



Parish Times

Summer Camp Special

MARCH 2018

Living the Faith Together

FREE



Mrs. Liz Smith accepts Knights of Columbus Maryland's CCD Teacher of the Year award.

Knights award St. Mary's Liz Smith as Maryland's CCD Teacher of the Year

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus has awarded Mrs. Liz Smith of St. Mary's parish in Barnesville as the state's CCD Teacher

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God's Plan for Us



Fr. Enzler

Over the 45 years of my priesthood, I have seen how important this time of year is for a lot of families in Montgomery County and throughout our region as they think about school transitions for our young

people. It is a time of important decisions for parents and their children as they think about the future.

This happens on many levels: from pre-school to kindergarten, lower school to middle school, middle to high school and high school to college. In my experiences with families, the process of going from middle school to high school may actually be the most stressful of all, and this is the time of year when young people find out whether they have been accepted to the high schools of their choice.

I've seen how much stress this can create for families, and it is certainly understandable. Parents are anxious to make sure that their child has the best education possible, and they worry about whether their daughter or son will get into the school they want.

To all who are in this situation, I encourage

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Live the Drama Written by God

St. Jude Youth group attends Mount 2000 retreat

By Xiommy Esteban, volunteer Youth Group leader

Twenty-six teens from the Youth Group of the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville were blessed for the second time to attend the annual Mount 2000 retreat in Emmitsburg, organized by Mount St. Mary's Seminary and University. The retreat, themed *Live the Drama Written by God*, took place February 9-11 and welcomed approximately 1,300 teens from several dioceses, including Washington, Baltimore, and Harrisburg.

The rainy weekend outlook did not stifle the dynamic and joyful atmosphere unique to the retreat, complete with "Olympic challenges" and nightly concerts. Various speakers helped to unpack the intriguing theme, described on Mount2000's website, "The greatest thrill we can have is to discover our role in the beautiful drama that God has written."

As is customary, each youth group was assigned seminarians to guide them throughout the weekend and lead small group

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St. Jude Youth Group members and leaders were able to make a quick visit to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes while attending the Mount 2000 retreat last month.



From left: Stephen, Sherry Moitoza, Anthony, Sheila Jackson, and James. Stephen, Anthony and James are residents of the St. Rose House.

St. Rose Receives National Award for Making Parish Life Accessible to All

St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg recently received the 2017 "Opening Doors" Parish Award from the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) in partnership with Loyola Press.

The Opening Doors award recognizes a parish that demonstrates a deep commitment to parishioners with disabilities by providing access for full participation in all aspects of parish life: through sacramental preparation, participation, and celebration, catechetical ministry, social outreach, as well as community service. In recognition of the award, St. Rose received \$1,000 and a plaque. The award was presented to St. Rose on Sunday, February 18, at the 9 a.m. Mass. "Through

this award I am pleased to acknowledge the work and compassion of Fr. Agustin Mateo Ayala and the staff and parishioners of Saint Rose of Lima Parish," said Janice Benton, NCPD Executive Director, who bestowed the award.

The Opening Doors award specifically cites the St. Rose House, as a unique way the parish supports those with intellectual disabilities. "One unique way in which the parish supports individuals with intellectual disability is through a group home located on the parish property," Benton said. "While an independent agency operates the group home, the parish reaches out to the residents

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A Good Friday Pilgrimage




Chuck Short

Many of us remember when Good Friday was the most solemn day of Lent, a day Catholics often stayed home from work to spend time in prayer in darkened churches with covered statues. Commerce and

routine daily activities were suspended. This contrasts with today when Good Friday for most is just another day for work, shopping, or preparing for Easter. For those who may wish a more solemn commemoration of the day of Christ's death, here's a suggestion. Not a new idea, but a relevant twist to a once popular custom called Church Visitations. Catholics spent time on Holy Thursday or Good Friday visiting several parish churches. In each church, they spent time in adoration and meditation on Christ's consummate sacrifice for humanity. Here's my twist on this lovely custom. While visiting each church, reflect and renew our commitment to Christ's Gospel messages and to living the Word for which He died. Here is a **Nine Church Pilgrimage** that may help your Good Friday be more appreciative of Christ's life and death.

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7:30 am EDT

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Join us for CBN-MC's monthly breakfast and Scholarship Breakfast. Registration is \$25 for pre-registered CBN-MC members, \$30 at the door and for non-members. Register online at: www.cbnmc.com/events/info/89

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Georgetown Visitation Masqueraders Spring Musical Announcement

Don't miss Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School's spring musical, "*The Sound of Music*." When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain,



and they marry. The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre.

With the help of an ensemble that brings a few dozen characters to the stage, Visitation's Nolan Center comes alive with the world's most beloved musical! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students/seniors, and may be purchased online at www.visi.org/showtickets. Performances on the Nolan Center stage on the historic Visitation campus, 1524 35th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. For more information, contact 202.337.3350 ext. 2209, email box.office@visi.org, or visit www.visi.org.

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PUBLISHED IN ALTERNATE MONTHS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families to honor Chuck Short and the Honorable Marielsa Bernard

St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families, an organization with a 158-year history committed to lifting at-risk children, mothers and families out of poverty and homelessness, will honor Chuck Short with the *Michele Heidenberger Volunteer Award* at **Hope Blossoms**. Hope Blossoms, St. Ann's primary fundraising event, is a cocktail reception and award ceremony to be held on May 2 from 6pm to 8pm at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase.

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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



Oh, What a Night – The 3rd Annual Lilabeau, Dancing-beans Dance-a-thon!

St. Andrew the Apostle hosts fundraiser for pediatric brain cancer research

On Friday, January 26, more than 150 children from 9 area schools came together and raised over \$30,000 to fund research for pediatric brain cancer. The third annual Lilabeau Foundation,

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Above, over 150 kids packed the dance floor to raise money for The Lilabeau Foundation

At left, Elizabeth Curtin from St. Bernadette Parish and Julie House from St. Andrew the Apostle Parish are two of the many dedicated parent volunteers that organized the LBF, Dancing Beans, Dance-a-thon.



Stations of the Cross on the National Mall this Good Friday

By Andrew Hamm

Last year on Good Friday, I attended the “Way of the Cross” on the National Mall. The introduction in the event program encouraged us to ask ourselves where we found the presence of Christ in our lives.

As we walked to the first station, we passed a man in a food truck preparing for the lunch rush. His wide eyes and open mouth told me he wondered who we were and why we were walking single-file in silence. When I held up my program for him to read, he eagerly motioned for me to give it to him.

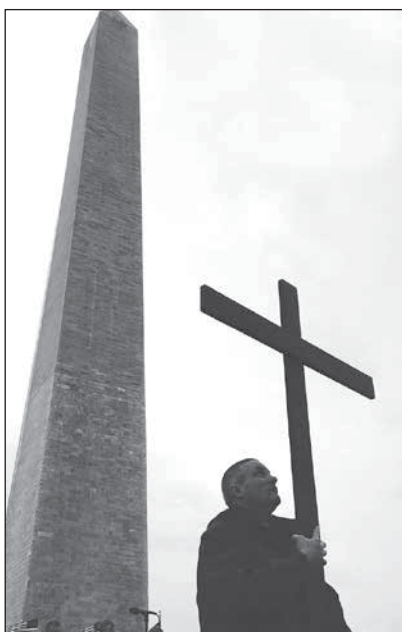
It occurred to me as I kept

walking that he had shown me the answer to the question from the program. What struck him – this body of processing believers – was the very presence of Christ in my life.

Since last Easter, I have made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. After visiting the Upper Room of the Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane, my group followed the Stations of the Cross in the Old City of Jerusalem. The people on the streets mostly ignored us. At each station we moved aside for tourists, police officers, and teenage boys lugging merchandise with hand trucks to shops on streets too narrow for cars.

In reflecting on these experiences, I notice two different reactions.

Continued on page 18



All are invited to celebrate 70 Years of Community Tradition!

SBS families, grandparents, alumni, parishioners and neighbors, bring a friend and Join Us Under the Stars on April 14th. Enjoy an evening of great food and drink, music and dancing, and a live and silent auction.

Local celebrity, News4 Reporter Pat Collins, will be our special guest and auctioneer for the night!

Tickets are \$125 each for this year's Gala.

To purchase tickets:

- Visit <https://saintbernadetteschool.goinme.org/2018Tickets> OR
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OPT Editor
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Contact Kristie Lofland, Director of Summer Camp
klofland@stelizabethschoolmd.org



The St. Elizabeth Parish Youth Group attended their first Mount 2000 the second weekend of February. Mount2000 is a Eucharistic retreat for high school students sponsored by Mount St. Mary's Catholic Seminary and University.

St. Elizabeth Parish Offers Gift to Parishioners

As Advent began, St. Elizabeth announced to its parishioners that it had purchased a subscription for them to access "FORMED.org". FORMED is a website with a variety of Catholic resources from movies, e-books, videos, and talks that may be accessed by parishioners through a provided passcode. The website offers multiple options for faith formation including programs that can be used for sacramental preparation or a renewal of faith and a deeper

understanding of what the Church teaches.

FORMED provides leader and participant guides for some of their programs so that anyone can start a small group without having to create brand new material or discussion questions. FORMED has so many options that it can be a little overwhelming when one first registers but each week the parish utilizes the parish bulletin to highlight some recommendations for adults and youth. After registering online,

FORMED can be used on the go by downloading the app to a smartphone or tablet. And since this is a year-round website access, Lent is also a great time to use FORMED to see videos that explain different aspects of the Catholic faith, listen to talks on interesting topics, or download a book that catches your eye. Parishioners who've had the opportunity to check out the website are reporting quality material that is very interesting and informative.

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A Spirituality of Life and Love

The annual parish Lenten retreat this year was offered by Pastor Monsignor Bill Parent with a presentation entitled *A Spirituality of Life and Love*. The retreat occurred on 3 consecutive Friday evenings, February 23 through March 9, and it examined the deeper spiritual questions raised by *Humanae Vitae*.

Humanae Vitae celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and is considered one of the most controversial

papal documents in the Church's history. Msgr. Parent provided the deeper implications of *Humanae Vitae* and its interpretation by Saint John Paul II in the *Theology of the Body*. Utilizing several Biblical texts, Msgr. Parent's goal was to allow parishioners to gain a clearer, more scriptural, more prayerful, and ultimately more Christ-like way of living the communion of life and love we are called to live. interesting and informative.

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April 8
May 6

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Kindergartners came to school dressed as 100-year-olds on their 100th day of school.



Saint Elizabeth Parish Triduum Schedule

March 29, Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm, with Adoration until 11pm.

March 30, Good Friday

Stations of the Cross will be held at 3 pm inside the Church as well as outside.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 7:30pm, including veneration of the Cross

March 31, Holy Saturday

Blessing of Food Baskets, 9:30am

Easter Vigil, 8:00pm, Mass will begin outside with the lighting of the Easter fire

April 1, Easter Sunday

6:30 am (outside), 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:15pm, and 1:15 pm

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Sodality Mardi Gras Tea

The ladies of St. Raphael Sodality hosted a Tea to celebrate Mardi Gras. There were delicious homemade tea sandwiches and desserts, including two King cakes. A few guests showed up in masks and there were purple, gold, and green decorations galore. We prayed the rosary and played a game to get to know each other better. This was the third annual Mardi Gras Tea and it has become a perennial favorite.

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(L-R) Kathy Driscoll, Paula DeNucci, Martha Corrado, Gerry Chen, Vicki Swaney



(L-R) Louise Cox, Armelle Aguehhouakou, Jan Rathgeber, Norma Saad, France Staudenmann



St. Raphael School News

St. Raphael School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

By Nina Cardillo

St. Raphael School and Nursery School joined Catholic schools across the country to celebrate Catholic Schools week, recognizing the value of Catholic education and honoring all who make it possible. During this week, the children participated in service projects for practical experience and emphasis on serving God by serving others. The annual Coats of Many Colors Drive was held in

partnership with Catholic Charities to collect coats and socks for those in need this winter. The students made sandwiches that were delivered to McKenna's Wagon, a non-profit organization that makes 1,200 sandwiches and several hundred gallons of soup a day to distribute to the homeless of D.C. They also spread God's love through letters—writing notes of appreciation to the soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Hospital, and of encouragement to the less fortunate, tucking them into

the pockets of the items collected for the Coats of Many Colors Drive. Each day of the week remembered in a special way teachers, clergy, parents, and students who believe in and uphold Catholic schooling.

Reading Across America

SRS welcomed Ben Hatke, New York Times bestselling author/illustrator and prestigious Eisner Award winner for Best Publication for

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Upcoming Sodality Events

MARCH – Don't Miss Helen Alvaré on March 20

All members of the Archdiocese are invited to come hear Helen M. Alvaré speak at St. Raphael's on March 20 from 7:00-9:00 pm. Alvaré is an extremely educated and articulate woman with a powerful outreach. She is currently an Associate Professor of Law at George Mason University, and founder of a group called Women Speak for Themselves (WomenSpeakforThemselves.com), whose mission is to counter

the secular press that espouses that all women have the same liberal views. Each woman, and person, has his or her own views, opinions and beliefs, and we will speak for ourselves.

Alvaré worked for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), where she drafted amicus briefs in leading U.S. Supreme Court cases concerning abortion, euthanasia, and the Establishment Clause. She also worked with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at the NCCB. She lobbied, testified

Continued on page 31

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor
Teri Dwyer, Principal

MJ Zafis-Garcia,
OPT Editor

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I am a thinker, an athlete, an artist.

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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

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*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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St. Mary's School -- 2018



ART DRAMA SCIENCE MATH

PreK through 8th Grade

Offerings from at 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Mary's School is excited to offer an array of creative and enriching camp programs this summer! We are providing fun and flexible options in four week-long sessions from June 25 through July 27 for 4-year-olds through rising eighth grade students.

We strive to take the stress out of your summer vacation child care needs with morning and afternoon camps as well as free early drop off beginning at 8 am. Camp is open to St. Mary's School, St. Mary's Parish and the local community....invite your friends and neighbors!

Check out our offerings and register online
at <https://one.bidpal.net/smsummercamp2018>

St. Mary's School

WWW.STMARYSCHOOLROCKVILLE.ORG

600 Veirs Mill Road Rockville, MD 20852 301-762-4179



Students from grades five through eight participated on the boys' team. Team work, problem solving, and analytical thinking helped this team earn a place at the State Championship.

St. Mary's Robotics Teams Go to State Competition!

This year, St. Mary's School has two teams that represent our school for FLL Maryland Robotics. Each team meets weekly to work together to focus on team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking to develop solutions to a real-world challenge. Each team does their own research, talks to professionals, and develops compelling presentations which relate to the Challenge. At FLL competitions, the teams are evaluated on their robot's performance

and design, their presentation, and teamwork.

The St. Mary's Boys' Robotics Team, Super Salmon Squad, travelled to Bel Air, Md. on December 16, 2017 to compete in the FLL Maryland Qualifier. Their hard work and determination paid off. They received the Robot Performance award and came in First Place to win the Champions Award!

The St. Mary's Girls' Robotics team, SincTuBigz, did an outstanding job at the FLL

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PE Teacher for the Day

What better way to spend the day than as PE Teacher for the Day! Charlie's family won this honor at our Annual Gala which took place on February 10, 2018. Charlie had big shoes to fill but managed to keep all the kids in Kindergarten through eighth grade active and engaged in physical education classes.

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

**Msgr. Robert Amey,
Pastor**
301-424-5550

St. Mary's School
Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal
301-762-4179

Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor
301-990-4329

Every Day is Open House at St. Mary's School!

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 School Year is open! St. Mary's offers the following preschool programs for three and four-year olds. Limited spaces open in our Kindergarten through seventh grade. School doors open at 7:30 am and aftercare is available for four-year olds through eighth grade. Don't worry if you missed our Open House, every day is open house at St. Mary's School, just call or stop by for your tour. 301-762-4179.

Our Lady of Mercy School News

The Middle School Difference at Mercy

On March 15, Mercy is hosting a Middle School Open House event for current and prospective families. Guests will have an opportunity to hear from our amazing staff, tour the school, and learn that character development, formation of values, and personalized instruction are fundamental to a Mercy education. The Open House will be held from 8:00-10:00 am on Thursday, March 15.

Special Olympics Basketball Game

An annual tradition at Mercy is the Special Olympics Basketball game. The Montgomery County Special Olympics team will play Mercy eighth graders on March 15 at 6:30 pm in the Mercy gym. Admission is \$7, and a game of knockout is included for students in Kindergarten through seventh grade. Proceeds from this event go to the Special Olympics.

Eighth-Grade Dance Raises \$2,500

The student council and eighth-grade dance committee held an incredibly successful dance on Friday, January 19. 150 students from 15 different schools attended this great event. All aspects of the dance were planned and executed by Mercy students! The \$2,500 raised will be donated to Catholic War Veterans. Way to go!

OPT



Camp Mercy – 2018 Annual Party and Auction

On March 24, Mercy parents, staff, and community members will spend an evening at the “Camp Mercy” campground. Some of the activities these happy campers will enjoy are a canoe ride down the Mercy river, fishing for wine, an authentic camper’s BBQ (including the camp’s signature Bug Juice beverage), shopping at the Canteen, and music around the campfire. Proceeds from the event will be used to support the school’s operating budget.

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A Busy Lent

In the Bulletin for February 11, Father Bill wrote about “Five Things to Get for Lent.” Number one on the list was “Get Busy”. He advised that “working on the spiritual life is the one thing that we should be constantly improving.” All around the parish, Lenten activities abound, from special collections to guest speakers and opportunities to spend time reading and meditating on our faith.

We are fortunate to have the

sponsorship of generous donors who made a free copy of the book “Perfectly Yourself”, by Matthew Kelly, available to parishioners. It is suggested that every Mercy adult read a chapter a day during Lent. Mercy Flocknotes and the website DynamicCatholic.com/BestLentEver provide short daily videos and reflections. The Little Black Book with short daily Lenten reflections was also available to

Continued on page 36

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 36



Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

Breakfast for dinner is always popular, and what better time than for a traditional Shrove Tuesday celebration! An annual favorite, the Mardi Gras pancake supper, held on February 13, brought the entire Mercy community together for a fun and delicious meal served by members of the Mercy school and parish staff.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Fr. William Byrne, Pastor
301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School
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Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor
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More St. Bernadette News on Page 24



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The Buzz from The Hive

St. Bernadette Students Spell for Their Supper

By Emma Gallagher, Grade 7 and Riley Peake, Grade 7, St. Bernadette School Student Council Directors of Public Affairs

On February 9, St. Bernadette School held our final round for our school-wide spelling bee. All students in Grades 3-8 participated in the preliminary round with six spellers moving on to the final round. These students won their classroom spelling bee to earn their place in the final school round. It took tremendous courage to participate in the bee and we are so proud of each student.

The winner of the 2018 St. Bernadette Spelling Bee was Caden Alexander (Grade 5). Our two runners up were Julia Ryan (Grade 6) and Jake Balatan (Grade 5). The winning word for the championship was REPAST. The executive council of our SBS student council



St. Bernadette 2018 Spelling Bee winners are pictured here with St. Bernadette Parish Pastor, Msgr. Smith and SBS principal, Ted Ewanciw. From L-R: Caden (Grade 5) is this year's champion. Julia and Jake (both Grade 6) were the Runners Up. I-M-P-R-E-S-S-E-D!

all dressed as bees, very appropriate given that our school mascot is a bee, to show support for the spell-

ers. All participants studied hard. We are already looking forward to next year's bee!

OPT

St. Bernadette's Tuesday Club has an Exciting Year Planned

By Mary Ann Fitzgerald

St. Bernadette's senior Tuesday Club in Silver Spring, MD, starts off the New Year with a Bingo after coffee, desserts, and the business meeting. Each member donates an item from home, which is in good condition, to be used for prizes. When someone wins a bingo, they can select the item of their choice from the prize table. We have our own Bingo setup and a couple of volunteers to call the numbers. It's fun and

everyone enjoys it tremendously. We play until we run out of prizes! In February, we usually show a movie and have popcorn after the meeting. This year we showed "Hidden Figures" which was quite enthralling.

The travel committee has just concluded its planning for the 2018 travel season. We have trips planned to the new Bible Museum and the newly completed dome at the Shrine for March; Ocean City, MD, for May; the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, for June; a tea

in Sykesville, for August, MD; an 8-day trip to Branson, Missouri, plus the new Ark museum and a Passion Play, for October; Riverside Theater, Fredericksburg, VA, for November; and we are looking into the possibility of a crab feast in St. Mary's County at the end of summer. It should be quite an exciting year. We always welcome new members and you do not have to be member of the parish to join. If you are interested, please call the rectory and someone will advise you of whom to contact."

OPT



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Carlos F. Acosta, Esq., SBS Class of 1977, has been appointed Associate Judge of The District Court of Maryland, District Six in Montgomery County by Governor Larry Hogan. We are proud to claim Carlos, his wife Ann-Marie, and their children as SBS alumni as well: Tierney SBS '13, Declan SBS '16 and Maeve SBS '20. It is our honor to address him as Your Honor. Our sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success from all of us here at The Hive.



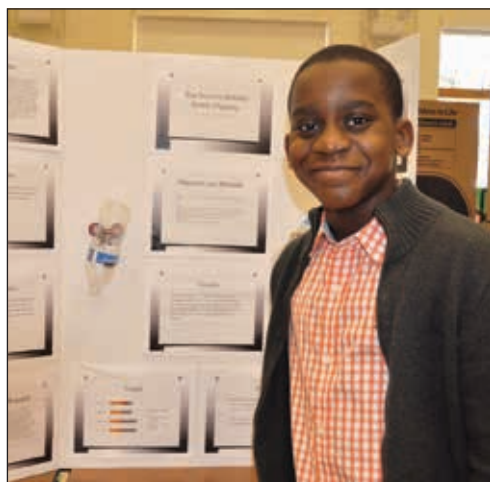
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Holy Cross 2018 Middle School Science Fair

On Sunday, January 21, 2018, Holy Cross hosted its middle school science fair. Holy Cross believes that a science fair project is one of the best learning experiences its students can undertake. During this year's science fair, the students did not disappoint with their creative experiment titles, flashy poster boards, and unique projects. Students were judged on how well they conveyed the various steps of their experiments and explained whether or not the data from their science fair experiments supported their original hypotheses. When all is said and done, every stu-



Seventh Grader, Simon Wallace, explored the science behind bottle flipping – a popular game among middle school students. Photo by Christine Zalewski

dent that participated in the science fair was a winner!

Holy Cross' science fair was the culmination of four very busy months of work during the 1st and 2nd quarters of this school year by fifty-four middle school students who presented their projects to twenty-six distinguished judges from the National Institutes of Health, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the Uniform Services University, and others from the private sector who shared their time and talents to evaluate the projects. A science fair project requires a student to learn to plan over

Continued on page 30

Holy Cross Rejoices with its Elect and Confirmation Candidates!

The Parish of Holy Cross gives thanks for the opportunity to accompany Jasmine Turner and Henry Spevak, recently welcomed as Elects of the Catholic Church. We can't wait to share in their joy at their Baptism at the Mass of Easter Vigil! Similarly, Holy Cross anticipates the Confirmation of Helena Dunn and Luciano Rigato when they will complete their Sacraments of Initiation! We ask that you join us in praying for these individuals and their sponsors as they continue their Journey of Faith with the Universal Church!



Catholic Schools Week at Holy Cross School

The annual Catholic School's Week celebration at Holy Cross always begins with a school mass where we reflect on the gift of our faith and the efforts of all those who make our faith-filled, academically enriching community possible. We are blessed

A Holy Cross Kindergarten student plays Bingo with his Fifth Grade Buddy on Student Appreciation Day. Photo by Christine Zalewski

with involved parents who actively support our school, led by a competent, enthusiastic Home & School Association and the Parish Advisory Board; the faculty and staff work tirelessly to provide a faith-centered environment that supports students to achieve their very best; the parish family embraces the school community; and our principal, Lisa Kane, and our pastor, Father Robert Buchmeier, inspire and lead the community to achieve excellence in all things.

Career Day allows students to explore the possibilities for their future. This year, Middle School students met a panel that included a reporter from a local major newspaper, a rooftop farmer, and a Navy Corpsman. Younger students met a Police Officer, a bee keeper, and a nutritionist. It was an opportunity for all students to consider ways to merge their interests and God-given gifts to create or pursue a career.

One morning during Catholic

Continued on page 30

Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue, Garrett Park, MD

Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor
301-942-1020

Holy Cross School
Lisa Maio Kane, Principal
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Holy Redeemer's Pre-K 3's Olympic Extravaganza

By Mrs. Debbie Monahan

Our littlest cardinals at Holy Redeemer had a fantastic time in February competing in the Holy Redeemer Olympic Games. After each child in our 3s classes made a torch from construction paper and tissue paper, we had an opening ceremony, complete with Olympic music, parading through the hallways into the auditorium. All the three-year old "athletes" were proudly waving and smiling, much to the delight of staff and older children along the "parade route."

On site at the stadium (auditorium), our first event was free-form Figure Skating. Children "skated" on the smooth auditorium floor with creativity and flair, while Pre-K teachers gave an awe-filled running commentary on the performers. Next up was the Javelin event. Our javelins were empty wrapping paper cardboard tubes, and children threw them from the



Pre-K3's Olympics Opening Ceremony

basketball free-throw lines on the floor.

The main event, and by far the most popular, was the Bobsled.

Using scooters and a little imagination, teams of teachers and children raced each other from one end of the room to the other. We don't

know who had more fun... teachers or Pre-K students! The events were wrapped up with a medal ceremony, where, amazingly, every participant



Pre-K3 Olympic Skier

won GOLD! We then paraded back to the Pre-K wing with Olympic torches held high. Until the next Olympic Games....

OPT

Tea, Mr. President?

By Mrs. Sharon Kennedy

Following months of hard work researching, creating, and writing, students' day finally came. "Hail to the Chief" began to play as 40 of our 45 presidents processed into the Herb Young Auditorium, which had been transformed into a pressroom. The presidents took their seats and the

eighth Annual Holy Redeemer Presidential Tea was ready to begin.

The Presidential Tea has become a "rite of passage" for all fourth graders who grace the halls of Holy Redeemer. The process begins in December with a huge selection ceremony, where students pick their president out of Uncle Sam's hat. This year, students learned how to sift through facts to identify the most important. They researched their presidents and organized all their notes graphically. After having gathered their information, it was time to write their speeches. Section by section students completed each step of the writing process, until they had exactly what they needed for a successful speech. They included information about their president's birth, childhood, schooling, and accomplishments before, during, and after serving



Will Harper as President Bill Clinton

as president. Enhancing the personality of each speech, students even included quotes! For example, in his introduction, Nixon reminded the audience that he "is not a crook." George H. W. Bush told the crowd to "read my lips. No new taxes." George W. Bush ended his speech with a quote relevant to our



Alex Skinner as President Carter

time: "We must teach our children to use words to solve problems, not weapons."

As the big day approached, the jitters grew. Writing classes doubled in length to 80 minutes a day. Students were editing each other's speeches. Final touches were being added to their costumes

at homes. Students sought out props from their classmates to help add that extra "umph" to their costume. Rutherford B. Hayes located his telephone, as he was the first president to put a phone in the White House. Bill Clinton searched for a saxophone because he was our sax-playing president.

When the day arrived, students came to school dressed as their president. With butterflies in their stomachs, they lined up in the hallway outside of the auditorium awaiting their cue to enter "Hail to the Chief."

The Tea was a success! Nerves evaporated as distinguished presidents graced the podium telling their stories of how their lives shaped our country. The smiles on their faces as they walked on and off the stage were a testament to how proud they were. The thunderous applause of the audience was a testament to how proud the parents were.

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Holy Redeemer Parish

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301-942-2333

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There's Nothing Tastier Than a Good Book

By Jillian Jolly

Ever been so hungry that you're just not sure what you're actually in the mood for? Or have you ever been to a new restaurant and weren't sure what would taste good? Wouldn't be nice if you could just try a bit of this, a bit of that, and perhaps a bit of something else before making a final selection?

Many students have much the same conundrum when choosing books. To give students a little taste of many different books, this past January, the fifth grade at Holy Redeemer held its first ever Book Tasting.

When students were greeted not by Mrs. Jolly, but by Chef Jolly,

Continued on page 29



Fifth graders are enjoying the sampling of books at their table.

French Nun is Focus of Lenten Day Retreat

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

Half a dozen St. Francis parishioners reflected on St. Elizabeth of the Trinity on February 17, as they joined members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites for their Lenten Day Retreat held at the church in Derwood.

The Discalced Carmelite Secular Order are lay members of the Carmelite family, which was reformed in 1562 by St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross and renamed the Discalced Carmels. The modern-day followers are friars, cloistered nuns, and secular members, calling themselves 'discalced' – meaning 'barefoot' – since St. Teresa's followers wore



Fr. John Dillon addresses his parishioners and members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites at the order's Lenten Day Retreat on February 17.

sandals, not shoes. The founders emphasized the importance of prayer as an integral part of daily life for the Discalced Carmelite Order.

Carol Kohan, a St. Francis parishioner and professed Carmelite with the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Community of the Sacred Heart in Frederick, welcomed her fellow Carmelites, many of whom were wearing the Brown Scapular, which is commonly worn by Carmelites. The group began with Carmelite formation classes and then opened its agenda to all, as they celebrated Mass, heard two talks from St. Francis pastor Fr. John Dillon, received

Continued on page 34



St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick, Fr. John Dillon and Administrative Assistant Marie Yeast pause for a break at Catholics in Annapolis on February 22. Photo by Jerry Dzierwinski, Maryland Catholic Conference

Parishioners Advocate for Targeted Bills in Annapolis

By Tony Bosnick

The Catholics in Annapolis gathering on February 22 in support of legislation to promote dignity of life and justice issues drew participation from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood, Md. St. Francis pastor Fr. John Dillon, administrative assistant and parishioner Marie Yeast, and Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick attended meetings with legislators from districts 19 and 39, which, along with District 14, are home to many St. Francis parishioners.

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) designated four issues as the focus of those meetings. A bill on fetal homicide intro-

duced this year would make it a crime "to kill a viable fetus before 24 weeks of pregnancy as the result of an attack on a pregnant woman."

Continued on page 24

40 Days for Life Campaign

Reflection on Importance of Culture of Life

Editor's Note: Along with several other St. Francis of Assisi parishioners, St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick attended St. Francis Right to Life Day on March 3 at the abortion clinic at Wildwood Medical Center as part of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. The following is Bosnick's personal reflection on witnessing for mothers and their unborn children at this year's event.

Going to the recent 40 Days for Life campaign in Bethesda was not new for me. While attending past campaigns in Germantown, I generally prayed the rosary, interceding for the end of abortion and would leave.

Attending this year's event gave me plenty of time to think about why I so strongly embrace the Church's teaching on life. "The

Life and Dignity of the Person" is the first and foundational point of Catholic social teaching. The Church's social teaching inspired my return to the Church in my early 20s and has nourished my pilgrimage ever since.

I have come to see the beauty of life from conception to natural death. I see abortion as a form of violence against the weakest,

Continued on page 29

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD
Rev. John J. Dillon, Pastor
301-840-1407
Melissa M. Egan
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ST. JOHN'S

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St. Elizabeth



Our eighth-grade class displayed their crazy spirit during the annual teacher/student volleyball game.



Congratulations to the St. John's College High School II's Academic team, Nathan Kim, Thomas Canary, and Matthew Musselman, all St. Elizabeth Alumni!"



After many snow days and disruptions, our students were finally able to participate in the annual tradition of Blessing of the Throats.

SHORT

Con't from page 1

I suggest reflecting on three Lenten Gospels during the Pilgrimage.

Matthew Chapter 6: **"But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that it may be done in secret"**. Christ teaches us that almsgiving must be done with no return to the giver and only for the glory of God.

Mark Chapter 14: (the woman anointing Christ in Bethany) **"Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly. 'Leave her alone, she has done a beautiful thing to me', said Jesus. Christ teaches us to give of ourselves in His service with generosity.**

Matthew 25: **"Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'** Christ defines clearly the required standard for our salvation.

Blessings and peace on your Pilgrimage and Easter

St. Camillus Church. Here you may witness a procession of Catholics

walking the way of the cross. Because of St Camillus's great diversity, reflect on Christ's message to **welcome the stranger**. He came inclusively to save all humanity. Do we welcome immigrants in our parish?

St Patrick's Church. This parish has a great love for the poor in Haiti. Reflect here on Christ's **love for the poor**, regardless of their religion or ethnicity. Are we doing enough for the world's poor?

St Francis of Assisi Church. Working with other parishes and Potomac Community Resources, this parish formed Upper County Community Resources to promote **inclusion of people with disabilities** into community and parish life. Does our parish, business, school, club, team, neighborhood strive to include unique individuals?

St Martin's Church. If you arrive around 3:30, you can help **serve the daily meal to poor** people St Martin's has been feeding for decades. Reflect here on the thousands of people in our community who lack food, especially children. Can we do more to end hunger in one of the most blessed communities in the U.S.?

St Raphael's Church. Located near the County jail, this parish has been devoted to its **prison ministry** for decades. The clear teaching of Jesus to visit the imprisoned is a heavy cross to carry. Are we helping enough?

St Rose of Lima. With Rosario Communities, this parish made a portion of its property available and helped build a **home where adults with disabilities** thrive. Other parishes are following. Do we have space in our lives to provide a home for others without a home?

Our Lady of Mercy Church. Christ demonstrated **that healing the sick is among the most impor-**

tant ministries. Parishioners at Mercy, especially those trained as medical professionals, have accepted the call of Jesus to heal and established a health clinic serving thousands of uninsured poor people each year. Yet, many thousands more, many of them children, still lack care.

St Bartholomew's Church. Along River Road sits a beautiful **home for thirty two elderly** people who need assisted living. St Bartholomew's House, operated by Victory Housing, was made possible by the generosity of the parish which donated the land and provides volunteers. Reflect here about the growing elderly population in our community and the need to help them remain in the communities they love. What does Jesus expect of us if our elders are to live fully during their later years?

Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Here in downtown Bethesda, scores of often **disoriented homeless people** wander the streets hungry and begging. Some judge them as nuisances. Not Christ's disciples of Lourdes who have for decades supported and fed these vulnerable individuals. Are these the ones Jesus had in mind when he conditioned our salvation on clothing the naked and feeding the hungry? Are we doing enough to comfort those with the diseases of mental illness or addiction?

Our Pilgrimage ends fittingly where Lent began, at **Gate of Heaven Cemetery Chapel**. Reflect here on Matthew 26 v.50 (Christ's capture in the garden) ending with **"...Then all His disciples forsook him and fled"**. In carrying out Christ's work, will we be among those who forsake Him and flee?

God Bless!
Chuck Short

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Youth Group Tackles Ice Skating, Rock Climbing, and Community Service

The winter cold didn't stop the St. Bart's Youth Group. The schedule included ice skating at Cabin John Ice Rink on January 14, Earth Treks-Rock Climbing in Rockville on February 11, and Dodgeball and Pizza on February 18. The St. Bart's Middle School Youth Group are 6th, 7th, and 8th graders interested in serving their neighbor, playing together, and getting to know Our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome! If you would like to learn more, please email John & Maria Archer at 32kaufmann@cua.edu.



St. Bart's Youth Group climbs to the top



St. Bart's Rock Band Warms Up on a Cold Winter Night.

Sunday Night "Rock Band" Mass Draws a Crowd

For the past several years, St. Bart's has featured a "rock band" at its 8:00 p.m. Sunday Mass. From simple beginnings, the Mass has grown from approximately 100 attendees to close to 400 attendees. OPT spoke with band member Duncan Ballantine about the success of the Sunday night Mass. Mr. Ballantine explained that the band was something very "new" when it first started, but has gained in acceptance and popularity over the years. He observed that young people now make up a much higher percentage of attendees at the 8:00 Mass.

Mr. Ballantine told OPT that it was important to ensure that the band fully met the

needs of the parish as "100 percent Catholic" and to provide a "liturgically sound" Mass. The band itself is made up of music professionals, but Mr. Ballantine noted that "the band is not there so much to entertain as to help people worship." He noted that the band is also intended to appeal to "fallen away" Catholics by "honoring tradition" but providing a contemporary musical option.

Mr. Ballantine noted that the 8:00 Mass has been "a team effort from the beginning, and made special mention of St. Bart's Pastor, Father Mark Knestout, and Monsignor John Enzler, who usually celebrate this Mass.

OPT



Bonnie Carr, Esteban Vesperoni, and Deacon John Class are commissioned in St. Bartholomew's St. Stephen Ministry by Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccelson and St. Bart's Pastor, Fr Mark Knestout.

Three New St. Stephen Ministers Commissioned

On Sunday, February 4, St. Bartholomew Parish conducted a commissioning of three new St. Stephen Ministers: Bonnie Carr, Esteban Vesperoni, and Deacon John Class. St. Stephen Ministers are lay men and women of the parish, trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as – but not limited to – grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, convalescence, empty nest, loneliness, or relocation due to job transfer or military deployment.

For assistance as a care receiver or to get involved in the ministry, contact Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston for assistance. Tel: 703 821 1654 or jublec18@earthlink.net.

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St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout
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Carrying on the Great Legacy of Catholic Education

Catholic Schools Week is an important time for the Church in the United States to pause and remember the special work that has been done in our schools for generations. Today, 6,429 Catholic schools across the USA educate nearly two million children every year.

Many Catholic schools in the United States were founded to serve Catholics who were marginalized and discriminated against in American society. Countless Catholic schools were founded to serve the children of German, Italian, Polish and so many other Catholic immigrant families, holy men and women like Mother Mary Lange in Baltimore founded Catholic schools to educate Black and Indian children legally neglected by the larger culture, and still other Catholic schools were founded because Catholics, especially



Bishop Campbell joins the Saint Francis community for Catholic Schools Week mass.

the poor, were being mistreated in public schools. Saint Francis International School was founded in 2010 to carry on that legacy of Catholic education for all God's children!

The mission at Saint Francis International School is to see each family seeking Catholic education as if they are the Holy Family. Just as Mary and Joseph sought a safe place to bring their children into the world, so many families today seek a safe and loving place to educate their children in mind, body, and spirit. Saint Francis is proud to be a community that works tirelessly to find ways to welcome as many children as possible into the sacred tradition of Catholic education.

The Saint Francis community was honored to have Bishop Roy Campbell celebrate their eighth Catholic Schools Week mass and to



Lent begins with ashes: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel!"



128 Saint Francis students go ice skating for Catholic Schools Week.

give God thanks for the many gifts that Catholic education provides for children and their families. Among the many other amazing things that Saint Francis International School did to observe Catholic Schools Week, the entire middle school loaded on buses and traveled to the Wells Ice Rink in College Park for a morning of skating while the elementary grades sang and interacted the Franciscan friars.

Catholic education is not just about receiving God's grace and blessings, it is also about recognizing that we are part of the Body of Christ and we have an obligation to care for one another. With the onset of Lent, the Saint Francis

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St. Francis International School

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St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rockville made and served a homemade meal (about 20 casseroles, salads, and desserts) to about 200 students at the University of Maryland Catholic Student Center. It was a joy to be with the students and observe the great camaraderie with their spiritual leader, Fr. Rob Walsh.



Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Msgr. Charles Parry, pastor of St. Patrick's Church and Fr. Martino Choi, Parochial Vicar treated the student body to cake as a part of the school's Catholic Schools Week events. They are pictured with SGA Officers and Representatives (standing) and members of the third and fourth-grade classes (seated).



Pre-K Celebrates the Winter Olympics!

The Winter Olympics came to Pre-K this month with a variety of academic and athletic cooperative competitions. Activities included Opening Ceremonies (pictured), a STEM ice luge challenge, graphing of class medals and actual Team USA medals. The school gym became Olympic Park for PE class and featured speed skating, figure skating, ice hockey, skiing, and curling!

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
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Parish Editor

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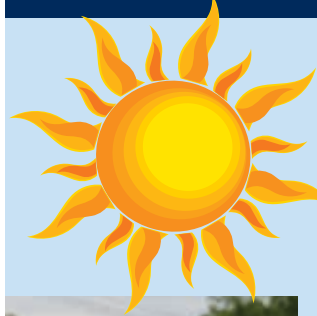
Congratulations to the St. Patrick's CYO U10 Girls basketball team, at top, who won the city-wide tournament on March 4, 2018.

Congratulations to the St. Patrick's CYO U12 Mid-Atlantic (Division 4) team, above, which won their division!

Congratulations to the U14 Girls Team, at right, who brought home the championship trophy for their division!



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL



2018 Summer Programs

ATHLETIC CAMPS

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Basketball	Soccer (co-ed)
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OLOL Community comes together for Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools week at Our Lady of Lourdes School brought together the student body, faculty, staff, OLOL families, parishioners, local neighbors and the greater Bethesda community as we celebrated the week with numerous activities and events. The week started off on Sunday, January 28th at 9:00 am Mass. With faculty, staff and students present at the Mass, the parishioners saw the strong representation from the OLOL school community and heard from many of the students who

shared their thoughts as to why a Catholic education is so special to them, and how much they appreciated all the support the parishioners had given the school which enabled all the students to receive a strong, faith based, education.

On Monday, the middle-school Science Fair took place. The Lourdes gym was transformed into a scientific hall with all the middle school students' science projects on display. After weeks of research and project preparation the middle school students presented their

projects to their fellow students and teachers during the day. In the evening the doors were opened for the students' families and friends to observe along with a number of scientists and medical professionals from the OLOL community who reviewed and discussed the science projects with the individual students as they walked amongst the displays.

On Tuesday, the Lourdes community came together again to host our Open House. Students gave tours of the building and answered

questions regarding their school day. OLOL parents shared refreshments and lots of information with visitors. On Wednesday, it was Teacher Appreciation Day. Again, the families from Lourdes outdid themselves by supplying lunch for the teachers and staff and helping out at recess and lunchtime so the teachers could enjoy a relaxed lunch period. On Thursday, it was time for Student Appreciation Day. The students enjoyed a Tag Day and an afternoon assembly.

The week wrapped up on Friday,

with a live demonstration from a local Irish Dance

Troupe, which included students from OLOL with a surprise dancer joining in. Who knew that Mrs. Launi was an Irish dancer? Great fun was had by all, and it was a wonderful way to wrap up the Catholic Schools Week celebration. After all the celebrating the Our Lady of Lourdes community has now settled down and begun the Lenten journey together as we prepare for Easter.

OPT

What Do You Want to Be?

The students of Our Lady of Lourdes school celebrated Career Day on January 18. This day was made possible by the many OLOL parents who generously responded to Principal Patricia McGann's call for volunteers to share their

career experience and knowledge with the students. Many sectors were represented, including government service, medicine, publishing, technology, construction, engineering, fund-raising, and woodworking.

Our speakers spoke about the nature of their jobs, as well as the importance of education in achieving job opportunities. Each session lasted about 20 minutes and included visuals and hands-on activities. The students' excitement was evident with the many questions that followed each session. The wise African proverb, "it takes a village, to raise a child," was certainly on full display this day at Lourdes.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who were so willing to share of themselves on Career Day!

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi,
Pastor

301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann
Principal
301-654-5376

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

you to relax a little bit and trust both God and the process. You may think that's easy for me to say since I am not a parent, but I can say it with complete confidence. Here's why: Throughout my 45 years in the priesthood, I have worked with many students and families who did not get into their first choice, and every single one has loved and thrived at the school they attended instead.

In fact, I've never known anyone who wanted to try to transfer back to the school that was originally at the top of their list. The first choice just slips off the radar as they are happy, fulfilled and feeling great about where they are. They don't want to leave their new friends, their new teachers and the atmosphere they've found to be so encouraging.

School decisions are important, so I understand why students and parents become overwrought with concern. It may help to remember that God has plans for all of us, and

sometimes the school we thought of as our second choice is actually the best one for us.

I went to a small Catholic college in Iowa, Loras College, which most people around here have never heard of. It was the perfect school for me in ways that I didn't yet understand when I went there. It was a wonderful place to learn and grow, and it was there that I learned how to become a leader and heard God's call to try to make a difference for others. It set me on the path toward service and eventually the priesthood. God indeed had a plan for me, and it worked out better than I could have expected.

I hope that all of our families can relax a little bit and know that God is in charge. We work hard and do our best to make the right decisions, but sometimes the path we think is best may not be in God's eyes. We cannot see as God sees, but we find comfort in knowing that God has us in the palm of his hand.

May the Lord bless all of our students and their families, and may God's word be a light for all of our paths (Psalm 119).

OPT

AWARD

Con't from page 1

in friendship and support, inviting them to actively participate in the life of the parish. This model is one that we hope is replicated throughout the country," said Benton.

St. Rose's Adaptive Religious Education program was another key factor in award selection. "The inclusive ministries of Saint Rose of Lima Parish are exemplary on all levels and are a wonderful model for other parishes across the country," Judge Kelsey Rea, Director of the Office for People with Disabilities in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon, noted. "It is clear that the full and active participation of everyone in all facets of parish life is very important, desired, and intentional, which leads all parishioners to a deeper life of faith and service as one Body of Christ."

"We are so pleased with the selection of St. Rose of Lima Parish for the Loyola Press Opening Doors Parish Award," Marsha Rivas, Chair of the NCPD Board of Directors, said, upon learning of the award selection. "We commend them for the many ways in which they have found to accommodate their parishioners with disabilities in order

to enhance their service to and participation within the parish."

St. Rose competed for the award with a nationwide group of applicants. Three judges, representing the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon and Dioceses of Wichita and Des Moines selected Saint Rose of Lima Parish after reviewing numerous applications from across the United States. In their review, the judges looked at ways parishes demonstrate a deep commitment to parishioners with disabilities providing access for full participation in all aspects of parish life: sacramental, catechetical, social, ministerial, and community service.

Since 1982, NCPD has served the U.S. Catholic Church by providing resources, training, consultation and advocacy for the estimated 14 million U.S. Catholics who live with disability.

Loyola Press is a Catholic publishing company providing materials and resources for catechists as well as all Catholics to grow in a greater knowledge and understanding of their faith. Loyola Press has been active in facilitating greater inclusion for people with disabilities in the church through their adaptive sacramental preparation kits and the Adaptive Finding God curriculum.

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Our Parish Times

Prayer Service for Christian Unity Held at St. Jude

Many people enthusiastically participated in the 24th annual prayer service for Christian unity in Montgomery County held at the Shrine of St. Jude on January 28. Christians from about 20 churches – Catholic, Episcopal, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Christian, Orthodox – joined the celebration of music, prayer, Scripture readings, and fellowship. A couple of Orthodox churches participated for the first time.

Music was provided by The Heavenly Handbells (Marilyn Converse, Director) and The Unity Choir (Robert LeBlanc, Unity Choir Director). The service began with Fr. Paul Lee's welcome and introduction, followed by Scripture readings. The homilist for the ser-



All who participated in the 24th annual Montgomery County Christian Unity Service at the Shrine of St. Jude in January, where Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox congregations came together in song, scripture, and prayer in fulfillment of the Lord's will "that all may be one."

vice was Rev. Jeff Jones, the Lead Pastor at North Bethesda United Methodist Church. He said: "As a nation and as a county, we must remember we are all immigrants. We must remember some were first, crossing over the land bridge from Russia to Alaska. Some came for Faith, like the Pilgrims and the early Marylanders. Some are here for Freedom. Some are here out of fear from the oppression and deaths they have experienced in their home countries. Some are here because the Family has already begun to come here. We are all Immigrants. May you find ways your church, your fellowship, or your own family schedule can connect to ministries that will bring rescue and hope to neighbors, just like Jesus

Continued on page 39



Beautiful Baptism!

Seventeen young people were baptized at the Shrine of St. Jude on January 14 in a bi-lingual ceremony with Father Shaun Foggo and Deacon Paul Schmitt.

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

Fifth Annual Valentine's Dinner & Dance at St. Jude

Xiomy Esteban, volunteer youth group leader

On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Shrine of St. Jude Youth Group hosted its fifth annual Valentine's Dinner & Dance for parishioners. This fundraising event has gained popularity over the years and, despite the snowy forecast for the evening, attracted approximately 280 parishioners! It was an enjoyable evening, with a delicious dinner prepared in-house, a raffle, slideshow of pictures of the youth group's activities this school year, and, of course, non-stop dancing to a variety of great music mixed by DJ

Rafael.

The night was made possible with support from parish volunteers under the leadership of Pedro Esteban, Fredes Pham, Andrea Vargas, and Melida Sanchez as well as the Hispanic Ministry's very dedicated Social Committee and many of the teens' parents.

The youth group would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to all who worked so hard to make the evening possible and for all parishioners who attended and made generous donations.

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Love was the theme of the St. Jude Youth Group's fifth annual dinner and dance.

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The entire cast and crew of Oakcrest's *Little Women*.

Oakcrest School brought *Little Women* to Life! Quarter of cast commute from Maryland

As Brazilian dramatist, Augusto Boal stated, "Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it." Oakcrest School in Vienna, Va., is transforming society and building a brighter future rich in human understanding, character development, and cultural awareness through its theatre program. Oakcrest's Upper School production of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel, *Little Women*, reminded the audience of the true beauty of love and family.

One quarter of the 39 girls participating in the show were from Maryland. "The distance our Maryland students

are willing to travel is a testament both to the dedication of those girls and their families and to the value of an Oakcrest education," remarked Angela Moynihan, mom of sound tech, Theresa Moynihan. The Moynihan's are members of St. Patrick's parish in Rockville along with Kiley Hatch who played the role of Meg. Emma Myers travels from Olney and Daniela Alejandra Melendez-Munoz from Brookeville (the longest trek for a cast member) where both girls are members of St. Peter's parish and both girls were on the make-up crew for the show. Josie Ouyang, Sofia Cipollone, Mariana Bendeck all from Our Lady of Mercy parish travel to Oakcrest from Potomac. Therese McGovern (St.

Andrew the Apostle) and Sofia Jauregui (St. Rafael's) come from Silver Spring and Potomac. All worked on stage crew. Grace McGovern (Our Lady of Lourdes) comes from Chevy Chase and played the role of Sally Moffat.

In celebration of 40 years of theatre, Oakcrest offered free tickets to the Saturday Matinee. "We have much to be grateful for, especially this past year as we settled into our new permanent home in Vienna. We felt there was no better way to show our gratitude than to give back to the families in our community," reflected Dr. Mary T. Ortiz, Head of School.

OPT

DANCE-A-THON

Con't from page 3

Dancing-beans Dance-a-thon was held at St. Andrew the Apostle parish in Silver Spring, Md. Participants were asked to raise money to support The Lilabeen Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness (LBF).

LBF, which was founded in 2011, is dedicated to funding research and finding a cure for pediatric brain cancer. More than 4,000 children are diagnosed each year with a brain tumor, which amounts to 11 kids a day. Brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related death in children 10 and under.

Children from all over the archdiocese pulled together with a common goal of helping kids with brain cancer. The children showed up with envelopes full of pledges and ready to dance. The energy and commitment of the children was inspiring.

"We knew the event would be a great time for the kids, but we were really overwhelmed by the kids' dedication and everyone's generosity. We are so grateful for all of the kids, parents, volunteers and donors, who all made the night possible," said Nicole Giroux, executive director of the Lilabeen Foundation.

LBF seeks to bring public awareness to the severity of pediatric brain cancer and the funds so desperately needed to sponsor this critical research. Here are some grim facts regarding pediatric brain cancer treatment:

- Over the past 20 years, ONLY 2 NEW drugs have been developed to treat pediatric brain cancer.
- Only 4% of the National Cancer Institute's budget supports pediatric cancer research and only 8% of that amount supports brain tumor research.
- Only 1% of the American Cancer Society's public revenues support pediatric cancer research.

Please visit www.lilabeenfoundation.com to learn more and join the fight.

OPT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Con't from page 3

Last Good Friday, I felt proud that we impressed the food truck vendor. This same pride left me frustrated with the people who weren't impressed – the tourists who pointed at us and moved along.

In Jerusalem, I saw that Jesus' carrying his cross was not a grand spectacle, but a tragedy hidden on narrow market streets. It could not have been imagined 2000 years ago that people would come back to walk where Jesus walked. Only John and the women remained at the cross. Not enough people to impress any men with food carts.

Yet three days later Mary Magdalene made an announcement to the disciples hiding in the Upper Room – Jesus is risen. John and Peter were so moved that they could not help but run to the tomb. The companionship that marked the beginning of the Church is the same companionship that has reached me 2000 years later. Just like Andrew found Peter to tell him about Jesus, a friend asked me to come with him on pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

This year I will not go to the Way of the Cross as a proud participant. I will go to pray with gratitude that the message Mary carried to John and Peter on Easter morning has been carried to me.

The procession of the Stations of the Cross will begin on March 30 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Peter's Church (313 2nd St. SE, Washington, D.C.). It will stop at the Capitol and various locations along the National Mall. At each station, there will be readings, meditations, and hymns. The procession will conclude at the Washington Monument at 12:30 p.m. More information about this event, sponsored by Communion and Liberation, is available at www.wayofthecrossdc.com.

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Resurrection Blessed with Same Music Director for 25 Years

by Susan Ahearn

For the past 25 years, Annick Kanter-St. Hubert has been the Music Director at the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville. The Belgium native comes from a musical family. "My father was a music director, just one choir in a small parish. I sang in the parish choir since I was 7 years old. I played guitar with them. I sang alto and I also always learned all four parts because it just was natural to me," said Kanter-St. Hubert.

Kanter-St. Hubert didn't study music in college, instead focusing on theology and making music on the side. She came to the U.S. in July 1977 when she married her first husband who was from Louisiana. Kanter-St. Hubert started a choir in a small town in Louisiana and began singing with the Cajun



Annick Kanter-St. Hubert invites her Resurrection choirs and congregation to sing

group BeauSoleil after meeting the band's founder, Michael Doucet. "Actually, Michael and his broth-

er David ended up sometimes coming to play at church," said Kanter-St. Hubert. She was part of the group for three of their Grammy-nominated albums.

When Kanter-St. Hubert arrived at Resurrection in 1992, there was an adult choir, a holiday children's choir, and a small handbell choir. She made the children's choir into a full-time group, expanded the handbell choir, and later created a youth choir, a women's choir, and the Riderwood Choir at the nearby senior living community. Last year, Kanter-St. Hubert formed a new choir who sings selections at Mass in French.

The Music Director talked about why she remains at Resurrection. "It's a nice parish and there seems to always be something interesting to start or to learn," explained Kanter-Saint Hubert. She cites the support of a

previous pastor as one of the reasons she stayed on the job. "I guess Father Bob (Keffer) was also very instrumental in my being happy here. He was someone who encouraged music," described Kanter-St. Hubert.

She took over as director of the Living Arts Concert Series at Resurrection when organist Richard Fitzgerald left to take another assignment. "It's nice when you've been in a job so long to add different facets," explained Kanter-St. Hubert.

The Resurrection Music Director also serves as webmaster for the Living Arts Concert Series and the parish. It reflects her interest in technology. "I like the fact that there's the potential of making things easier, more accessible, easier to communicate. I like learning about it. If I see something that intrigues me, I like to figure it out. It keeps things interesting,"

described Kanter-St. Hubert.

The Resurrection Choirs released a CD at Christmas called *Cantiques de Noel*, the fourth CD produced by Resurrection Choirs since Kanter-St. Hubert became Music Director. "I think it's good to hear, and for each choir to hear the other choirs, and that's the good part of the Christmas Concert too. Everybody gets to hear the other groups," described Kanter-St. Hubert.

In addition to her work as Resurrection Music Director, Kanter-St. Hubert established an independent women's choir based in Laurel. "I formed Voix de Femmes about 10 years ago. I wanted to push myself musically," said Kanter-St. Hubert, who explained that the women's vocal ensemble performs music written for women's voices.

OPT

Father John Beal Weaves His Life with Parish for Twenty - Five Years

Father John Beal came to Resurrection in 1993 to help preside at weekend masses and after twenty-five years, now finds his own life woven into the fabric of this community. On Sunday, February 26, the people of the parish celebrated Mass with him then held a reception. The handbell choir

played in his honor, and the parish offered Fr. Beal a new alb in appreciation for his many years of dedication. We asked Father Beal some questions on the special occasion

What do you do during the week?

When I am not at Resurrection on

weekends, I am professor of canon law at the Catholic University in Northwest Washington. I usually have three (occasionally four) classes in the fall semester and two (sometimes three) in the spring. We also have a summer semester in which I teach for a month. To keep my job, I also have to publish

scholarly books and articles.

I assist with religious services on campus for campus ministry.

I am also the University's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative. I have to verify that all student-athletes are academically eligible to participate in events. I also assist

Continued on page 37



Long time parishioners Joe and Colleen Perret with their two, now grown children, pose with Fr. Beal at the reception held in his honor

KoC Council Knits Parish Together with Variety of Events

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Lyons Council 9808 is an integral part of Resurrection parish. In addition to the Knights' stated mission, the Bishop Lyons Council's mission is to support Father John Barry, Parish Administrator and host events throughout the year to help create a family atmosphere. During the winter months, they offered "Lunch with Santa", prepared and sold food at the church's annual fundraiser, Winterfest and in the warmer months, hosted two flea markets. Just recently the Knights held a Shrove Tuesday "Pancake Supper"

Continued on page 37



Dana Graham shared her gift of music in the annual "Resurrection's Got Talent" show.



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New Director of Liturgical Music Embraces Parish Traditions

By Caroline Zarzecki, fifth grade student

Dr. Mario Francisco is the current music minister at Saint John the Evangelist Parish. He has been at St. John's since late summer, 2017. Dr. Francisco was born in the island country of Trinidad and grew up mostly in the Washington D.C. and Montgomery County area. He was homeschooled until he started his college education at Catholic University. There, he received his undergraduate and master's degrees. Continuing at the Catholic University of America, Dr. Francisco studied for and received a doctorate in music at that university's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. Dr. Francisco was married in 2016 to his wife, Jenny. Both are still celebrating a new arrival to their family, a beautiful baby girl.

Dr. Francisco has big goals for the music ministry at St. John the Evangelist Parish. The most important one is to keep the traditions throughout the parish, such as "the heritage of the choir's beautiful singing," and remembering the children, like Jesus did. He wants the children's choir to grow and to encourage all children of the school and the church to join. Dr. Francisco also considers the rela-



Dr. Mario Francisco, Director of Liturgical Music

tionship between the parish and school very valuable and wants to keep the bond strong.

Dr. Francisco enjoys being part of the St. John's Parish. "It is one of the warmest and friendliest parishes I have encountered. I think a lot of that comes from Father Calis. Father Calis provides the feeling



Members of the Angel Choir practice before the Children's Christmas Mass

for this place, and he is warm and friendly... and he gives out chocolate. He gives the feeling of being in a friendly environment, where people enjoy each other and are welcoming. I have seen and found that in the school and in the parish. And I am very happy to be here," he said in an interview after chil-

dren's choir practice. When asked If there were anything wrong with the way things are run or with the music ministry, Dr. Francisco said he himself is never satisfied with what was good enough last year. He always wants to keep improving himself and his own skills with a good attitude.

St. John the Evangelist is very happy to welcome Dr. Francisco to our parish and we look forward to singing with him as we praise the Lord.

OPT

Called and Gifted at St. John the Evangelist

By Colleen Zarzecki

Throughout 2017, forty-four parishioners at St. John the Evangelist parish participated in a process known as "Called and Gifted". There were two groups – one met weekly during the day while the other met weekly in the evening. Called and Gifted, developed by the Catherine of Siena Institute, is a process through which Catholic Christians can become aware of and fully live out their vocations as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today. Dave Michaels, who was trained by the Catherine of Siena Institute, led

both groups of parishioners as they learned about charisms. Called and Gifted covered such topics as "The Mission of the Laity," "Charisms and the Holy Spirit," and "Discerning Your Vocation." The heart of the eleven-session process was a detailed look at the work and role of the laity in the Church. It invited participants to realign their thinking about the role of the laity in the Church and to begin to claim to office of the laity which was given to them in baptism.

A central focus of the workshop was learning about and discern-

Continued on page 30



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Congratulations to Bishop Knestout!

Teresa, Penny, and Luke Knestout await their uncle Barry C. Knestout's Mass of Installation as the 13th Bishop of Richmond. The Knestouts, along with the Barones, the McDermotts, the Petrizzos, and the Polks, attended the Installation Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond, Virginia, on January 12. Bishop Knestout served as pastor of St. John the Evangelist from 2004–2006.



Peg Daly, Sr. Doreen and Sr. Janice are reunited with other IHM sisters who served our parish school over the years and now live in community in Scranton.

A Long Corridor of Love from Silver Spring to Scranton

By Peg Daly

One of our favorite IHM Sisters has moved to Our Lady of Peace Residence in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Sr. Janice Heisey retired from her last post as Dental Clinic Administrator at Spanish Catholic Center after thirty years. Prior to working at the Spanish Dental Center, Sr. Janice taught science in the parochial schools and worked as a Medical Technologist at St. Joseph's Hospital in Carbondale, Pa. After working for many years, Sr. Janice is now reunited with IHM Sisters that she has known for years.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to have a small part in her move back to Scranton. Sr. Doreen Willis and I arrived at OLP with Sr. Janice's belongings. We were greeted by cherished friends that many

of us at St. John the Evangelist have said goodbye to over the years, Sr. Lois, Sr. Mercille, Sr. Mary Mercy, Sr. Mary Ellen and Sr. Vincent. Sr. Mercille was filled with excitement and welcomed us to the "St. John the Evangelist Corridor", where many of our beloved Sisters live. My heart was so happy to know that these Sisters live on the same hall, share a beautiful kitchen, family room and can dine and pray together every day. The day was truly a gift to me, reconnecting with the Sisters who raised our children and gave them a foundation that carries them in their lives today. I am thankful for the blessing and long tradition of the IHM Sisters, who started our school, preserved it through the years, and worked for its future. We are blessed.

OPT



Scouts take on Hunger

Once a month, members of our Share-A-Meal Ministry accept sandwiches and fruit for Shepherd's Table. Cub Scout Pack 466 came together during our February Community Sunday in the Kennedy Room to make sandwiches for the less fortunate who depend upon Shepherd's Table for nourishment.

St. Joseph's House and Isaiah's Promise 2018 Benefit

By Colleen Zarzecki

St. Joseph's House (www.saintjosephshouse.net) and Isaiah's Promise (www.isaiahspromise.net) held a joint benefit in January. Both nonprofits were founded by Cubby LaHood, who passed from this life on September 21, 2015. Cubby founded St. Joseph's House with her husband, Dan. An after-school, summer, and respite care facility, St. Joseph's House (SJH) provides services to children and teenagers with intellectual and developmental disabilities and support to their families. After Cubby's death, her daughter-in-law, Natalie LaHood, took over as Executive Director. Dan, and the LaHood children, Jo, Mary Frances and Johnny also help to run the many programs at St. Joseph's House.

The past year has seen many positive changes for St. Joseph's House: Five new children were welcomed to the programs and Café St. Joe continued going strong. The Café's coveted St. Joseph's House blend is provided by Furnace Hills Coffee, a nonprofit which employs people with developmental disabilities to roast coffee. A bittersweet development at SJH was the creation of a playground in honor of



Johnny LaHood, Chris Barone, Sarah Love, and Andrew Flaherty sell Café St. Joe coffee and mugs.

Jack Campbell. Jack passed away in 2017 at the age of 19 after having come to SJH for over ten years. A donation helped SJH create a playground for other children to enjoy in his honor. Finally, an exciting development for St. Joseph's House was the purchase of a new van with funds raised at the 2017 gala. All the wonderful activities and experiences the new van made possible for the SJH kids were highlighted in a video at this year's gala.

Isaiah's Promise, which Cubby co-founded with Nancy Mayer-Whittington, provides support to families who receive a severe or fatal pre-natal diagnosis for their children. Cubby and Nancy met in a pregnancy and infant-loss support group after the deaths of their cherished babies, Frances and Angela. Both women felt that their needs as mothers who had carried their babies to term were not being met

Continued on page 30



"Be Who You Are and Be That Well."

—St. Francis de Sales

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Fr. Giese delivers a reflection about the "Resisting Happiness" book as the first part of the Lenten Book Program.

Resisting Happiness

St. Jane de Chantal's Lenten Book Program

For this Lent, as in previous years, Parishioners from St. Jane de Chantal Parish are participating in several programs to more fully embrace the most important Season of the liturgical calendar.

During the five sessions, one held every Tuesday of Lent in the evening, Parishioners come together to discuss portions of the book *Resisting Happiness* by the New York Times bestselling author, Matthew Kelly. The book, as Fr. Burney humorously explained, is not about learning to "resist happiness" but, quite the contrary, is designed to help us identifying the ways we sabotage ourselves by our own resistance to do what we know is good for us.

Before each weekly session, the Evangelization Committee of the St. Jane de Chantal Pastoral Council assigns participants several chapters in the book to read. Each evening session begins with an insightful meditation by Fr. Giese in the church, followed by lively discussions in

Continued on page 30

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
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Soup, Saints, & Stations Program Fills a Physical and Spiritual Hunger

Every Friday of Lent except Good Friday, parishioners of St. Jane de Chantal gathered in the evening for a new program called: Soup, Saints, & Stations. Each session starts with a simple and tasty meal of soup and bread,

eaten together as community, accompanied by an invited speaker making a presentation about the life of a Saint. The list of Saints includes a comprehensive sample of holy men and women that high-

Continued on page 30



Fr. Giese, along with other volunteers, serve soup and bread to participants of Soup, Saints & Stations, prior to the Saint portion of the program.

Glimpses of Spring at Sodality Fashion Show Luncheon

The first Saturday of March each year is marked as the day for the Annual St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Fashion Show & Luncheon celebration. Sodalists and

guests gather together for a "very pleasant afternoon of good company, chic clothes, delicious cuisine and exciting prizes" as

Continued on page 39



Sodality members and their guests enjoy the sit-down luncheon and fashion show.



English teacher Shannon Cron, American History Chairman Karma Beal, Reese Long, Braden Groce, Michael Blackstone, Chapter Regent Cindy LaBon, and her guide dog, Gardenia. Photo by Margaret Mary Russell

DAR Honors Students from St. Jane de Chantal School

By Margaret Mary Russell

Three of St. Jane de Chantal School students, Michael Blackstone, Reese Long, and Braden Groce, have been

honored by the Goshen Mills Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for their winning essays in the annual American History Essay con-

Continued on page 39

Olympic Games inspire friendly competition

In February, St. Bartholomew School held a STEM Olympics while the Winter Games were going on in South Korea. Pre-K children through eighth graders were divided into three times. Students earned medals for their teams by participating in online challenges at home, and unique Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematically related competitions in the classroom.

"Our STEM challenges were designed to develop students' 21st-century skills, such as collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication," said the organizer of the games, fifth-grade teacher Ellie Tehan. Tehan holds a masters in elementary education, with a concentration in STEM.

While it may have felt like fun and games, students developed skills that will carry them far beyond St. Bart's. "According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in STEM occupa-



Seventh-graders work on a STEM challenge.

tions is currently growing at approximately double the rate of other disciplines," says Tehan. "We need to prepare our students for these career fields that will offer them opportunities for success in the future."

OPT

The Arts at St. Bart's initiative begins with enthusiasm

Composer Stephen Sondheim once penned, "Art isn't easy." Unfortunately, it isn't inexpensive either. The need to revitalize and revamp the arts programs at St. Bartholomew is behind the school's new Arts at St. Bart's initiative.

The fundraising campaign, which kicked off in February, has collected about \$6000 toward a goal of \$75,000. The school aims to add a new art lab, to purchase new materials for music classes, and to improve the sound system for its annual spring musicals. Art teacher Ivi Bradley believes a strong foundation in the visual arts is imperative for the evolving landscape of 21st-century living. "Images often overpower text today," says Bradley. "Whereas before a small image was used to add information to text, today a big image is followed by a few sentences. We need



Art teacher Ivi Bradley instructs students at St. Bart's.

to teach our students how to interpret these images accurately. Art is a road to higher-level thinking."

Funds directed to the music program will go toward several objectives, including purchasing instruments such as color-coded handbells and hand drums from different world cultures. Those interested in contributing to the campaign can email Neda Ghassabeh at nghassabeh@stbartholomew.org or donate at [PayPal.me/stbarts](https://www.paypal.me/stbarts).

OPT

St. Bartholomew earns distinction at DeMatha's Academic Challenge

A team of middle schoolers from St. Bartholomew nabbed third place at the annual DeMatha High School

Academic Challenge. In a series of rounds, students were quizzed on topics ranging from history, to religion, to science, to pop culture. The competition is created completely in-house at the school, and pressure is intense.

To prepare, seventh-grade teacher Sue Kirkbride met weekly with students, even incorporating buzzers into the preparations as they went along. "It's great," says team captain Devin Ryan, "The toughest aspect of the competition was hesitating about buzzing in and figuring out the substitution strategy. Who should you substitute, and in which round?" Other members of the winning team included Luke Bowen, Collin Born, Caitlin McLearn and Teddy Smith.

OPT



Teacher Sue Kirkbride poses with the third-place team from St. Bart's.

Seminarians Participate in Theological College Diaper Collection Drive

During the weekend of February 10/11, Theological College seminarians assigned to St. Bartholomew Parish, Jeffrey Chichester, David Roman, Matthew Browne, and Mark Dwyer participated in a diaper collection drive for needy local families. Jeff Chichester told OPT that "33% of single-mother households in the greater Washington D.C. area live in poverty and that that average cost of infant care in 2016 was just around \$16,000 per child. Every contribution adds up to make a huge difference for the better in these children's lives."

OPT



St. Bart's seminarian Jeff Chichester squeezes hundreds of diapers, contributed by St. Bart's parishioners and destined for local families, into his car.

Ash Wednesday at St. Bart's Crowded but Prayerful



Line for ashes at St. Bart's reaches back to the main entrance to the Church on Ash Wednesday.

Confessions will be heard at St. Bart's every Wednesday evening during Lent from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and after the Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass and before the Saturday evening 5:00 p.m. Vigil. Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Bartholomew Parish every Friday evening during Lent at 7:30 p.m.

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Was Eve the original Wonder Woman?

Join us at this year's O'Donovan Humanities Lecture to hear insights into woman's essential nature and holy contemporary femininity.

Saturday, March 17 - 6:30 pm

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St. Bernadette


**St. Bernadette School
Vocation Awareness
Speaker Panel 2018**

As part of our 2018 Catholic Schools Week celebration, on February 1, St. Bernadette School hosted a vocation awareness speaker panel. L-R: Ted Ewanciw, SBS principal, St. Bernadette Parish Vicar Fr. Dan Gallagher, St. John the Baptist Parish Associate Fr. Tony DeSouza, Sr. Crucified, IVE, Sr. Trinity, IVE and LeShaun Quander Mosley, ADW Office of Catholic Schools Director of Assessment and Research

BILLS
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This bill is the result of the murder last fall of a Howard County teacher and her unborn son. The legislation would make it a crime to kill an unborn baby before the 24th week of pregnancy currently set in Maryland law.

MCC also supported legislation increasing the funding rate for behavioral health providers to the level approved for by law. MCC sees the need for additional support in Maryland, because of the opioid crisis and to give further support for needed behavioral health care.

In addition, MCC supported legislation to protect foreign work-

ers brought into Maryland as seasonal employees in the seafood, agriculture and carnival industries. This legislation provides protection against wage theft, debt bondage and withholding of passports and other identifying information by foreign labor contractors.

The final issue receiving specific support was to fund BOOST at the level recommended in Gov. Larry Hogan's (R) proposed budget. The BOOST scholarship program helps students from low-income families attend schools that better meet their needs as can students from families who are better off financially.

Details on all these bills (and more) are on the MCC website at: www.mdccathcon.org/2018issues

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ST. ANN'S
Con't from page 2

Chase.

Chuck Short was a former President of St. Ann's Board of Directors. His commitment to the community can be seen, not only as a contributor to *Our Parish Times*, but in his volunteer work with the elderly and infirm at the Little Sisters of the Poor, and with teens and adults with developmental differences at Potomac Community Resources. Chuck is a champion for vulnerable populations and a voice for those in need.

In addition, The Honorable Marielsa Bernard will be presented the *Mary McGrory Advocacy Award* for her service in the community. A judge in Montgomery County, she has devoted her career to public service. She is very active in the Women's Bar Association of Montgomery County where she initiated the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) Storybook Project in the Jessup, Maryland Correctional Institution for Women. She also developed the Latina Youth Empowerment Conference.

Please support St. Ann's by supporting this event!

Tickets and Sponsorships are available on St. Ann's website at: www.stanns.org/events

For more information, contact Carolyn Boyle at cboyle@stanns.org or 301-559-5500 ext. 187.

OPT
MOUNT 2000
Con't from page 1

discussions and prayer. St. Jude teens connected quickly with their two seminarians, Jose and Johnny, who answered many questions and led the group in a beautiful Lectio Divina experience. Before the rains hit, the group was able to make a quick visit to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. A powerful and intimate Eucharistic Procession experience on Saturday evening was what many of the St. Jude teens reflected on as their favorite part of the retreat.

OPT

St. John Neumann 40th Anniversary Jubilee

By Rus Wester-- photos by Jerry Kelley

It was the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and a deeply spiritual moment of great joy as we commemorated our Feb 2, 1978 beginning as the 129th parish in the Washington Archdiocese.

Friday – February 2, 2018

We reviewed with Father Joe Rogers all that took place during the first weekend of our 40th Anniversary as a Parish, Father Joe reminded us that we have begun our Jubilee Year with a Marian seal on the life and path of our parish and each household.

“That first weekend in Feb, we enjoyed a series of foundational events to launch our 40th Jubilee Celebration year,” said Father Rogers. “The first gesture that we undertook as a celebrating parish was to welcome the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima as our mother and our Queen, and the star for our path during the years ahead and for generations to come.”

It was Our Lady at Fatima who asked us to pray the rosary daily for peace. And in her last Fatima apparition, she offered us the scapular as a sign of her maternal protection. “With these prayers, we wanted to begin our fortieth anniversary year responding to the calls of Our Lady,” said Father Joe. “In the presence of her Pilgrim Virgin statue, we renewed our total consecration to her in the words of St. John Paul II. We then prayed a special entrustment of our families to the Holy Family at the conclusion of our First Friday evening Mass, and we had a universal investiture in the scapular and prayed the rosary together as a parish.”

We were blessed to have with us three members of the International Alliance of the Holy Family who led us in a nine-hour prayer vigil. Over 130 members of parish ministries each adopted an hour to assist prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the Pilgrim Virgin for the reparation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary throughout the night.

Parishioner Eugene de Ribeaux invited and organized a special group of men to protect the visiting Pilgrim Virgin treasure of the church during her stay. Fifty-four men were counted on the altar, at least six per hourly shift, to cover the nine-hour prayer vigil from 10pm Friday until 7am Saturday morning. “Our three SJN men’s groups collaborated for this special honor of standing with Our Lady. Volunteers came from the Men’s Ministry, the Hispanic Community and the Knights of Columbus,” said de Ribeaux. “Several women of the parish came up to us during the night to express appreciation for having the men there all night. It made them feel safer, protected. The men who stood on the altar also offered words of thanks that they could be part of this moving night of prayer.”

“I extended the invitation to the men’s groups of the parish and



Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is introduced to the Parish as we launch our 40th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration. Our Lady is escorted by men of the parish: John O'Brien, Harry Hand, Eugene de Ribeaux and Giro Leon. The Pilgrim Virgin statue remained on the church altar with the Blessed Sacrament throughout the night for the 9-Hour devotion in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

At right, Cardinal Wuerl preparing to install the relics of St. John Neumann and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton into the permanent altar.

At far right, Father Joe Rogers presents Cardinal Wuerl with a remembrance of the special liturgy commemorating SJN's 40th Jubilee Year and dedication of the parish's permanent altar.



they just lined up to serve. A great bunch of guys made commitments, showed up in suits and ties and for me, it was just sitting back and watching it all happen,” said de Ribeaux. The men came to serve Our Lady and the parish, to bring about a remarkable, prayerful event. “Another beautiful thing to witness was that each of those men were in the sanctuary praying a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament.”

Several accounts of those attending throughout the all-night vigil were that at least 50 parishioners were in the church at any given hour. “During the 1-3am period, we had nearly a full church. Our visiting Alliance of the Holy Family nuns and religious brother were stunned,” said Fr Joe.

Saturday – February 3, 2018

Sunrise on Saturday (Feb 3) brought praying of an early

morning Rosary, followed by Benediction and the repose of the Blessed Sacrament. “Then after First Saturday morning Mass, our religious guests from the Alliance of the Holy Family offered our parishioners a deep and beautiful day of reflection,” recalls Fr. Joe.

At the three o'clock hour we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet and bid farewell to the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.”

Sunday – February 4, 2018

The dedication of a church altar is a rare event. Most Catholics can count on one finger the number of times they have witnessed such an event. Those attending the SJN 11:30am Mass on February 4, 2018 were blessed to walk away with a vivid memory of an ancient rite of the Catholic Church.

“It was a privilege and a grace to have Cardinal Wuerl with us



SJN Director of Music & Liturgy, MaryLu Hartsell and SJN's multiple choirs accompany Jubilee Mass and Altar Dedication.



SJN Youth Group welcomes Cardinal Wuerl to the parish.



on this special occasion. He's our Archbishop, our chief shepherd of the local Church, and the successor of the apostles, here to celebrate our permanent altar dedication,” said Father Joe Rogers.

SJN Director of Music and Liturgy, MaryLu Hartsell, recalls there was considerable planning that went into the February 4th liturgy: “We had the Cardinal with us. There were vocalists from all SJN choirs, timpani, violins, trumpets and flute and people who were willing to sing at the top of their lungs. We had participating Priests, Deacons, seminarians and altar servers and everything just clicked. It really was quite special.”

The whole liturgy of that day reminds us that the heart, source and summit of our lives are the Eucharist and the Holy Mass. The Cardinal's words during the altar dedication were “Consecrating this sacred edifice to you Lord, who are

the true and perfect altar, priest and victim, that we might become a living altar to the Most High.”

Father Rogers summarized the inaugural weekend of the parish Jubilee celebration by saying “this sealed the graces of the First Friday, First Saturday and Sunday dedication of our permanent altar by demonstrating that we are available and prayerfully attentive to the designs of mercy that the hearts of Jesus and Mary have for us.”

OPT

St. John Neumann Parish
9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Fr. Joseph Rogers
Pastor

Rus Wester
OPT Editor



2018 MYPLATE CALENDAR

WINTER	Early Winter:	Gearing Up for the New Year
	Late Winter:	Starting the New Year Right
SPRING	Early Spring:	Celebrating National Nutrition Month®*
	Late Spring:	Enjoying Farmers Markets & Gardens
SUMMER	Early Summer:	Getting Outside & Staying Active
	Late Summer:	Eating Healthy for the Whole Family
FALL	Early Fall:	Heading Back to School
	Late Fall:	Cooking a Bountiful Harvest

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Focus on fruits.



Make half your grains whole grains.



Vary your protein routine.



Move to low-fat or fat-free milk or yogurt.



Compound prevents damage, shows benefits in mouse model of Alzheimer's

Study shows potential for human research



The supplement nicotinamide riboside (NR) — a form of vitamin B3 — prevented neurological damage and improved cognitive and physical function in a new mouse model of Alzheimer's disease. The results of the study, conducted by researchers at the National Institute on Aging (NIA) part of the National Institutes of

Health, suggest a potential new target for treating Alzheimer's disease. The findings appear in the Feb. 5, 2018, issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

NR acts on the brain by normalizing levels of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD+), a metabolite vital to cellular energy, stem cell self-renewal, resistance to neuronal stress and DNA repair. In Alzheimer's disease, the brain's usual DNA repair activity is impaired, leading to mitochondrial dysfunction, lower neuron production, and increased neuronal dysfunction and inflammation.

"The pursuit of interventions to prevent or delay Alzheimer's and related dementias is an important national priority," said Richard J. Hodes, M.D., director of the NIA. "We are encouraging the testing of a variety of new approaches, and this study's positive results suggest one avenue to pursue further." Brain image from a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease.

The international team of scientists was led by Vilhelm A. Bohr, M.D., Ph.D., senior investigator and chief of the Laboratory of Molecular Gerontology of the NIA's Intramural Research Program, with Dr. Yujun Hou, a postdoctoral investigator in the laboratory.

Based on their studies in human postmortem brain, they developed a new strain of mice mimicking major features of human Alzheimer's such as tau pathology, failing synapses, neuronal death and cognitive impairment. Using this animal model, the researchers tested the effects of an NR supple-

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Continued on page 28

Montgomery County VOLUNTEER CENTER

50+ Volunteer Network Update

Opportunities Available for Skilled Volunteers

The Montgomery County Volunteer Center's new 50+ Volunteer Network – which connects skilled volunteers with nonprofit and government agencies that need assistance – has a wide range of volunteer opportunities now open for anyone who is at least 50 and wants to make a significant contribution of time and talent to the community, while still retaining a flexible schedule. Here are a few:

- Mentor a young person on life skills and career exploration
- Read to an elementary school student on a regular basis
- Design and manage events for a nonprofit
- Teach a class for disabled adults
- Serve as an intake coordinator for an emergency assistance program
- Support callers on a mental health hotline
- Be a hospice volunteer
- Help students prepare for the US citizenship exam
- Coordinate communications and media relations efforts for an anti-poverty agency
- Assist in strategic planning for an agency that supports a diverse population of youth
- Serve as treasurer for a nonprofit
- Provide administrative and promotional services for a youth baseball academy

For more information about the 50+ Volunteer Network, call 240-777-2600, email 50plus@montgomerycountymd.gov, or visit: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/50Plus.html

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Congress Asked to Increase Funding for Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs



MEALS on WHEELS AMERICA

Meals on Wheels and the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) sent a letter in February to leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees urging support for a \$150 million increase for Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Programs in any final FY 2018 appropriations agreement.

OAA Nutrition Programs provide home-delivered and congregate meals for 2.4 million seniors each year; however, there is a growing unmet need among a rapidly aging population that is increasingly struggling with hunger and malnutrition. In fact, a 2015 government report found that 83% of food insecure seniors did not receive meals through the OAA but likely needed them.

"We're in a unique position where, for the first time in years, vital federal programs like the OAA Nutrition Programs are no longer constricted by unrealistic budget caps. It's time for Congress to seize this opportunity and boost our investments in those programs that



deliver the proper nutrition needed to maintain our seniors' health now and to set the stage for significant economic benefits to the American taxpayer in the future. Meals on Wheels saves lives and money every day," said Meals on Wheels America president and CEO Ellie Hollander.

"The Older Americans Act nutrition programs meet all criteria to warrant this increase. They are community-based, produce positive health outcomes, help combat isola-

tion and loneliness, produce jobs, and offer great volunteer opportunities. The ask we make would keep these programs moving forward as demand continues to grow. Members of Congress can see the human return on this investment any day they want in their districts and states by simply visiting a community nutrition site or going on a home-delivered meal route," said NANASP executive director Bob Blancato.

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Kensington Park Spring Speaker Series

— An Exploration of Various Aspects of Health & Wellness Across the Globe —

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All presentations: 2:00pm
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Thursday, April 12, 2018

Blue Zones: Live Longer, Better

Dave Tsang, a life coach and retired executive, shares the secrets of Blue Zones, places with high concentrations of centenarians living remarkably long, full lives. Learn how implementing simple, powerful habits and creating the right community can improve well-being and add years of robust living.

Thursday, May 10, 2018

Mindfulness & Gratitude, Do They Work?

Dr. Anthony Ahrens, the director of The Emotions and Positive Psychology Lab, leads an introspective discussion about the possible connection of mindfulness and gratitude to health and well-being. Gain a better understanding of the different ways and degrees that these practices might impact your life.

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Go Take a Hike!

Mike Grant, a former National Park Service ranger, takes a look at the historical significance of parks. Discover interesting facts about walkable communities and hiking locales in the D.C. area. Learn how technology and a few easy "steps" can enhance your outings.



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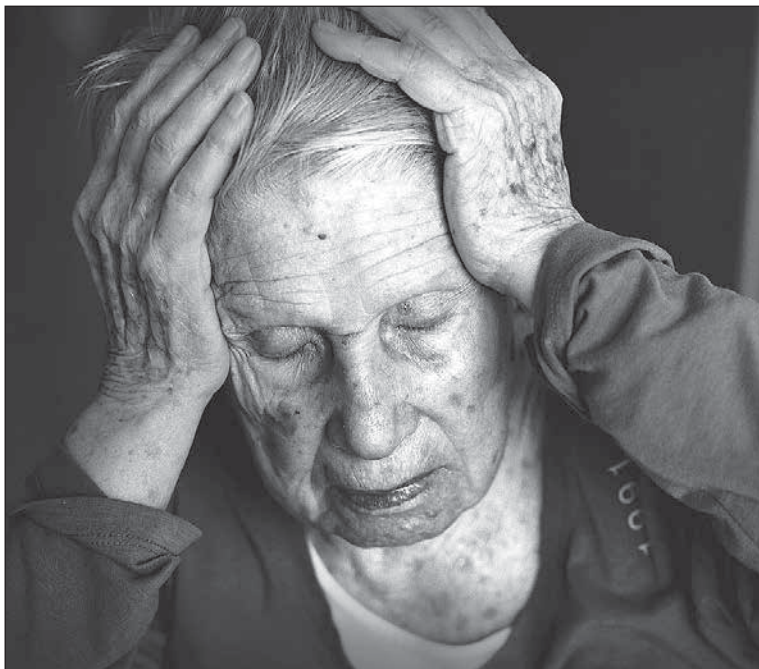


ALZHEIMER'S

Con't from page 26

ment by adding it to the drinking water of the mice. Over a three-month period, researchers found that mice who received NR showed reduced tau in their brains, but no change in amyloid-beta.

The NR-treated mice also had less DNA damage, higher neuroplasticity (activity and reorganization of brain cells associated with learning or memory), increased production of new neurons from neuronal stem cells, and lower levels of neuronal damage and death. In the hippocampus area of the brain – in which damage and loss of volume is found in people with dementia – NR seemed to either



clear existing DNA damage or prevent it from spreading further.

The NR-treated mice also performed better than control mice on multiple behavioral and memory tests, such as water mazes and object recognition. NR mice also showed better muscular and grip strength, higher endurance, and improved gait compared to their control counterparts. The research team believes that these physical and cognitive benefits are due to a rejuvenating effect NR had on stem cells in both muscle and brain tissue.

Next steps for the research team include further studies on the underlying mechanisms and preparations towards intervention in humans.

Maryland Senior Olympics

The dates and locations for all but two of the 2018 Maryland Senior Olympics events have been announced.

The Games will begin April 4 with the cycling 10k time trials in Davidsonville and conclude Oct. 1 with the golf tournament in Laytonsville.

In between, the big dates are track and field Aug. 11-12 in Columbia, bowling Aug. 27-28 in Ellicott City, and pickleball in two waves – singles Aug. 18 in Ellicott City and all doubles play Aug. 24-26 in Bowie. Swimming returns to Germantown again on Sept. 15.

We are holding 23 events and looking at a couple of trial sports to offer. The bulk of activity will be in September with 12-13 events. Twelve of the events will be held in Montgomery County.

Work on the 2018 registration guide is underway and online registration will open in mid-March. Meanwhile, you can see the dates and locations of the scheduled events by visiting the home page of www.mdseniorolympics.org.



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RSVP/AARP Tax-Aide Program

RSVPAARP Tax-Aide provides free federal and state (Maryland) tax preparation services for low-to-moderate income taxpayers who live or work in Montgomery County. Special attention is given to those 60 years old and older. The RSVP/AARP Tax-Aide Program is now scheduling appointments for 2018 to prepare 2017 returns for those who live or work in Montgomery County.

The program has more than 100 volunteers who are trained to prepare simple tax forms. Each year we prepare nearly 5,000 federal and state (Maryland) returns. Please note that this year we are only able to prepare 2016 and 2017 returns. Taxpayers with complex tax returns will be advised to seek paid tax assistance.

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1) Call 240-777-2577 Monday through Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm.

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Mother Seton Black History Month Celebration



Above, Josh Sommerville and choir

At left, Doris Hackey, 92 years old, founder of the Black History Program at Mother Seton

By Dorrette Paulin

Feed Us, Lord – Mother Seton's Black History Month celebration started with the 12:30 Mass. Even with the constraints of these somber Lenten days and the absence of the Alleluia and the Gloria, the choir joyously called on the Lord in song to feed us with His Body. Mass concluded jubilantly

with Praise Him, as the congregation processed out for an afternoon of more Gospel music and refreshments in the parish center.

No celebration is complete without the ever-present powerful voices of the GARBOs. Also present, was Ms. Doris Hackey, Founder of the Black History Program at Mother Seton Parish who was celebrating her 92nd birthday. Returning

this year, were two of our young performers -- Devin Osborne, now a graduate of Salisbury University who treated us to three lively songs that he wrote. Josh Sommerville, Artist Director and Founder of His W.I.L. (Worshippers in Life) Community Choir, had the audience on their feet singing and dancing. The afternoon performers also included Emory Grove Choir,

Heaven Smiles, and the AME Choir. Our guest speaker, Ms. Susan Soderberg, President, Germantown Historical Society captivated the audience with a brief history of Germantown and its early residents.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all at the end of the program.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer
Pastor

301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado
OPT Editor

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

BOOKS

Con't from page 10

wearing an apron and chef's hat, students were bewildered. Many tried to guess the reason behind the abnormal getup, from a cooking lesson to a class party. They had no idea that their normal fifth grade reading classroom had been transformed into *Café Jolly*!

Desks were turned into communal tables, complete with tablecloths, vases, and (battery-operated) candlelight. Platters had spreads of books, waiting to be tasted. Each student had a name card for their "reservation" and once they found their seat, the Book Tasting began in earnest.

They tasted realistic fiction, historical fiction, nonfiction narrative, fiction-in-verse, and authors they'd never heard of. They tasted classics and newly published novels. They looked at the front and back covers,

read the first few pages, or first one or two chapters (since everyone reads at different speeds), wrote their observation and feelings about the book, and then moved on to the next on their platter.

After students had tasted all of the books, they were then able to have a small tasting of actual food that Chef Jolly provided for them. They then wrote reflections of the event. Many students were surprised to find the books they thought they wouldn't like at all were among their top three! They enthusiastically requested another book tasting in the future. Some even lamented that there weren't more books for them to taste. Everyone had a good time and everyone left wanting to read.

Excitement for reading is an important part of literacy. The fifth grade left that day excited and talking about the books they'd read. Holy Redeemer's first ever Book Tasting was a rousing success! One that will be repeated very soon!

OPT

40 DAYS

Con't from page 11

the defenseless unborn baby in the womb. There is already too much violence in our society, which degrades us as human beings and, in our society, as well.

I have come to understand the wisdom of what Pope Francis wrote in his "environmental encyclical," *Laudato Si*: "Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion."

The clincher for me was the birth of my two beautiful granddaughters

this past year. I look at them and cannot imagine taking the life of a person so defenseless.

So, I continue to pray for life in the hope that people's hearts are changed, and our society will be a place that welcomes all life from conception to natural death. I pray, too, for women in unplanned pregnancies that they will recognize it is not a question of their "right to choose," but of the life of a human being. And I pray for all of us, that we will have hearts open to helping these women in all ways to enable them to bring to term and continue to help support this new life.

OPT

Mother Seton Annual Sodality of Our Lady

Daughters of Mary Breakfast

Sunday, April 29, 2018 — 11:00 am

Holiday Inn ♦ 2 Montgomery Village Avenue ♦ Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Featuring Guest Speaker

Susan Conroy

Author, Television Host, Friend of
Saint Teresa of Calcutta for 11 years



Susan Conroy first journeyed alone to India between senior years at Dartmouth College after being inspired by efforts there on behalf of the Poorest of the Poor. Susan Mother Teresa to care for the destitute in children's orphanages and Home for the Dying. She developed a friendship with Mother Teresa which lasted through the course of eleven years, and her experiences are chronicled in her first book: *"Mother Teresa's Lessons of Love and Secrets of Sanctity"*, which was written with Mother Teresa's own blessing and approval.

Other published books include: *"A Legacy of Love"*, *"Coming to Christ: Resting in His Love"*, and most recently, *"Praying with Mother Teresa"*, which is filled with beautiful quotations by Mother Teresa and some never-before-published photographs of our newly-canonized Saint. Susan has made numerous television appearances, for local as well as world wide audiences. She's hosted numerous series on EWTN, including *"Speaking of Saints"* and *"Coming to Christ"*. Susan travels across the United States and other countries to speak of her experiences, to share our Faith, and to encourage joy-filled service.

her junior and Mother Teresa's longed to help



Susan's books will be available for purchase and Susan will be available for book signing and pictures.

Come join us for breakfast and a morning that honors Mary, Our Blessed Mother

Tickets on sale after all Masses at Mother Seton Parish 19951 Father Hurley Blvd., Germantown, MD 20874 the weekends of April 7/8, 14/15, and 21/22, and also in the Parish Office until April 25.

Parish Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am -5:00pm
Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Cost \$28 (12 and older) \$9 (4-11) (3 and under free) includes full buffet breakfast, door prizes and give-aways for children and adults, a raffle prize basket and 50/50 raffle. Hand-made rosaries also for sale.

For information, email
Joan at joaniearc@verizon.net or
Laurie at lausaen@aol.com

SCIENCE FAIR

Con't from page 9

an extended period of time, a valuable skill to develop early. Quite a few Holy Cross' students and their parents are invested in STEM education. As such, thirteen students from this year's science fair will also compete in the Montgomery County Science Fair on Saturday, March 10, 2018.

Holy Cross' middle school science teacher, Mrs. Shari Connor, expressed gratitude to the parents and judges for sharing their time and never-ending support of the students through the entire process. Learning about science is at the heart of every science fair project. Mrs. Connor stated that, "Our society relies more on science every day, and the Holy Cross middle

school science fair is a great way for our students to become more knowledgeable about how the world around them works." Holy Cross also believes that its middle school students benefit from discovering that their science fair experiments have broader meaning, and that they can learn as well as teach others about what they have learned in Mrs. Connor's science class!

The results are now in, the research data has been thoroughly analyzed, and what we have discovered supports our original hypothesis that the Holy Cross 2018 middle school science fair was an outstanding success! The 2018 science fair winners at Holy Cross are as follows:

Sixth Grade

1st Place Grace Fogarty: "How Does Self Esteem Change During Middle School?"

2nd Place Brady Heafitz: "Time Sensitive"
3rd Place Franco Amodeo: "The Art and Science of Yummy Yogurt"
4th Place Kayla Augustin: "Wind Turbine Power"

Seventh Grade

1st Place Donhee Cui: "Fidget Spinners: Stress or No Stress?"
2nd Place Sarah Cestone: "Font to Remember"
3rd Place Maegan Mathews: "Shake, Shake...Your Flashlight"
4th Place Croix Harris: "Was That Real or Not?"

Eighth Grade

1st Place Cole Rodia: "Attack of the Fatal Funnel"
2nd Place Diego Lopez: "What Do We See?"
3rd Place Katie Zalewski: "Perceptions and Bias: The Generational Gap"
4th Place Tyler Munson: "Pinewood Derby Dash"

CSW

Con't from page 9

School's Week, students from Grades Two through Eight gathered in Lewis Hall to assemble over one thousand "breakfast-to-go" packs to be distributed to the transitional men's and women's shelters operated by Catholic Charities. "This is the fourth year that Holy Cross has hosted a Cup of Joe packing event," explained Principal Lisa Kane. "We look forward to it



Holy Cross fifth-grader Audrey Wilkerson works alongside her school mates to pack a breakfast-to-go meal for the Cup of Joe program sponsored by Catholic Charities.
Photo by Christine Zalewski

every year. We teach our students that we show our faith by our works in helping others. It is gratifying to see and hear the students' understanding of this as they work to assemble the breakfast packs."

Other activities included Pizza and Bingo on Student Appreciation Day, Turn-Around Day – when Eighth Grade students were the teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day. Mrs. Kane summed it up this way: "Catholic Schools' Week brings us together to express gratitude, build community, and extend our generosity to others."

OPT



Kayla McKeon, manager of grassroots advocacy at the National Down Syndrome Society, poses with Hway Band members: Joe (21), Jude (18), James (16), and Tim Hathway (14). The brothers have worked and volunteered at St. Joseph's House.

BENEFIT

Con't from page 21

in the support group, so they founded Isaiah's Promise to provide support to other families with similar experience.

During the Benefit, Jenny Mohler beautifully described the work of Isaiah's Promise. Jenny is an Isaiah's Promise mother—her son, Joseph Angelo, received a terminal prenatal diagnosis in 2012. Joseph lived just an hour after his birth, but Jenny has been involved with the work of Isaiah's Promise ever since, currently serving as a member of its Board of Directors and as Family Services Coordinator.

Jenny recognized vital members of Isaiah's Promise (IP), without whose help the organization's work would not be possible. In particular, Jenny introduced Pat Walter, who coordinates IP's sewing ministry – a ministry which takes donated wedding dresses and makes beautiful gowns for a blessing, a Baptism, or a burial. Additional lovely gifts for IP babies and their families also come from the sewing ministry.

Elizabeth Gravely, another IP mother also spoke and related that IP served over thirty families in 2017. Many of these families were local, but IP also served families

remotely through emails and telephone calls, including two families in Canada. In 2017, IP also hosted a Mom's Tea to bring together volunteers and mothers for support, fellowship, and continued friendship. They trained eight new peer ministers and, through the financial generosity of IP supporters, provided financial assistance to cover funeral and burial costs for Isaiah's Promise children. Finally, Elizabeth reminded the room that Isaiah's Promise is its own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, having come out from under the St. Joseph's House umbrella in 2014.

As in 2017, the 2018 benefit featured the music of Deacon Jimmy Nalls and the Bar Band. An additional treat was the performance of Hway Band, featuring the fabulous Hathway brothers, who live in the neighborhood in which St. Joseph's House is located. St. Joseph's House and Isaiah's Promise work to support children and families who are signs of the worth of all people, no matter their circumstances. Attendees at the Benefit came away understanding more clearly the crucial work that these organizations do to support families and children who are affected by intellectual and developmental disabilities or adverse prenatal diagnoses.

OPT

GIFTED

Con't from page 20

ing which of the different charisms each participant had been given by the Holy Spirit at their baptism. Charisms, participants learned, are given by the Holy Spirit to each baptized Christian in order to achieve a supernatural end. They are given so that Christians might be the hands of God in the world and build up the Church in that way. Charisms help us to find our calling so that we can engage lovingly with the world around us. They are distinct from natural talents, which are also God-given but may or may not be used for others' benefit. A good example would be the difference between someone having a talent for singing and someone having the charism of music – the former sounds really great in the shower or performing on stage, while the latter joins the choir and uses his or

her gift to make the worship of God meaningful and beautiful for others.

At the start of the workshop, participants completed an inventory to determine their charisms. Of course, everyone has more than one charism and often the charisms work together – someone with the charism of Knowledge, for example, might also have the charism of Teaching or someone with the charism of Leadership might also have the charism of Administration. In general, the charisms fall into several main groups – Pastoral Charisms, Organizational Charisms, Communications Charisms, Healing Charisms, Charisms of Understanding, Creative Charisms, and Lifestyle Charisms. Every person has a unique blend of these charisms, and the main object of the workshop was to help participants learn which charisms were theirs and to encourage them to begin to consciously try to use those charisms for the good of others in

the Church and in the world in general. Midway through the seminar, each participant met with the seminar leader, Dave Michaels, to discuss the results of their inventories and to decide which charism they wanted to explore in more detail.

As participants worked together, a sense of community, trust, and excitement about the wonderful things to which God was calling them began to grow. They tested whether the charisms they thought they had were indeed truly theirs, using a very practical trial-and-error method. Each week, participants tried to consciously and actively use the charism they were exploring. In small groups at the weekly meetings, participants would ask whether they had experienced the signs of the charism truly being present.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Called and Gifted Workshops should contact Dave Michaels at InvitedToLife@gmail.com

OPT

HUNGER

Con't from page 22

light the rich heritage of Catholic Spirituality, from modern saints, such as Saint Pope John Paul II, to medieval saints, such as Saint Dominic who in 1216 founded the Order of Preachers.

PROGRAM

Con't from page 22

smaller groups held in the church's social hall. Almost 100 people are in attendance each week. All together the book, meditations and discussions help lead the group to the realization that real happiness is rooted inside a person, and it is based in pursuing a life of purpose with connections to God and others. This program, put together by the Evangelization Committee, who also kindly provided the book free of charge to participants, is an ideal way for Parishioners to get into the spirit of the Lenten Season.

OPT

The speakers at these sessions, with great knowledge of their topics, give insightful and passionate presentations covering their Saint of choice, explaining their Saint's ministries and unique virtues along with why they are an inspiration for all of us. After the meal and talk, the evening concludes in the church with a celebration of the Stations of

the Cross.

With close to 100 participants in most sessions, this new program that provides a delicious meal, prayer, fellowship, and spiritual teaching has proven to be a well-received addition to the church's Lenten activities.

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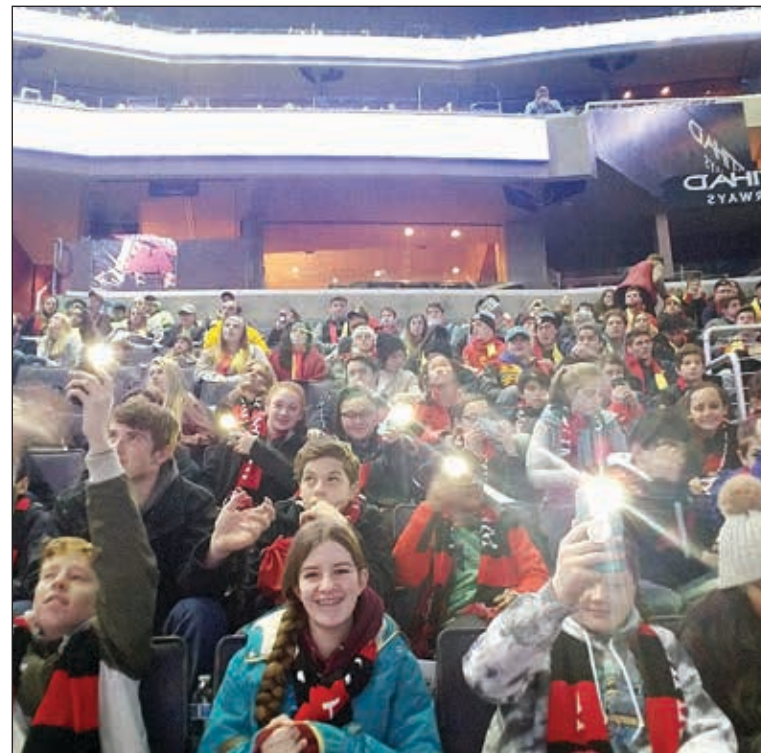


Participants of the Lenten Book Program make comments and discuss their opinions in response to questions suggested by the Evangelization Committee regarding the assigned book.

MoN Eighth Grade

Standing up for the Sanctity of Life and Living Their Faith

There are several events that are special for the eighth-grade students during the school year. Two of these events are the Rally and March for Life and the Eighth-Grade Retreat. The Rally and March for Life is an opportunity for the students to move from sharing answers in the



Above, Mary of Nazareth students show their excitement to be at the Rally and March for Life this year.

At left, Mary of Nazareth's eighth-grade class pictured in front of the United States Capitol while advocating for the sanctity of life.

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

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

Assistant Principal:

Mrs. Rosemary Adams

301-869-0940 (tel)

301-869-0942 (fax)

Mary of Nazareth

OPT Editor: Sara Jamison,
sjamison@maryofnazareth.org

Website:

www.maryofnazareth.org

Affiliated with the following parishes:
Mother Seton, Germantown; St. John
Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine,
Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg;
St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the
Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the
Visitation, Darnestown.

classroom to giving witness to their faith in the world in a way they have never experienced before. They join thousands of youth and young adults as they stand in support of the sanctity of life from conception until natural death. The day begins before dawn as they ride a bus to the Verizon Center to hear speakers and celebrate Mass with

popular Christian musicians. After Mass they marched to the Capitol to peacefully protest the current abortion laws and support the right to life for the unborn.

For the eighth-grade retreat the students spent the day in the tranquil setting of St. Mary's Church and Shrine and the pavilion in Barnesville. They prayed and

reflected on the challenges they will face in staying true to their faith as they transition to high school. An activity with a blindfold simulated the need to trust in God and choose friends who share the same values to support them in achieving their goals. Skits provided a silly and fun way to explore Catholic responses to real life situations and tempta-

tions they are likely to encounter. Working with spaghetti and marshmallows helped the students recognize that everyone has unique talents and ideas that are valuable in life. The students shared and prayed about their anxieties and hopes as they begin a new chapter in their lives. The day ended with Mass in the historic Church of St. Mary.

OPT

St. Raphael



St. Raphael School kindergartners squeal with delight while buddy reading with the seventh grade as part of the school's Read Across America celebration. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

NEWS

Con't from page 5

Early Readers, to speak to the students during Read Across America week. This annual reading motivation and awareness program commemorates the March 2 birthday of Dr. Seuss by calling for children all over the nation to read. Known for his storytelling and art abilities, and books such as "Little Robot" and "Zita the Spacegirl" series, Hatke advocated the importance of lifelong reading as he entertained the students.

Working in the World

SRS Career Day is a day when students explore various fields and professions through the firsthand accounts of parent presenters, who share both the ups and downs of their particular line of work. Among the wide variety of careers featured this year, the children learned how the love of reading, talking, and learning were helpful for one lawyer, how a medical sales representative teaches emergency room personnel how to use his company's equipment, and how another company's super computer with artificial-intel-

ligence capabilities is helping to personalize treatments for cancer patients by comparing patient information against the vast universe of medical knowledge. A general surgeon, event designer, and engineering consultant were some of the other notable professions that were featured with knowledge and enthusiasm. We are grateful to all the parent presenters who shared their time and talent and gave the students a glimpse into their futures!

Living Wax Figures

During the month of February, when we observe Black History Month, SRS second-graders learned about the important contributions and achievements of many African Americans who influenced our nation's history. The class shared their knowledge by bringing to life "wax museum figures" and presenting personal biographies for their characters. Some of the famous African Americans at the museum were a former president, a media mogul, a boxer, civil rights activists, an explorer, and many other notable personalities who helped shape our country.

Bringing Home the Gold

The seventh- and eighth-grade boys' basketball team of St. Raphael's CYO brought home its first golden basketball trophy. They played with heart and skill, winning the tournament championship in a triple overtime finish

against Holy Redeemer with a final score of 45-42. We are proud of the team for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Congratulations, Angels!

March Madness and More

Visit our website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org for more information about our upcoming events.

March 9 - Middle School Science Fair judges and awards myriad projects.

March 24 - SpringFest promises an evening of fun, food, and fundraising. Sponsorship opportunities are available!

March 28 - Third Grade Arts Tea blends poetry and artwork through the eyes of the third-graders.

April 18 - Girls' Night Out invites everyone for a night of shopping and socialization. Bring a friend!

April 27-28 - School Play presents "Shrek the Musical Jr.!" Save the date!

May 11 - Mother's Day celebrates SRS mothers and our Blessed Mother with a Mass and light luncheon.

May 22 - SRNS Basket Raffle raises funds for the preschool with extravagant baskets that offer pampering for Mom, a week of KOA multisport summer camp, family fun packages, and other valuable prizes!

SODALITY

Con't from page 5

before federal congressional committees, addressed university audiences, and appeared on hundreds of television and radio programs on behalf of the U.S. Catholic bishops. **Alvaré** cooperates with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations as a speaker and a delegate to various United Nations conferences concerning women and the family. She is a consultant for the Pontifical Council of the Laity (Vatican City), as well as an ABC news consultant. Her scholarship regularly treats current controversies about marriage, parenting, and the new reproductive technologies.

Prior to joining the George Mason faculty, Professor **Alvaré** was an associate professor at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. She received her law degree from Cornell University School of Law and her master's degree in Systematic Theology from the Catholic University of America.

APRIL - Emmitsburg Pilgrimage

The women of St. Raphael's Sodality will make a pilgrimage to Emmitsburg in April. Please stay tuned for more information.

OPT

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When You Cannot Make Your Parish Lenten Services

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

This area is very fortunate to have neighboring parishes as well as a Shrine and a Monastery, and for those in the military, the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA chapel on base at Walter Reed (formerly Bethesda Naval Hospital). Christ the King has its daily Masses, except on Monday and Saturday mornings.

The Lenten schedule includes Stations on Fridays at 5:30pm in English and 7pm in Spanish. It has a Holy Hour every Thursday at 5:30pm, closing with a 7pm Mass in Spanish. Confessions are Saturdays at 3pm and during Lent, every Wednesday evening from 6-8pm. Additionally, during Lent a Learning to Pray course is Tuesdays at 7pm. During Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, March 25, the Blessing of Palms will be at 10:15am and 12:15pm just prior to the regular Masses at 10:30am and 12:30pm, respectively; on Holy Thursday (with no morning Mass), March 29, there will be a tri-lingual Mass of the Last Supper and the Washing of the feet at 7:30pm; Good Friday, March 30, (with no morning Mass) Stations will be at 9:30am in English and 11am in

Spanish, the Liturgy at 4:30pm in English and in Spanish at 6pm in the Colonial Room; Holy Saturday Vigil (with no morning or 4pm & 5:30pm Masses) the Blessing of the Fire will be at 8pm in front of the Church. On Easter Sunday, April 1, Masses will be at the regular times.

At neighboring St. Michael's and Our Lady of Lourdes, daily Masses during Lent are in the mornings, and at 12:05pm and noon, respectively. Stations at OLOL are at 11am Fridays, Adoration follows at 12:30pm until 3pm. The Walter Reed military chapel has daily Mass Monday-Thursday at noon with Friday Mass at 11am and on Sundays at 9am. Its Holy Week schedule has Holy Thursday's Mass of the Last Supper from 4:30-5:30pm and Good Friday's Liturgy from 3-4pm. The Shrine and the Franciscan Monastery offer similar opportunities to go to Mass daily and throughout Lent, as well as frequent offerings of Confession throughout the day, special events, a retreat, and services. And the Franciscan Monastery has its famous Easter Lily and Palm Cross sale on Saturday, March 24, from 10am-6pm and Sunday, March 25, 8am!

OPT

Christ the King's Social Concerns Commission

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor, with Liz Weiss, parishioner

The commission at Christ the King which is most active in the community is the Social Concerns Commission. On Sunday, February 25, commission member and lead Liz Weiss spoke to all Masses about "what it does" and invited others to join in. She explained in almost bullet points, "Who We Are" as the mission to help others; "When We Meet" which is the second Wednesday in every month, at 7pm for roughly an hour and in the Religious Education Building. She listed out all the activities, "What We Do", work in which



Social Concerns speaker Liz Weiss



Social Concerns members Gloria Patterson and Sue Gordon

individuals may wish to assist, such as Shepherd's Table in downtown Silver Spring, every fourth Thursday of the month in two shifts, to care for and feed those most in need. In doing this work, Christ the King also prepares and donates a set-recipe casserole served in the dining area of Shepherd's Table.

The Social Concerns commission conducts The Giving Tree program which solicits from parishioners and distributes to those in need, gifts at Christmastime. Additionally, as Liz informed, the commission maintains the parish food pantry, which is available to all those in

emergency need of foods, stocked with donations from the parish. She further explained "Why We Are Here" with Lent as a time when we think of others and contemplate how we can improve, using Jesus as our example of sharing love and helping those in need.

The commission is currently made up of Gloria Patterson, Sue Gordon, Chris Tan, David Belli, Gloria Mendoza, and Liz Weiss. Liz welcomed parishioners to join the commission, not set in its program or goals but which accepts input from new people, to make suggestions for service projects in the community. 3pm!

OPT

Christ the King Lenten Preaching

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor, with Sue Deckleman and Maria Kendall

Christ the King was treated to a special retreat on the evenings of Wednesday, February 28, and Thursday, March 1, with Fr. Pat of St. Augustine's parish, downtown DC. For Lent our guest preacher began the evenings with Holy Hour, Confessions and preaching. Parishioner Sue Deckelman commented that on his Wednesday theme of Building a Relationship with Jesus, the "talk was "so profound, thoughtful, prayerful and, at the same time, humorous and down to earth, that (she) left the Church speechless." Adding to this, parishioner Maria Kendall said of his Thursday theme, Experiencing His Power Through Prayer, "(h)e talked about things that some people consider essential in their lives as prayer is one of those things, the importance of praying and communicating with God – having an intimate personal



Rev. Patrick Smith, Pastor, St. Augustine's

relationship with Him. A thought-provoking and convincing talk."

Fr. Pat has a special place at Christ the King as he is the brother of a former parishioner, now resident in Washington state, Karen Fraser. He and his father, the late Deacon Smith of St. Theresa of Avila, have over the years been guest Celebrant and servers at Christ the King. He is also known for his ardent defense of his parish school, standing firm against the movement of the day, around 2006, to merge schools or close them

down altogether. Most memorable was his presentation, his stepping up to the mike, at a Conference for school principals, teachers, and prominent parish leaders at Trinity College, to defend St. Augustine's school, challenging the population "figures of focus" being presented by the then Superintendent with the new Archbishop in attendance. There is no wonder that Fr. Patrick Smith is a sought-after speaker, preacher, revivalist, and retreat director. 3pm!

OPT

SMITH

Con't from page 1

of the Year. According to the local council's Grand Knight Stephen Waechter, "As the Volunteer Director of Religious Education and second-grade catechist since 1978, Mrs. Smith sets the benchmark in the State of Maryland for all volunteer CCD teachers, devoting annually hundreds of hours of leadership, organization, and instruction to St. Mary's School of Religion."

Indeed, Mrs. Smith's love for her parish's children runs deep, as she diligently prepares them to receive the Blessed Sacraments. Throughout the year, she leads and organizes dozens of activities at St. Mary's School of Religion to include weekly CCD instruction, monthly "Youth" Sundays, the Christmas pageant, the Children's First Penance, the Children's Retreat for Holy Communion, and periodic parental meetings to ensure each child is properly prepared for each step of their spiritual journey. During the summer, Mrs. Smith also co-coordinates and develops the format for the one-week Vacation Bible School.

Mrs. Smith and her husband, Eugene, moved to St. Mary's parish in 1978 from Canarsie, NY when their first child was just 10 months old. Today, the Smith's lovingly enjoy each of their four adult children and seven grandchildren. "I

was most fortunate," remarked Mrs. Smith, "to prepare all of my sons as their Catechist for the First Penance and First Holy Communion. Even more blessed to now having prepared two grandsons, so far!"

Moreover, Mrs. Smith's devotion to the parish's special needs children is also greatly apparent. As a certified Special Education teacher at Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary School in Germantown, Mrs. Smith tailors the parish's CCD instruction for special needs children, purchasing specialized materials to assist with their learning and understanding. For example, some children possess different sensory challenges, which may make consumption of the Blessed Host difficult during their First Communion. For these students, Mrs. Smith provides unconsecrated hosts for their practice at home.

When notified recently of her state-level recognition, Mrs. Smith humbly replied, "I have been wonderfully blessed to be able to bring so many children over the decades to receive Jesus Christ in the Sacraments and to embrace their faith!"

On March 25 at St. Ursula's church near Baltimore, the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus will honor Mrs. Smith for her tireless dedication and selfless contributions at the Annual Founders' Day Mass and Awards Dinner.

OPT

Christ the King

2301 Colston Drive
Silver Spring, MD
301-495-2306

Fr. Stephen Carter, OFM, Cap.,
Parochial Administrator

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor
kh7@georgetown.edu

Confirmation Retreat Day

On Saturday, January 27, Confirmation Candidates from Our Lady of Presentation in Poolesville and St. Mary's in Barnesville, Maryland left the sanctuary of Upper Montgomery County to join RCIA and Confirmation Candidates at Annunciation Parish in Washington for a fun and faith-packed Retreat.

Patrice Morace, Director of Religious Education, is an expert at keeping teenagers excited and entertained with games, contests, skits and even playing with molding clay, all the while teaching them the Wonder and Awe of the amazing journey of full initiation into their Catholic faith. As Catechists, we try during regular class time to teach them about the Sacraments, Gift of the Holy Spirit, Fruits of the Holy Spirit, and The Beatitudes – just to name a few important subjects, but somehow when these lessons are put into



Small group work at the annual retreat for confirmation students from St. Mary's, Our Lady of the Presentation and Annunciation Churches

games, skits and contests they are just absorbed more fully.

The Holy Spirit was working overtime with these candidates. A number had indicated that they had been praying for a snow cancellation because they just wanted to chill on Saturday, but every one of them reported later that it was really a fun day and that they had learned

Continued on page 34

St. Mary's January visit to St. Joseph's in Carcasse

"The Faith is alive and well in our twinning parish of St. Joseph in Carcasse. Still suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Matthew and worshipping under a tattered homemade tent, the people, young and old, are full of hopes and dreams. During our recent visit I celebrated Sunday Mass with the parish, and all the school children joined in singing and praying in English thanks to the hard work and dedication of the school faculty. It is such a blessing to see the people working to lift themselves

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Sunday Mass under a tent



From left Deacon Dave, Fr. Kevin, Fr. Verdieu celebrate Mass



Building site for new church



Standing up for life: (L-R): Liam McGrath, Chris Chmelik, Isabel Chmelik, Savanna Notto, Bridget Anfang, Emily Weller, Benedict Chmelik, Coleton Notto, Kaleb Notto

Youth Rally & Mass for March for Life!

At midnight January 18, the group of teenagers were having a hard time falling asleep as their excitement grew in anticipation of the Verizon Center's Youth Rally & Mass for this year's March for Life! St. Mary's Shrine to Our Lady of Fatima sent 26 Pro-Lifers this year. Benedict, 12, said one of his highlights at the Mass was watching the stream of Seminarians, Deacons, Priests, Bishops, & Cardinals process in at the beginning of Mass. It gives such a sense of awe, majesty, and reverence. Chris, 16, agreed. Isabel,

15, and her friends really enjoy the music, and personal testimonies of the speakers.

The Chmelik family has represented St. Mary's at every March for Life for nearly twenty years. Initially their grandfather brought them, while their mom stayed home with the babies. Now their mom, and many friends, attend too, along with Deacon Dave Cahoon, a long-time attendee. Their mom, Becky Chmelik, said "We have come so far in the Pro-Life movement, getting people to accept the dignity of every human being, from conception to natural death. But we have a way to go. There are many people who still support death by abortion at all nine months, and those who want to push death by Euthanasia on the terminally ill, the handicapped, the unfit, those with disabilities, etc. We have to keep praying, and marching, and using our voices for those who cannot."

OPT

St. Mary's Parish
18230 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, MD 20838

Rev. Kevin O'Reilly,
Pastor
(301) 972-8660
www.stmaryonline.com



St. Joseph's student



Ground breaking for the new St. Joseph's church

up and make a better life for all," said Fr. Kevin O'Reilly

New Church: The primary focus of this trip was to join in the ground-breaking ceremony for the new church we are raising funds to construct. Fr. Kevin O'Reilly and Deacon Dave Cahoon, along with Father Verdieu Joassaint, celebrated Sunday Mass with the community of Carcasse then proceeded to the site of the new church for the ground-breaking ceremony. Dignitaries from the Dept. of Justice and local governments joined the community in celebrating this momentous event.

Health: Since our last visit, Carcasse has had five new wells dug providing a clean source of water for the community. The clinic nurse stated, "gastrointestinal maladies have declined, and the overall health of the community, especially the children and elderly, is greatly improved due to the clean source of water." A new cholera clinic has been built with capacity for patients and a

separate building for family caregivers. In the event of a cholera outbreak, family caregivers are depended upon to supplement the efforts of the lone nurse in the community. Currently, there are no cases of cholera in the community, but they must be prepared.

Education: This past summer, members of St. Mary's youth group, along with St. Joseph's youth group, repainted the school. The second floor of the school, destroyed by Hurricane Matthew, was rebuilt earlier in the year, and thanks to Global Solace, Inc. the electricity was also repaired.

Relationships: We are working with Food for the Poor (FFP) to establish a "Fishing Village" project where by an association of fishermen (and women) is formed, and FFP assesses the needs of the association. Once the assessment phase is completed, FFP presents the association and St. Mary's with a plan to improve the fishing industry in Carcasse. We will then use this plan to apply for a grant

toward implementation.

Our Twinning relationship is a multifaceted effort whereby three parishes work as one to uplift each other in the spirit of Jesus' teaching. Together, St. Mary of the Mills in Laurel and St. Mary's of Barnesville, continually raise funds and pray for our brothers and sisters in Carcasse. St. Joseph's parishioners lift their American Twins in prayer as we all journey through this world in faith and service. So often heard by the St. Mary's parishioners, who have traveled to the village of Carcasse in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, are two powerful statements: "When we had nothing, St. Mary's was the first to help!" and "I have nothing to offer in return but my prayers and thanks." We share faith in one God, hope for a better future, and love of our neighbor, near or far. The inspiration to live with Faith, Hope and Love is learned and lived in our Twinning Relationship.

OPT

Lenten Revival at St. Michael the Archangel



Fr. Khan from Trinidad with the Praise & Worship singers on the first night of revival.



Bishop Campbell reviving the congregation with the message of Christ's love for us.



St. Michael the Archangel's Adult Choir lifting our spirits with their voices.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish held its annual Lenten Revival on three consecutive nights during the last week of February. Fr. David Khan journeyed from Trinidad to open the Revival with a special Mass for

spiritual and physical healing.

Visitors of multiple ethnicities from parishes throughout the Washington region joined together in praise and worship to receive prayers of healing from Fr. Khan. Bishop Roy Campbell from the

Archdiocese of Washington was our celebrant on the second night of the Revival with accompaniment from the St. Augustine Choir. Bishop Campbell roused the congregation with a special message of repentance as we proceed

through the Lenten season.

The closing night featured St. Michael's clergy and choir and ended with a special blessing for each parishioner to call upon God's grace to help and support us in remaining faithful to obey-

ing His will. Many parishioners attended all three nights of the Revival celebration and left eager to return in 2019 as they continue in their faith journeys.

OPT



The Knights of Columbus prepared a delicious Shrove Tuesday with pancakes and sausage.



The Knights of Columbus hosted their fifth annual Oyster Bull Roast in early February.

Knitting for the Homeless

St. Michael's Young Adult Ministry recently hosted a crafting small group called Fellowstitch. This small group was created by Alissa Rubio, who was inspired during the Archdiocese of Washington's Apostles on Mission course. With Alissa's leadership and vision, she brought together a group of young adults who were interested in knitting and crocheting. Over the course of 5 weekly sessions, young adults gathered and made hats and scarves to donate to the homeless via Shephard's Table.

Fellowstitch ended in early



Completed hats from Fellowstitch donated to Shephard's Table.

February but is hoping to reconvene in the Spring to make hats and blankets to be donated to local hospitals for premature babies. If interested in joining this Spring, please contact St. Michael's Rectory for Young Adult Ministry contact information.

OPT

RETREAT

Con't from page 11

Confession, and engaged in silent prayer.

Kohan said she chose St. Elizabeth of the Trinity – a French nun who joined the Carmelites at 21 and contributed music, writings and a Prayer to the Trinity before her death in 1906 – as a focal point of the retreat because of the saint's mission to bring people closer to God.

"I believe we need to lead more souls into union with the Lord," Kohan said. "This is God, and every year, he inspires me to do what I

need to do."

St. Francis parishioner Patricia Olin attended the retreat because she wanted to approach Lent in a different way this year. She said she reflected on Fr. John's words that Jesus possesses and manifests all truth and that we find life by living like Jesus. She was intrigued by the life of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity and particularly enjoyed an afternoon meditation, when the Discalced Carmelites invited attendees to enter into a scene of Scripture as one of the characters or as an observer.

"[It was] a great chance to talk with Jesus in a unique way," Olin wrote in an e-mail.

As part of their five-year formation as Discalced Carmelites, secular members start out as aspirants, where they study about Carmel and the order's way of life. During their formation, they pledge obedience and promise to attend monthly meetings, take part in Liturgy of the Hours and engage in a half-hour of prayer every day to remain members in good standing.

But Kohan said the five-year formation is a misnomer, because members' development as Carmelites is ongoing. "You are in formation most of your life," Kohan said. "Our religious formation never stops. It's worth every moment."

OPT

CONFIRMATION

Con't from page 33

a lot. We've all hear the adage 'the way to man's heart is through his stomach.' Well, that's also true for teenagers. A delicious lunch of chicken, rice, salad, and yummy desserts was served.

Catechists are always wondering if they are doing enough to teach confirmation candidates about their faith and – most importantly – to encourage them to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit. It's been clear not only through weekly classes, but with this retreat, the Holy Spirit is there and doing amazing things in these young people's lives. Seeing

them accept the Gifts of the Holy Spirit also renews the Wonder and Awe for those of us trying to help in their spiritual journey.

The Catholic Church is alive and well if this young group of Confirmation Candidates are the church's future.

OPT

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Edwin Méndez,
OPT Editor

301-589-1155

St. Martin's Parish News

By Emily Moldiz

Marching for Life

St. Martin of Tours sent three charter buses to the 45th annual March for Life in Washington DC on January 19th. Before the March, many students and members of St. Martin's Youth Group along with their families participated in the Rally for Life and Mass for Life with Cardinal Wuerl at the Capital One Arena. St. Martin's youth group member, Maria Muralles who serves on the Archdiocesan Leadership Team, helped lead thousands at the arena in praying the rosary. After the rally and Mass, St. Martin's joined the march from the National Mall to the Supreme Court. Sources say crowds estimated to close to 100,000 marchers. Following the March, St. Martin's held their annual Pro-Life concert with artists Susy Vallecios and Tony Melendez on January 20 at St. Martin's

school.

Lenten Retreat

Despite a winter storm, more than 400 parishioners participated in St. Martin of Tours annual Lenten Retreat, "The Heart of Jesus," on February 16-17. Guest priest, Father Pawel Sass who is currently the pastor at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Washington D.C. led the retreat with St. Martin's pastor, Father Rick Gancayco. The first night kicked-off with Stations of the Cross and a reflection given by Father Sass followed by adoration. The second night parishioners came together for Mass, dinner and two sessions on forgiving from the heart and returning to the heart of Jesus through the Sacraments. Sessions were also available for youth K-eight and high school students who learned about the season of Lent.



Members of St. Martin's Youth Group participate in the Rally for Life. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Church

OPT

St. Martin's School News

By Anne Cooksey, Teeya Sabni, and Ian Javelosa, Eighth Graders

Field Trip to the Holocaust Museum

St. Martin's eighth graders recently went to the Holocaust Museum. When I walked into the museum, I was so surprised and awed by the amazing architecture that almost made you feel as if you were in a camp during the Holocaust. One exhibit that I saw, introduced another side of the Holocaust. At the museum, there is an exhibit of a boat, "sunshine", that was used to rescue Danish refugees and Jews to Sweden where they could be free from Germany's power. This may have been a small act compared to the millions of Jews dying, but any good act in the face of danger is a huge help. People would also hide Jews in their houses—risking the lives of the Jews and their own lives. These acts of gallantry make me hope and pray that I would have the heart and gut to risk my life for the lives of others who are in great danger. Our field trip to the Holocaust Museum is part of a whole project about learning about the Holocaust. Soon, we will each read books about the Holocaust and then read the Diary of Anne Frank together.

Lincoln Festival

St. Martin's eighth graders performed at the Lincoln Oratory

Festival at Ford's Theatre. The speech we recited was Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. In November, we started memorizing the speech and had short quizzes on it until the whole class got it down. Then, a representative from Ford's Theater, Ms. Kalisha, came to teach us how to perform and choreographed the speech. We practiced many, many times until we were prepared and were ready to perform in February.

The day of the oratory festival was unlike any fieldtrip. The weather was calling for snow and we had formulated about three plans, considering anything that could go wrong. Schools were closed, but the federal government was open! We were all unsure of the plan but ended up going to the festival, hoping for the best. Unfortunately, there were only two other schools who could make it. Our performance went very well, and we received many compliments.

The class then received a tour of the theater. We learned about the story of how Lincoln was killed and about all the sides to the story. The most interesting part was getting to see artifacts such as the gun that was used to kill Lincoln and a replica of the booth in which he was shot! This was a great experience all around and the whole class is glad that we received the chance to learn about Lincoln's legacy.



St. Martin's students enjoy victory at the DeMatha Academic Challenge. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

DeMatha Academic Challenge

Sunday, January 28, was DeMatha Catholic High School's annual Academic Quiz Bowl Challenge. The quiz bowl is a trivia competition formatted like the game show It's Academic in which some Catholic high schools participate. Middle school students from the Archdiocese of Washington have been participating for years. One is St. Martin of Tours. This year the SMS purchased a buzzer

system like the ones at DeMatha not only to study for the quiz bowl, but also to study for tests and quizzes. The team used many sources to study for the quiz bowl such as Quizlet, trivia websites and games, and study guides.

At this year's quiz bowl St. Martin's sent two teams of five to face off against other archdiocesan schools. There were four games, each with three rounds. The first two rounds within each game had a

theme and the third was the miscellaneous round. Categories included Disney movies, colors, world landmarks, capitals, and more. After four rounds of intense competition, it was revealed that St. Martin's second team was the DeMatha Academic Challenge champion. This was a huge deal for the students and teachers because although SMS has placed every year but one, the last time SMS took the cham-

Continued on page 39

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 students celebrated Catholic Schools Week with many activities, including creating the SMS initials for this photo. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

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



Children at St. Rose attend Family Faith Formation for the Hispanic Community

St. Rose Offers Family Faith Formation to the Hispanic Community

By Mary Zoccola

St. Rose's Hispanic Community has a new religious education option: Family Faith Formation. St. Rose is the first parish in the Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia area to offer a Spanish version of the Family Formation curriculum to children, Kindergarten-Grade 6.

"We are very proud to have the new Family Faith Formation for

Hispanic families, here at St. Rose," said Ivonne Salazar, Hispanic coordinator of Religious Education K-6. Religious Education sessions are held in the children's homes and at St. Rose.

Once a month, all of the children and their parents who are participating in Family Faith Formation, attend a formation session at St. Rose. At the St. Rose meetings, children receive classroom instruction, with catechists. Simultaneously, parents attend discussions, with Father Agustin Mateo. During the remaining three weeks of the month, parents and children meet in homes, either as individual families or in groups with other families, much like a Small Faith Community. Parents receive educational materials to discuss God's word, with their children, at home. A different topic is featured each month.

OPT

St. Rose of Lima
11701 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. Agustin Mateo
Pastor
301-948-7545

Mary Zoccola, Parish Editor
mary.zoccola@gmail.com
240-401-0612



St. Rose Confirmation Retreat

One hundred fourteen attend St. Rose of Lima's Confirmation Retreat at Camp Wabanna, Edgewater MD, over Presidents' Day Weekend, February 17-19.

Right to Life March



St. Rose Youth Attend Right to Life March on the National Mall, January 19. Adult leaders accompanied the youth on the March.



Both the girls' team and the boys' team earned a place at the State Championship on February 24 hosted at UMBC.

ROBOTICS

Con't from page 6

Maryland Qualifier on Saturday, February 2, 2018. They received two first place awards – Robot Performance and Robot Design. Way to go girls!!

Out of over 400 teams that competed in the FLL qualifiers for the state of Maryland, the St. Mary's Robotics teams earned two of 72 spots at the State championships hosted at UMBC on February 24, 2018. Both teams represented our school phenomenally at States. A huge thanks to all our coaches and mentors in helping our children succeed. St. Mary's School is very proud of them!

OPT



Girls from grades five through eight brought home two trophies from the FLL Qualifier- First Place in Robot Design and First Place in Robot Performance.

Our Lady of Mercy

Special Events

The Order of Malta will sponsor an Anointing Mass for the sick, disabled and elderly of the Archdiocese at Mercy on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 10 AM. There will be an anointing and a blessing with Lourdes water. Members of the Order of Malta will be available to help people through the morning. Our Lady of Mercy has handicapped parking that allows easy access to the church.

A week later, on March 24, A Morning of Reflection on Devine Mercy will take place. The presenter, Sister Donata Farbsanec, is a member of The Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy which was founded in Poland; Sister Donata is assigned to the John Paul II National Shrine in Washington DC and works to spread the message of Mercy revealed to St. Faustina

Kowalska. The program will take place between 9 AM and 3 PM. The day will include Mass at 9 AM and Confession at 10:30 AM. A complementary lunch will be served. Please RSVP for the lunch to alanave@olom.org.

Missing Roo

If all dogs go to heaven, Father Bill's devoted companion Roo is definitely there. She was a beautiful dog with a sweet spirit who was a special favorite of the school children. Her memory lives on in a you tube video Father Bill made a while ago titled "5 Things I've learned from my dog." The students of Our Lady of Mercy collected donations for the Montgomery County Animal Shelter to honor her.

OPT

LENT

Con't from page 7

encourage prayer and reflection during Lent. In the church foyer, a Vocations Cross decorated with cards for each seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington, provided us with an opportunity to take a seminarian's card and pray for him during Lent and during the year.

We have numerous opportunities to contribute to those in need. Many families are participating in a Lenten tradition by filling their Rice Bowl for Catholic

Relief Services. The second collection in November was donated to Immaculate Conception School in Milot, Haiti. Eleven thousand dollars was donated to help with the expense of providing a balanced nutritious lunch for the students. Our goal is to raise a total of twenty-two thousand dollars in order to assist the school in providing lunch for the remainder of the school year. This month's poor box donation will be applied to this goal.

Closer to home, we have the opportunity to donate blankets, insulated sleeping bags, clean winter coats for men, and men's work shoes to SOME to help their cli-

ents get through the difficult winter months. We have received grocery bags for the Archdiocese of Washington Food Drive. Our Lady of Mercy helps to supply two food pantries throughout the year, and the food items will go to St. Martin's Food Pantry in Gaithersburg and Langley Park Food Pantry. Last year, Mercy donated over 2900 pounds of food to these pantries. Mercy Serves will be collecting items for new babies and personal hygiene products for the Greater DC Diaper Bank.

OPT

St. John the Baptist Catholic Community 2018 Lenten Supper Talk – March 23

Come to the Lyon Center to observe the Lenten fast by sharing a simple supper of soup and bread. During the meal, we listen to a presentation on a topic related to the social concerns of our Church.

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 p.m. The presentation starts about 6:20 p.m. followed by



questions and ending at 7:30 p.m. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians The United States granted Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, to Haitians after the catastrophic earthquake in January 2010. In November 2017, the decision was made to end TPS for Haitians by Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke.

Learn about TPS; hear from former students from CSJB living in the U.S. who are affected, and how this affects our ability to support our Sister Parish in Baradères.

OPT

LEGACY

Con't from page 14

Student Council began their annual #change4change almsgiving program. This year the students are raising money to help send parishioners to help with disaster relief in Puerto Rico as part of the St. Francis Builds trip in June and students are working to send money

and letters of support to Palestinian mothers giving birth in Bethlehem's Holy Family Hospital for Mother's Day.

Just days after the new official portraits of President and Mrs. Obama were unveiled, the Saint Francis 8th grade went to get an up close view as part of their annual field trip to the National Portrait Gallery. As part of their viewing of the artwork, they were chal-

lenged to think about how they will give back to American society like Barack and Michelle Obama and so many other public servants in our nation's history. This is what Catholic education is about in the United States, our Church community banding together to give our kids the best education possible and preparing them to be leaders for the good in our nation!

BEAL

Con't from page 19

students with academic problems and conflicts. In this capacity, I attend an awful lot of athletic events – especially field hockey, women's basketball and women's lacrosse. This involvement is one of the reasons I do not have the Saturday night Mass more often. Saturday is often "Game Day."

Is it difficult to switch from academics to a parish community?

I would not say it is difficult. But the composition of the communities is different. At the University, I deal mostly with a transient population. They are here now but gone in a few years. At the parish, I am dealing with people who are here for "the long haul." Some of the people who are graduating from college and getting married now are people I have watched grow up from infancy. And some have

gotten old during my time here. (Thank God I haven't gotten any older.) Another difference is that at the University, I deal with people in a fairly narrow age range; here the parishioners run the gamut.

Why did you start saying Mass on the weekends at Resurrection?

When I started at CUA in the Fall of 1992, I had spent my entire priesthood in what are called "special ministries" (8 years as a high school teacher, 12 as a diocesan administrator) but I had always lived in a parish. I found that being involved in a parish, even if only on weekends, kept me grounded and sane. For example, after dealing all week with the wreckage of marriages in the tribunal, it was refreshing to be involved with married couples and families who, despite their struggles, were normal and happy. As a result, when I got to DC, I was anxious to find a parish where I could help regularly and be "kept regular." As it hap-

pened, Msgr. Bill Kerr and Father John Tuohey who had been helping at Resurrection had moved on and the parish was looking for weekend help. Joe Dudzinski, the director of liturgy at the time, was from a parish in Erie, PA to which I had been assigned. I knew him and his parents and he was aware that I had come to Washington. He thought I might fit here and so he asked me to help. I started one Sunday in February of 1993 and have been coming back ever since.

What changes have you seen at Resurrection over the past 25 years?

The biggest change has been in people. People have come and gone. Some have moved away and sadly some have died.

Why do you continue to say Mass at Resurrection?

For some strange reason, you folks keep asking me to come back!

OPT

KoC

Con't from page 19

for the benefit of the parish and on March 3, put on the third annual "Resurrection's Got Talent" show. This year, 18 performers, ranging from ages 9 to 16 shared talents included singing and instrumental performances for the enjoyment of the large audience. The show concluded with an amazing performance by the special guests from the Holy Trinity Choir representing the Cameroon Community of the parish.

The Knight's honor their special affinity for the Virgin Mary



Holy Trinity Choir who won the event in 2016, were special guests at this year's "Resurrection's Got Talent"

by maintaining a beautiful "Mary's Garden" on the parish grounds which is visited throughout the year by those wishing to pray in this peaceful space. On Mother's Day, the Knight's hand out carnations to honor and recognize the mothers at the parish and at

Riderwood Retirement Community. The Chapter is very active and is always looking for new members to carry on its visible and vital mission to the parish community. Email Lee Pfeffer at lpfeffer98@aol.com.

OPT

Easter Reception

The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, March 31, 8:00 p.m. will be followed by a joyful party in the Gym. Please come and, if you can, bring some finger foods or dessert to share. Items may be placed in the Gym.

OPT



The Light is ON for you!

How are your Lenten Commitments going? Looking for a way to kick start your Lent? You are invited to renew your relationship with the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Lent.

On Wednesday evenings, 6:30 -

8 p.m. through Lent, the doors of St. John the Baptist are open and The Light is ON for YOU! This year you can find Lenten resources and view all the confession times across the region by using the NEW Confession Finder Map at thelightison.org/

OPT

Spiritual Talks

Wednesdays, 9:15 - 10:45 a.m., Kazista Center.

Come any Wednesday morning for informal talks on spirituality and its eminently practical nature. There are also opportunities to watch DVD presentations by Richard Rohr, Anthony De Mello, Thomas Keating, and others.

OPT

SJB Christian Meditation Group

Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., in the Chapel Come any Tuesday evening to experience the ancient practice of Christian meditation, to hear lively talks, and to experience a spiritual community. No previous experience necessary. All are welcome.

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

Parish Service Day Saturday, March 24th

This day is a perfect fit for those who cannot make a continuing commitment to service. Here is a chance to take one day out of your busy schedule to participate in the Spring cleanup of St. John's grounds.

The day's activities include picking up litter, cleaning flower beds, mulching, etc. This is a great activity for families with children over 8 years old. Please bring rakes and clippers, and gloves if you have them. Gloves will be available. Start time will be 8:30 a.m. Come for as long as your schedule permits. Many hands make light the work!



From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Guests!

Easter is a time of hope. It is a time of rebirth of our faith in Christ and in our neighbor. As we experience the joy of Easter, my wish for you is that the radiant truth of the resurrection brighten the dimness of everyday life and fill you with peace and an abundance of grace from the Risen Christ.

May you have a Blessed Easter!

Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., pastor

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

at

Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish

Holy Thursday, March 29 at 7:30pm	Mass of The Lord's Supper
Good Friday, March 30 at 7:30pm	Celebration of The Passion of The Lord
Holy Saturday, March 31	Blessing of food
10:00am, 10:30am, 11:00am, 11:30am, 12:00pm, 12:30pm, and 1:00pm	
Holy Saturday, March 31 at 10:00am – 1:30pm	Easter Polish Food Bazaar
Holy Saturday, March 31 at 7:30pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday, April 1 at 10:00am	Resurrection Mass in Polish
Easter Sunday, April 1 at 12:00pm	Easter Mass
Easter Monday, April 2 at 7:30pm	Mass in Polish

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 8

Parish Easter Dinner (Swieconka Parafialna)

Traditional Polish Easter Meal will be held on, in the Parish Hall after Mass at 12:00pm.

All Parishioners and Friends are invited.

For reservations & tickets: Izabela Macander: 301-770-7086 (until April 1).

Mass for the steadfast, resisting soldiers at OLQP

By Bozenna Buda, ED

On Sunday, March 4, OLQP parishioners and friends gathered at a Mass celebrated by OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych and visiting Polish missionary from Brazil, Fr. Wojciech, to remember the steadfast, resisting soldiers, *Niezlomni*. Several groups took part in the Mass, which is the children's Mass regularly scheduled for the first Sunday of the month and the lectors are the OLQP parish children. Those present at Mass included members of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Council of the Knights of Columbus headed by Grand Knight Jacek Marczynski and Deputy Grand Knight Tomasz Kolodziej. The Polish American Congress, headed by Karl Klonowski, was present as were the Polish Scouts and the Saturday Polish Schools.

The steadfast soldiers were the anti-communist underground who resisted the sovietization and subordination of Poland by the USSR in the 1940s, 1950s, and even the 1960's. They were the first to fight the communist regime in Poland after WWII. For most of them, it was a continuation of the struggle for Poland's independence after the

war that began in 1939.

These resisting soldiers never compromised with the communist authorities who were atheistic, and they paid the highest price for that. In addition to imprisoning, torturing, murdering and throwing them into nameless death pits, the Communists did everything they could to disgrace them and condemn them even after death. Those who survived these atrocities were often considered second-class citizens by the communist government. They were denied places at universities. They could not go abroad to study or live. They were denied better jobs. Their parents, siblings, relatives, and later children, were also persecuted.

For many years, the memory of the resisting soldiers was kept secret by families, friends, and veterans. It was only after the overthrow of communism and since the early 1990s that people could speak and write about them openly. Although the Communists tried to erase all traces of the crime, many years later the opened graves told the story with redoubled power, restoring the truth and memory of these heroes.

Some of the names of the resisting soldiers, women and men, were Danuta Siedzikówna "Inka", Captain Witold Pilecki, Major Hieronim Dekutowski "Zapora", General August Emil Fieldorf "Nil", Colonel Zygmunt Szendzielarz "Łupaszka." Their names and those of other resisting soldiers, as well as their reputations, have been restored and they have become an inspiration for the younger generation of Poles and people around the world



The Polish Scouting Organization ZHP has been active at OLQP. Our Zuchy (Brownies and Cubscouts) have been meeting regularly to carry out service projects, learn about their heritage, work on merit badges, and have fun. Parents have also been contributing their talents at meetings. Here, parent Mrs. Godoy reads and dramatizes a story as the scouts listen attentively.



Celebrating Thinking Day 2018, on Feb. 25, with Polish Scouting Org ZHP in Martinez, California, outside the Our Lady Mother of Immigrants Catholic Chapel (East Bay Polish American Association building): Scouting leader Anna Matyska, Northern California Area Polish Scouting Commander-Girls' Division Anna Pisanski, Scoutmaster Zbigniew Pisanski, OLQP parishioner & visiting Scouting leader Bozenna Buda from Maryland-Washington DC area, Mrs. Grobelny with her grandson (a scout/zuch who took part in the activities), and a friend.



L to r: Fr. Wojciech, visiting Polish missionary from Brazil, GK Jacek Marczynski, DGK Tomasz Kolodziej, Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, SK Richard Okreglak. Two Polish scouts, Artiom and Daniel.



Fr. Jerzy Frydrych and Fr. Wojciech at the altar with the two OLQP youth lectors.

Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism

The St. Maximilian Kolbe Council of the Knights of Columbus held a screening of the movie, "Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism," after the noon Mass on Feb. 4 at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish. This documentary film, which was made by the Knights of Columbus, shows how spiritual power can triumph over oppression and violence.

The film notes the pivotal role that John Paul II had in the collapse of communism and the freeing of Central and Eastern Europe. In addition, this film points out the hope-filled story of one man's unrelenting faith born of deep personal suffering, his continued defense of the dignity of the human being in the midst of the horrors of Naziism and the Soviet Occupation, and his unbending belief in the spiri-



A scene from the film.

tual unity of Europe. "Liberating a Continent convincingly reveals how these convictions toppled an evil empire and how they remain

today the moral foundations for a prosperous and free Europe." (www.jp2film.com)

OPT

**Our Lady
Queen of Poland**
9700 Rosensteel Avenue
Silver Spring, MD
**Rev. Jerzy Frydrych,
S. Chr. Pastor**
301-589-1857
Bozenna Buda, OPT Editor
301-495-3377
bbudadc@gmail.com

OPT

LUNCHEON

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stated in the lovely program of the event.

The festive occasion started with a cocktail hour that offered opportunity for lively conversation and perusal of the many wonderful baskets assembled by the different Sodality Units. Tickets were sold for attendees to enter chances to win special items that were being raffled. A sit-down luncheon followed that included a fashion show modeled by Sodality and Junior Sodality members exhibiting beautiful spring fashions available for sale from a local clothing shop. The



At the conclusion of the show, Sodalist models join each other on stage to give the audience a last look at the special fashion selections offered for spring.

afternoon concluded with the raffle of baskets allowing several lucky attendees to take home some exciting and unique prizes.

Many hours of hard work by

Sodalists were put into the planning for this event, and the reward for all in attendance was a lovely celebration and a great time had by all.

OPT

DAR

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test. The students attended the Chapter's February meeting and read their outstanding compositions to the assembled members.

Michael is the Chapter's sixth-grade winner, and he was accompanied by his parents, Craig and Karen Blackstone of Bethesda. The seventh-grade winner, Reese, also resides in Bethesda, and she was joined by her parents, Laura Heller and Tim Long, her brothers, Jonas and Heath, and her sister, Teagan. Braden is the Chapter's eighth-grade winner, and he was accompanied by his parents, Bryan and Stacey Groce of Brookville. St. Jane de Chantal School's English teacher, Shannon Cron, also attended the meeting. Each of the Chapter winners was awarded a certificate, a bronze medal, and a Barnes and

Noble gift card.

The Chapter's American History Chairman, Karma Beal, has recently been notified that an independent panel of judges in the Maryland DAR state-wide American History Essay contest has named Michael as the state's first place winner among the sixth-grade entries, Reese as the first-place winner at the seventh-grade level, and Braden as the second place winner among the eighth-grade entries. The first-place winners will be honored at an awards luncheon on March 24 during the Maryland State DAR's annual conference. Their essays will now be judged along with entries by student winners from other mid-Atlantic states.

The DAR sponsors the annual essay contest nationwide, and it is open to students in grades five through eight. It is designed to encourage the knowledge and appreciation of our nation's his-

tory. This year's assigned topic was "World War I: Remembering the War to End All Wars." Students were challenged to imagine they were living in 1918 and to describe how the end of the war would impact their daily lives and how the societal changes introduced by the war would affect the United States in the future. Michael wrote from the point of view of a child living in Baltimore whose father and brother had gone to war, one never to return home. Reese described the life of a girl named Kitty living outside of DC, whose father had returned from battle haunted by memories of the war. Braden wrote from his African American great-grandfather's point of view while living in rural Alabama following the war and his hopes for the end of segregation. Chapter members were struck by the creativity of each student's writing and imagination.

OPT

SCHOOL NEWS

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pion plaque home was 2011.

No matter how young or old you are, you will enjoy a competition like the quiz bowl. Here are tips

on this type of competition. Study. It doesn't matter that you aren't in an academic competition. Studying hard will help you get through anything easily. Know your strengths. Maybe you know history well. Use that knowledge to your advantage. Be quick. If the speaker is in the

middle of asking the question, but you know the answer, answer away! Lastly, have fun. Being the captain of the winning team was a fun and great experience I won't forget soon.

OPT



St. Martin's eighth graders continue a long running streak, beating the teachers and staff again in the annual Catholic Schools Week volleyball game. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

PRAYER SERVICE

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raised Jairus' daughter. There are 733 houses of worship in this county, we should be able to make a big difference for those in need."

The offering was taken to benefit the needy in Haiti. Pastor Roy Howard and Mrs. Monica Ludwig presented the projects of the Saint Mark and Saint Patrick churches.

The service was followed by a reception in the Thaddeus Room, where people intermingled and

found new friends, enjoying each other's company. Tom Roach of St. Jude said: "Beautiful and inspirational service. It was wonderful to listen to a female recite the Gospel in a Catholic church. A first for me. Thank you, Fr. Lee, for hosting this Christian unity event." Others said they really enjoyed the beautiful service, great singing, and that the bell ringers were the best.

Indeed, how wonderful and joyful it is when brothers and sisters of Christ live in unity!

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Benefit Chairs



Vince Burke Patricia Sullivan Leadership Award

Lizzy Demaree Outstanding Adult Volunteer

Aidan McLoughlin & Kate McLoughlin
Outstanding Youth Volunteers

Natelli Homes, Bob Johnson, President
Outstanding Community Partner Award

Mark Rosenfeld Outstanding PCR Program Leader

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Rev. William D. Byrne
Master of Ceremonies

for the 22nd annual

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