement, Cristina Grisanti with Tess Holland in Milano

## ITALY

Con't from page 30

frequented by locals in their 20s; I learned that the town is where all Italian leather goods are made, so a draw for young Italian designers. Later in my visit, my daughter and I trained up to Milano. There we would meet Cristina Grisanti who had visited Christ the King twice in the past. She is a member of a consecrated community of women, part of the Communion and Liberation religious movement.

She gave us a complete tour of the city, its Churches and of course, the Duomo.

In the evening we took the urban train over to a non-touristy part of Milano and met former Christ the King seminarian, Giovanni Gemmani who was married in November to his lovely wife, Rosalie. Milan is not exactly a place I would think to have pizza but at the "Grand Italia Pizzeria, Birreria e altro", that is what we had, deliciously had! All three, formerly at Christ the King, invite parishioners to come soon to their part of the world!

OPT

## EPIPHANY

Con't from page 29

this important feast in a remarkable way, in a beautiful event, prepared by the communities of the Neocatechumenal Way of our parish.

Children and adults awaited in the Parish Center, in a room totally transformed with royal elegance worthy of the special visit of the Three Kings. While they were waiting, the kids learned songs enthusiastically and participated in a catechetical dialogue that helped them to await with eagerness this

special visit. They prepared a letter to entrust it to the Kings to give it to baby Jesus where they did not just ask for material gifts but for much bigger things such as: health of a family member, being a better sibling, better relationships with their parents, reconciliation in the marriage of their parents or help in school. The Kings made their royal entrance while the children were singing, and they walked directly to the Nativity where they fell prostrate and worshiped the King of Kings, presenting Jesus gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh.

They remained in the Parish Center for a little bit as they

recounted their story, the children asked them questions and then, they continued their way to Bethlehem.

After they had departed, the children had dinner on beautifully decorated golden and silver tables. As they finished their meal they collected a little gift the kings brought for them and went home very happy. We thank the Neocatechumenal Way for organizing this event. Also, we thank the Sodality and Legion of Mary for their help and collaboration.

OPT

## NETWORK

Con't from page 27

- Short-term consulting projects, such as grantwriting, accounting, strategic planning, marketing, web design, or IT help
- Direct services to clients in need, including tutoring or mentoring programs, teaching adult literacy, or staffing a mental health hotline

Unlike other programs and web-based services, the 50+ Volunteer Network is unique in its personal matching services, the broad range of opportunities, targeted recruiting and outreach, and the free cost to any nonprofit or government agency registered with the Volunteer Center.

For more information, email [50plus@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:50plus@montgomerycountymd.gov) or go to [www.montgomeryserves.org](http://www.montgomeryserves.org).

OPT

## MASS

Con't from page 28

for All God's Children makes an important statement about the identity of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, as a place of welcome.

"First, we, as a parish, welcome the opportunity to work together with families to provide religious education to children with special needs. We will arrange accommodation as needed in consultation with parents," Fr. John said. "Second,

we, as a parish, believe that we are enriched by all persons in our community. We promote the full inclusion of persons with developmental and intellectual differences in every aspect of community life."

For more information about St. Francis' Special Needs Ministry, contact Jones at [decaffqueen@gmail.com](mailto:decaffqueen@gmail.com). For more information about the church's Special Needs Religious Education classes, contact Susan Anderson, director of religious education, at [sanderson@sfdw.org](mailto:sanderson@sfdw.org).

OPT

## COAT DRIVE

Con't from page 28

Episcopal School helped collect more than a dozen coats and outerwear from his neighbors, thanks to a flier he made and a post on Facebook that his mother made on his behalf. By the time the coat drive took place January 13 and 14, Ryan added his collected donations to a growing pile of coats, hats, jackets, scarves, mittens and gloves in the St. Francis Gathering Space.

"I don't have a set goal – just trying to collect as many [coats] as possible," Ryan said in a recent interview.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish has participated in the Catholic

Charities Coat Drive for many years, delivering coats and outerwear collected during the campaign to St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Rockville, which serves as a central collection point for Montgomery County parishes, said St. Francis of Assisi Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick.

Parishioners had been dropping off coats a couple weeks before the actual coat drive took place. Donations ranged from coats and winter gear for adults and children, including a faux mink, Bosnick said.

All coats and winter wear collected will be distributed through a Catholic Charities Center, one of which is at the McCarrick Center off Georgia and Randolph Roads in Montgomery County.

OPT

## FAIR

Con't from page 31

bered that one year she dressed up like Jack Frost. She loves the multitude of talented artists that return year after year to sell their items at the free craft show. This year Maddie Rose especially enjoyed the essential oils and the kindness of that vendor in letting her enjoy some samples of the fragrant oil.

The enthusiasm, spirit, creativity, and participation of Maddie Rose and the other young people of Resurrection Parish make Winterfest more than a financial success. It is an example of how a Catholic parish can share its values not only to its adult members and those who come to shop but also to include and teach its young people the value of service, community, and working for the common good.

OPT

**40 Days for Life**  
Feb 14 to Mar 25 in Bethesda  
<https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/bethesda/>  
**Take a Stand for Life**



St. Bernadette School is delighted to celebrate our students who submitted winning entries in The Catholic Standard's 2017 Christmas card contest themed, "A Child is Born". From L-R, Reilly Boylan took third place honors in the Grades 1-3 division. Kelsey Lawson was awarded second place in the Grades 7-8 division and Cecilla Mumaw won second place in the Grades 4-6 division. Congratulations to these accomplished students and to our very talented Art teacher, Mary Ann Gutierrez, for providing the artistic opportunity and instruction.

## St. Bernadette

### St. Bernadette Sodality Welcomes New Members

St. Bernadette Sodality is a parish group, currently with 55 members. We make Mary our model as we strive to live in grace and love for others. Together we focus on daily prayer through the rosary to Jesus through Mary. We enrolled three new members of the Feast of the Epiphany, where after mass, there was a potluck luncheon in the MSR.

Our ladies will be attending the Retreat at the Washington Retreat House the weekend of March 9-11. We are looking forward to spring at which time we will serve a dinner to Catholic students at the University of MD. For additional information about what we do or to become a member, please contact Mary Roszkowski: [maryrosz@hotmail.com](mailto:maryrosz@hotmail.com)

OPT

## ST FRANCIS INTL

Con't from page 20

always and what it means to recognize that God IS with us!

God is with us in so many ways and many of the activities at SFIS in December and January are geared towards reminding us of that. The annual Advent Penance Service reminds us to prepare our hearts and souls to welcome Jesus when he comes. Our Christmas bazaar and Christmas concerts remind us to find Jesus with us in our joy and fellowship. The visit of St. Nicholas reminds us that we can be Jesus with others when we do acts of love and charity and the Posadas remind us that others can be Jesus

for us when we welcome those in need into our lives.

At SFIS, the community always keeps celebrating Christmas until the end of the liturgical season. This meant that on our first day back to school after break on January 3<sup>rd</sup> the school celebrated mass and remembered the three Magi who came into Jesus presence on Epiphany and recognized him as the King of Kings and Prince of Peace. Our second day back was like a gift from the Three Kings, because it ended up being a snow day!

The SFIS community is proud that during December our principal, Mr. Toby Harkleroad, made a public recognition of his belief that God is always with us by accepting formal admittance into the Secular Franciscan Order (one of the three

orders that St. Francis himself founded along with the Franciscan friars and the Poor Clare nuns). St. Francis of Assisi very much believed that in order to love and serve God, we must recognize God's presence in the ordinary moments of our lives in the real world. It was 800 years ago in the Italian village of Greccio that St. Francis put on the first known "living Nativity" scene with real animals and even a real baby because he wanted people to have a tangible sense of the idea that God was really present in the stable as baby Jesus. We wish Mr. Harkleroad the best as he continues his formation as a Franciscan and we look forward to him making his final profession in a few years.

OPT

## CHINA

Con't from page 1

the city of Suzhou.

How does a girl go from growing up in Maryland to traveling 7,256 miles without skipping a beat? Ouyang traces her deep interest in China to her grandparents, particularly her grandfather, who started teaching her Mandarin when she was high school. Her grandparents came to the United States from China in the 1950s. "[My interest] has to do with my heritage and wanting to learn more about it," Ouyang says.

Ouyang got her first Chinese passport stamp in 2012, studying there on a research grant before her senior year in college. Her second visit was longer: a year researching heritage tourism on a Fulbright Scholarship in 2013-2014. But even a year didn't satisfy her curiosity. Ouyang says she has been on the lookout ever since for a chance to go to China again. "I wanted to

see how things had changed since I had been there," she says. "Even in the year that I was there [on the Fulbright], I saw so many changes." She found that chance this summer through the Summer China Travel and Teaching Program. The program is well and truly named: it consists of two weeks of travel and two weeks of teaching. Ouyang happily revisited Shanghai, Xi'an, and Beijing, but spent most of the trip in Suzhou – known as the "Venice of the East" for its many canals – where she taught English at a boarding school.

Lesson planning for her classes was rather different from planning her AP Government class at Oakcrest. The students, who were participating in a summer camp, practiced their English by ordering food at a restaurant, discussing American superheroes, and playing games. One of her favorite classes was a lesson on volleyball terms. School routines were different as well. Ouyang learned that teachers in China often stay with a class

from first grade to sixth grade, moving up with their students. Also surprising was the two-hour naptime between morning and afternoon classes, when students and teachers alike were encouraged to get some sleep.

One thing that was not entirely different was student behavior, Ouyang says. The picture of a Chinese classroom that some Westerners might have – rows of disciplined and deferential students under an authoritarian teacher – was not her experience. On the contrary, the sixth-grade boys and girls she taught could be quite rambunctious. Partly that was due to the summer camp atmosphere, partly to her status as a visitor and foreigner. "You're definitely an outsider," she says. "They definitely view you differently" from their regular teachers. But after this, her third visit to China, it's fair to say that Ouyang is not the outsider she once was. "Every time I go, I learn more," she says.

OPT

## SCHOOL NEWS

Con't from page 5

Our Lady continued with a reception of food and music.

### Oh What Fun! The Mother Teresa Luncheon

This year's annual Mother Teresa Luncheon joyfully welcomed about 80 visitors from two Washington, D.C., centers run by the Missionaries of Charity. Our guests attended Mass and were served a warm, Christmas-style meal by St. Raphael School seventh- and eighth-graders and many other volunteers, including St. Raphael Sodality and the Knights of Columbus. A piano sing-along and special performance by St. Raphael Nursery School 4-Plus students made spirits bright and brought many smiles to our visitors. We are grateful to everyone who came and those who contributed to making this event possible.

### Here We Come A-Caroling

Christmas spirit and song warmed our hearts with the love and joy of the season as SRS and SRNS students presented their holiday programs. The SRS pageant featured a collection of Christmas carols from around the world – including “A La Nanita Nana” performed in Spanish by the eighth grade with ukuleles and percussion instruments, the



St. Raphael Nursery School students encourage everyone to “Go, Tell it on the Mountain!” as they share the story of the birth of Baby Jesus. Photo by Ashley Mendez

African American spiritual “Mary’s Boy Child” presented by the seventh grade with instrument accompaniment, and “Silent Night/Stille

and “A Holly Jolly Christmas” creatively prepared in vocal harmony by the fifth grade. The program culminated with the kindergarten class re-enactment of the Nativity of Jesus and the entire student body and audience joining in for the finale, “Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!”



On Spirit Day at St. Raphael School, anything goes. Go, Angels! Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia, St. Raphael School

### Rockin' Around the Basketball Court

CYO basketball is underway, and SRS Angels in third through eighth grade are ready to roll. Teachers and students faced off for a friendly game at SRS Spirit Day, decking the halls with excitement and revving up momentum for the season. We wish the SRS Angels and all CYO participants a merry season filled with competitive sport!

### Upcoming Events Ring in the New Year

Registration for St. Raphael School and St. Raphael Nursery School for 2018-19 is open. Visit the Admissions Page of our website at [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) for more information.

- Jan. 28-Feb. 2: Catholic Schools Week celebrates Catholic education and honors all who make it possible with a full schedule of special events.
- Feb. 26-March 1: Read Across America recognizes the importance of reading and encourages the practice and enjoyment of this skill. Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss!



Through their whimsical and beautiful performances, St. Raphael School students put audience members in the spirit of Christmas. Photo by Malu Powell

### St. Elizabeth



Our Eighth graders won this year's CYO Soccer Championship.

## SERVICE

Con't from page 35

be in need.

The pledge cards also included a portion for each individual to keep in their wallet or purse, as a reminder to serve God and others in the new year. Cards included the Prayer of Self-Offering:

Receive, Lord, my entire freedom.

Accept the whole of my memory, my intellect and my will.

Whatever I possess, it was You who gave it to me;

I restore it to You in full, and I surrender it completely to the guidance of your will.

Give me only love of you together with your grace, and I am rich enough to ask for nothing more. Amen.

In the coming year, the community at St. Michael the Archangel will identify service opportunities in the parish, in Silver Spring, and across the Metro area. Clerical leaders, including Monsignor Tolentino, have issued a call for the parish to work more closely with other groups in the diocese such as Catholic Charities.

As Lent approaches, St. Michael the Archangel Parish invites all Christians in our Parish, our community, and in the Church to join us in our commitment to make this a Year of Service.

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**About Potomac Community Resources, Inc.** Since 1994 Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR) has provided therapeutic, social, educational, and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences. PCR's dynamic, innovative programs are designed to encourage our members' personal growth, friendships, and healthy lifestyles, and to provide support to their family members and caregivers. PCR programs include music, fitness and movement, respite care for individuals with significant and moderate care needs, discussion groups for men and women, communication skills, basketball, art, a social club, photography, information sessions for parents of transitioning youth, and many special events throughout the year.



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