



# Parish Times

Summer Camp Special  
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MARCH 2019

Living the Faith Together

FREE

## What to Do (Part II) ... Let the Children Come to Us

**S**ome of the most tender portraits of Jesus in the Gospel and on canvas are those which portray His affection for children. Remember the passage in which His disciples are discouraging children from coming to Jesus? "Let the children come to Me and do not hinder them" Jesus commands. The image stands in stark contrast to the Church's present abuse crisis. Because of the sins of a few,



Chuck Short

*Continued on page 16*

## Finding the Quiet

**I** never thought much about Lent. When I was a child, the Sisters taught us about the importance of sacrificing, almsgiving and prayer. My mother gathered those of us old enough to kneel for the Rosary at least once a week during Lent, and of course we participated in the Stations of the Cross every Friday. During Lent we ate fish sticks on Fridays, and we did not enjoy the desserts that were my mother's specialty. When I was raising my own children, we spent time deciding what we would "give up", and we talked about the importance of "doing something positive"



Patricia McGann

*Continued on page 39*

## Can Lent be Joyful?

**E**aster is about as late as it can get this year, so more of Lent will take place in nicer spring weather with more daylight. Perhaps that will help us feel a little better about it. I've found that most people don't look forward to Lent all that much.



Fr. John Enzler

I get it. Like Advent, Lent is a time of preparation, but it is not a period of joyful anticipation. It is a time to confront our sinfulness and our need for God's mercy. Most of us don't like disciplining ourselves through fasting, prayer and almsgiving, but if we take the attitude of John the Baptist –

*Continued on page 22*

## Seeking Joy?

*By Ellen Hamm Stuhlmann, IVC volunteer*

**"D**o you have joy in your life?" Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) members answer this question with a resounding, "YES!" Joy is our reward for caring for those in need and for sharing our journey in community with other IVC members.

Founded 25 years ago by two Jesuit priests, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps is comprised of retired women and men over age 50 who recognize God's goodness in their lives and, in gratitude, respond to His call to minister to the poor. IVC volunteers reflect on and share their volunteer experiences with spiritual reflectors and each other in small group gatherings and during retreats.

IVC is a national organization with more than 500 members in 19 regions. IVC members in Montgomery County/DC are supported by the Washington Metro/DC Region Coordinator, who works with partner agencies to place volunteers, connects volunteers with spiritual reflectors, and arranges retreats and volunteer gatherings.

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The Washington Metro/DC Ignatian Volunteer Corps at the 2019 Day of Recollection (Left to Right) Front row: John Murphy (Holy Trinity), Pat Dunigan (Our Lady of Mercy), Vicki Bell (Holy Redeemer), Ellen Stuhlmann (Little Flower.) Second row: Don Kisicki (St. Patrick), Dolores Royston (St. Jane de Chantal), Kathleen Curtin (Blessed Sacrament), Patti Kisicki (St. Patrick), JoAnn Goedert (St. Peter), Ginny Novak (St. Nicholas), Jim Goedert (St. Peter), Mike Goggin (St. Francis of Assisi.) Third row: Bob Jacobs (St. Joseph), Ann & Jim Hoffman (Blessed Sacrament), Mary Podesta (Holy Trinity), Jim Joyce (Blessed Sacrament), Joe Weller (St. Ignatius.) Fourth row: Aleksandra Braginski (St. Camillus), Helen Taney (Little Flower), Marsha Echols (Holy Trinity), Rea McDonnell (St. John the Evangelist), Marie-Claude Terrot (Holy Trinity), John Gradowski (St. Jane de Chantal), Julia & Tony Albrecht (Holy Trinity), Jim & Sue David (Resurrection), Tom Carty (St. Bartholomew.) Top row: Pat Wells (St. Anthony), Margaret Howells (Resurrection), Kevin Tansey (Blessed Sacrament) and Nancy Brouillard McKenzie (St. Bartholomew.)

## Rwanda Genocide Survivor Speaks to Middle School Students

*By Michael Stepbenson,  
Middle School English Teacher*

**S**itting in the quiet pews of St. Andrew Apostle Church, the incredible story of Immaculee Ilibagiza brought to mind one of my favorite Bible verses. Ephesians 2:8 states, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Her journey of faith through unbelievable trials, tribulations, and seemingly insurmountable odds is a modern testament to the power of faith, prayer, and ultimately Christ. For the hundreds of students, teachers, and administrators from all over the Archdiocese of Washington, this was much more than an occasion to hear a guest speaker. This was an eye-opening account of the glory and grace of God in a



Immaculee speaking to middle school students from St. Andrew the Apostle School, St. Jude Regional School, Holy Redeemer, Brookwood School, and Avalon School.

world that is fallen beyond measure.

Growing up a Tutsi in her native Rwanda, Immaculee lived a life of great faith with

a focus on education. As a 22-year-old student studying mechanical and electrical engineering, Immaculee was home celebrating Easter with her family when her country ignited. The opposing Hutu tribe rained down like a plague across the country for three months. In that short period of time between 800,000 and 1,000,000 people were killed, constituting 70% of the estimated Tutsi population. Throughout the chaos, Immaculee and seven other women were hidden in the 3 foot by 4 foot bathroom of a local Hutu pastor.

Speaking to an audience comprised primarily of middle school students, Immaculee beautifully wove her tragic story inlaid with wisdom aimed at their age group. One of her opening lines, evoking a sense of great sadness, stated "When bad

*Continued on page 22*

## Maryland March for Life 2019

Led by pastor Monsignor Edward Filardi, Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners joined hundreds at the Maryland March for Life on March 4 in Annapolis. They walked from the historic St. Mary's Church on Duke of Gloucester Street to the Lawyers Mall on the very cold wintry evening to protest the taking of innocent life.

*Photo by Angelyn Tugado-Marzan*





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[40daysforlife.com/bethesda](http://40daysforlife.com/bethesda)

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of Pope Benedict XVI, issued July 7, 2007





## Justice and Advocacy Council

## Albornoz discusses future for Montgomery County

By Anthony Bosnick

Montgomery County Council member Gabe Albornoz met recently with the Justice and Advocacy Council (J&A) to discuss opportunities and challenges facing the county in the coming years. Albornoz was elected to the county council in November 2018 after serving as director of the county department of recreation.

About 30 people attended the February 27 gathering held at Holy Redeemer parish in Kensington. The gathering is part of the J&A focus on meeting the new council members and county executive elected in the fall.

For the past 15 years, the J&A Council has represented the Archdiocese of Washington at the county level.

Albornoz serves as chair of the Health and Human Services committee of the county council and is a member of the Public Safety committee. He is one of four at-large council members of the nine-member council. The remaining five members represent specific geographic areas.

Albornoz is a life-long resident of Montgomery County and a member of Holy Redeemer parish with his wife and four children.

## Challenging demographics facing county

In recent years, Montgomery County has grown larger, more diverse, and older. Albornoz reported that by 2020, the county population is estimated to grow to 1.2 million residents. Today, 82,000 live below the poverty level, including 40,000 children.

Residents 65 and older represent nine percent of the population.

These demographics challenge the county transportation network, which was designed for a population of 1.2 million. They also challenge the county safety net, which provides support for low-income residents seeking help with food, housing, medical, transportation and other needs. They also affect



Left to right: Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, Parish Community Organizing and Advocacy, Catholic Charities; Gabe Albornoz, Montgomery County Council; Cathy Couch, former J&A co-chair; Brian Dorsey, J&A co-chair

the county's ability to provide services for senior citizens in order to help them age in place.

## Opportunities for the county

Albornoz believes that these challenges present the county with opportunities, such as to improve the transportation network in several ways. He mentioned improving roads like Veirs Mill Road and to further develop mass transit hubs.

Additional opportunities are to strengthen the senior centers, libraries and schools, all of which improve the quality of life for residents. They are costly and taxing the county's limited financial resources. Albornoz is hopeful as the county looks for new ways to increase revenue through federal reimbursements and payments and from foundation grants.

In response to a question from the floor about adults with disabilities, Albornoz said the Health and Human Services committee is looking to strengthen programs and job training for adults with special needs. For parents of adult children with disabilities, it is also considering respite care and tax relief.

## Working in partnership with the faith community

Albornoz told the gathering that "Montgomery County must work in partnership with the faith communi-

ty. Government can't do it alone." This is an example of "community building," one of the principles of Catholic social teaching.

The J&A Council is guided by the principles of Catholic social teaching, which is grounded in the dignity of the person, promoting community (*communio*), and working for the common good. (The seven principles of Catholic social teaching can be found by searching "Catholic Social Teaching USCCB").

Meetings with county council members are a way that the J&A Council promotes *communio* in principle and practice. In our culture today, the sense of community has frayed. Members of the J&A Council believe that through strong community grounded in truth and justice much is accomplished to build a society which nurtures the caring community.

## Becoming friends of the poor

*Communio* moves us to seek ways to reach out to our neighbors in need to provide help and friendships which make life worth living. We too benefit because it helps us become more fully human.

Pope Francis challenges us to live out the gospel through the care we provide for those in need. He wrote: "We are called to find Christ

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# St. Bernadette Alumni Initiate “Fund a Scholar” Program

By: William Nolte,  
St. Bernadette Class of 1962

In the years since their graduation, the St. Bernadette class of 1962 has maintained strong ties, marked by frequent emails and occasional gatherings. Over the last two years, that has led to gifts in memory of deceased classmates and conversations about what the class can do for the school. In early December 2018, the sixty or so members of the class mailing list received invitations to support a “Fund a Scholar” program for the school. In just over a month of the appeal launch, the fund received nearly \$12,000 in donations.



Members of SBS Class of 1962 Alumni and Friends Fund a Scholar Leadership Team L-R: John Magnolia, Tom Dillon, William Nolte, Kate Rodgers (SBS Director of Marketing, Enrollment and Alumni Relations), Rick Brown, Mary Lou Goehrung and Susan Fitzgerald



In conversations with St. Bernadette School principal Ted Ewanciw and Director of Marketing, Enrollment and Alumni Relations Kate Rodgers, the members described what they gained from their years at St. Bernadette emphasizing qualities such as integrity and character. Class member Rick Brown, noting lessons learned “both in the classrooms and the pews,” pointed to “the belief in a greater being, a sense of discipline,

and the skill of goal setting” as being of lasting value. Classmate Mary Lou Goehrung added, “I know the academic discipline and Christian foundation instilled in me during those formative years at St. Bernadette has served me well, and definitely contributed to my success in business and family life.” St. Bernadette School principal Ted Ewanciw continues, “The Class of ‘62 is giving us a great bridge to all St. B’s alumni. I know my children share many of the same life lessons learned in our school and church, along with the friendships fostered. This fund-a-scholar-program is a great way to honor a classmate’s memory and is just the tip of the iceberg in recognizing other alumni groups of lifelong friends from the past 70 years.

At the same time, they recognize that times have changed, as have the circumstances facing the school, its students, and its families. The days of tuition at forty dollars a year are long gone. Many current families find the school’s tuition a significant challenge. “With every new school year, we always have a number of students who would

love to join our school community but even after the receipt of tuition assistance awards through the usual channels, the cost of tuition remains prohibitive. This fund will allow us to offer small grants to close that gap to any new student or current student whose financial circumstances may have changed making a powerful St. Bernadette education and experience accessible and available to all who wish to have it,” shares Kate Rodgers. With that in mind the Class of 1962 has taken steps to expand their efforts to support both short term needs and the school’s long-term stability.

A key feature of this larger effort, to be known as the “Alumni and Friends Fund a Scholar” program, will be to gain the participation of alumni of the school’s other graduating classes. An expanded donor base will not only ensure the school’s future but will also speak to the role of St. Bernadette as a center of the Four Corners community since 1944. Members of those classes, *especially those willing to serve as points of contact for their classes*, should contact Kate Rodgers at (301) 593-5611.

OPT

## The Buzz from The Hive

By Alaina Crossett, SBS Student Council Director of Publicity

Recently, Saint Bernadette held their annual school-wide spelling bee with a total of 35 students participating. Over the course of 16 competitive rounds, speller Julia Ryan (seventh grade) took the victory, correctly spelling the word CONFUCIAN. Sage Dennis (eighth grade) followed right behind in second place, and Sophie Zanger (eighth grade) secured third place.



Saint Bernadette School Principal Mr. Ted Ewanciw stands alongside Sage Dennis (eighth grade, second place), Julia Ryan (seventh grade, first place), and Sophie Zanger (eighth grade, third place).

OPT

## St. Bernadette School Students Design Mary Garden

By Sally Ingram, SBS Middle School ILA Teacher

The eighth-grade students of Saint Bernadette School are designing a Mary Garden with regional plants to create a sustainable environment that nourishes bees and butterflies. In groups, students researched local plants that grow well in the open, bright-sun spot of the garden. They then planned and plotted a garden with local perennials, competing for the winning design.



The winning design was chosen and refined by a parent horticulturist. In the midst of winter, students gathered to perform garden maintenance and to plant bulbs. In the spring, the students will plant the perennials and will create a care manual so that future students can maintain the Mary garden.

OPT



## Elf Jr Runs at St. Bernadette School April 12-13

By Arsema Abebe, Leyat Assefa and Valeria Jovel,  
Student Directors of Publicity for SBS Drama Program

The students at Saint Bernadette School are actively working on the set designs for their spring musical, Elf Jr. These students have been working on the production of Elf Jr for the past month while their fellow peers are either working on memorizing their lines to create the best production of Elf Jr, or practicing hitting their high notes for the musical part of this performance. The musical being performed April 12-13 at 7pm. Tickets sold at the door. Performances take place in the school hall. Come join us on a holly jolly journey!

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**St. Bernadette Parish**  
70 University Blvd., East  
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Bartholomew Smith, Pastor**  
301-593-0357  
**St. Bernadette School**  
**Mr. Ted Ewanciw, Principal**  
301-593-5611  
**Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor**  
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Wednesdays: 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
(The Light is On for You)  
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Sat: 8:45 - 9:15 AM & 3:30 - 4:30 PM  
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Holy Cross Choir

## Holy Cross Choir Performs at Choral Arts Showcase

by Michael Ryan

*Holy Cross Eighth-Grade student and choir member Michael Ryan writes about his experience performing at the archdiocesan Choral Arts Showcase.*

The Holy Cross Choir participated in the Choral Arts Showcase at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School on the evening of February 9, 2019. Four choirs from Archdiocese of Washington elementary schools participated in this event. In addition, the choir from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School also participated.

The Holy Cross Choir consists of students in Third through Eighth Grades. I am one of these students. Our director is Karen Rappaport. We sang four songs at the showcase. Some of us felt nervous to perform, but all of us felt excited.

For our first two songs, we used our special choir binders that included music and lyrics for the songs.

The first song we sang was called "Catch a Falling Star." Our second song was "I Am a Small Part of the World," where Alexandra Gregory, Cata Stiehm, and Elena Flaim were the soloists. Fortunately, we all sang well.

For our last two songs, we had memorized the words and did not use our binders. The third song we sang was called "No School Tomorrow," where Audrey Wilkerson was the soloist. The fourth song we sang was called "I Hope the Teacher Won't Call On Me." We all had so much fun singing those songs—some of us were even dancing as we sang. Many people in the audience loved the songs, and some were dancing to the tune.

We all had a blast while singing and felt great when we were done. All our hours of practice were worth it! The Choral Arts Showcase is wonderful opportunity to bring together the choirs of Archdiocese of Washington schools.

OPT

## It Was a Humdinger!

Eleven Holy Cross School students in grades Four through Eight qualified to compete in the Scripps' school-level spelling bee, held on Tuesday, January 29th. Families and classmates were on hand to lend their support. Mr. William Ryan, the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Washington, was visiting that morning and was also in the audience.

All eleven students fought stage jitters and held on for up to six rounds—and then there were four, battling it out letter-by-letter until the ninth round. Three spellers remained until the fifteenth round: Seventh Grader, Elena Flaim; Sixth Grader, Parish Etchu;



Pictured after the Holy Cross school spelling bee, from left to right: Elena Flaim, Isabelle Paul, and Parish Etchu with William Ryan, Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Washington.

and Fifth Grader, Isabelle Paul.

The sixteenth round became a veritable clash of vowels and consonants between Parish and Elena, who valiantly spelled their way to the twenty-fourth round of competition. The twenty-fifth round became the championship round, with Elena prevailing to earn the title of school spelling champion. The winning word was a fitting end to our red letter day: humdinger!

On Saturday, March 16th, Elena will compete at the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee sponsored by the Meakem Group of Bethesda and hosted by Bullis School.

OPT

## Cup of Joe Service Project

To kick off Catholic Schools Week on January Holy Cross School students prepared one-thousand packaged meals for Cup of Joe, the name given to the charitable effort whose goal is to provide breakfast foods to the men and women served by area Catholic Charities shelters. The Home and School Association contributed the money to purchase the food and supplies needed for the breakfast packs.

In assembly-line fashion supervised by the Eighth



Students work together to assemble and store packaged breakfast meals for the Cup of Joe service project at Holy Cross.

Continued on page 38



Eighth Grade homeroom teacher, Mr. Michael Cilano with the Eighth-grade students after the Cup of Joe service project.

## Teacher Turn Around Day

Eighth Grade students stepped into the shoes of the faculty for "Teacher Turn Around Day" (a.k.a. Teacher Appreciation Day) during Catholic Schools Week. Lessons were planned, materials were generated, and teacher outfits were donned so that the Eighth Grade could present twenty-minute classes in core subject areas at different grade levels.

Sky Kim was the Technology Teacher for the day. "It took a long time for the younger students to settle down, but when they did, they listened really well. The older kids settled down right away, but they like to talk," he observed. Karly Bacarisas, who taught Reading to the



On Teacher Turnaround Day, three Eighth Grade students taught during centers time in the Pre-K 4's classroom.

Second Grade, came to realize "how hard the teachers work every day"

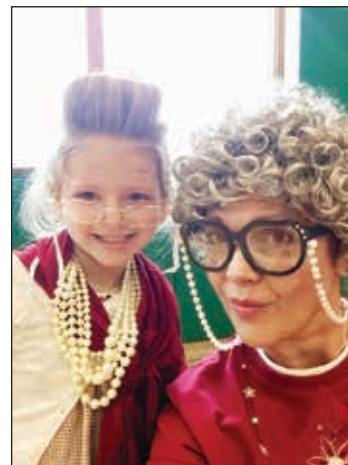
The new perspective seems to have created a newfound appreciation for

teachers, but Simon Bueno summed it up best. "If you're going to teach, you have to have fun!"

OPT

## Sprightly Centenarians

The 100th Day of School at Holy Cross was quite a day for students in Kindergarten and First Grade—the students fell asleep the night before and woke up as 100-year-old students! Non-stop smiles ensued as our spry centenarians arrived at school sporting canes, fedoras, bow ties, strands of pearls, kerchiefs, cardigans, and of course, gray hair. One of our friends even had a mini-walker, while another had curlers in her hair! The teachers dressed up and joined the fun, too, but also planned a day



of activities and lessons about the three-digit number.

Leading up to our 100th day of school, students in the lower



school also set a goal to collect 100 cans of food to donate to a local food bank—a goal that they easily exceeded!

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### Holy Cross School

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l.hogan@hcross.org



## Eighth Graders' Mock Trial a Huge Success

Anyone who walked into the Middle School Literature classroom at Holy Redeemer School on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 6, might have thought they had made a wrong turn and had entered a courtroom. After three weeks of thorough pretrial work researched by the eighth-grade class, court was now in session. The eighth-grade students, dressed in proper 1960's courtroom attire, had enthusiastically taken on the many roles of a courtroom trial. The students transformed themselves into Prosecution and Defense Lawyers, Prosecution and Defense Witnesses, Jurors, and Members of the Press, as well as a Judge, a Bailiff, a Clerk of Courts, Court Recorders, and a Defendant. The eighth graders were given the opportunity to experience the workings of the Judicial System first hand!

This opportunity to participate in a Mock Trial came about as a post-reading project presented to the eighth graders after reading the classroom novel, *The Outsiders*. Novels that all students want to read are often difficult to find. That wasn't the case with *The Outsiders*. Although set in the 1960's, the eighth graders found the novel rel-



Defense Attorney argues on behalf of her client, Pony Boy.

evant today and something they loved to discuss. One question the students were asked to think about was the following: "What if a certain character had been put on trial for an action thought by many to be self-defense?" Starting with that question, the Mock Trial eventually came to fruition. After an intense hour and a half trial, the court finally adjourned. Before the retiring to deliberate, the jury received special instructions from the judge. Meeting the next day and taking their duty very seriously, the jury considered the following question: "Was the defendant guilty without a shadow of a doubt?" (The Press will be posting pictures of the Mock Trial to the Holy Redeemer Facebook Page. Check it out it to learn the jury's verdict! **OPT**)

More Holy Redeemer on Page 17

## Holy Redeemer Takes on the National Science Bee

On Saturday, February 23, Holy Redeemer's Academic Competition Team, along with middle school science teacher Ms. Danielle Trotta, participated in their first competition. Several students took qualifying exams to see if they could qualify for the International Academic Competition's Regional Finals for the National Science Bee.

Twenty-five Holy Redeemer students qualified, and eleven students attended the competition. Seventh and eighth grade students participated in several rounds of

*Continued on page 19*



Holy Redeemer's Academic Competition Team (L to R): Paul Molinaro, Kellen McConnell, Santiago Palacios, Colin Neary, Joseph Enright, Anthony Molina, Mike Kehoe, Caroline Millard, Addie Breitenbach, Lucy Crowley, and Andrea Ciconte

## Holy Redeemer's Math Team Competes in the Good Counsel Math Competition

by Linda Grant, Middle School Advanced Math Teacher

Monday, February 25, was the long-awaited rescheduled date for the Good Counsel Math Competition. Due to an unusually early snowstorm last November 15th the contest had to be postponed until later in the school year. As soon as we received notice, we gathered our team, prepared and then headed over to Good Counsel for the newly-



Meet our Team: Top Row: Mrs. Grant, Moderator; Rachel Styslinger, Joseph Enright, Jake Robey. Bottom Row: Ryan May, Julia Vaughan, Santiago Palacios, Paul Molinaro, Megan O'Neil

designed math contest. It was truly a team effort. Instead of individual paper/pencil tests, the team was given one iPad and asked to collaborate to solve 30 math problems in

*Continued on page 17*

### Holy Redeemer Parish

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OPT Editors**More St. Jane de Chantal News on Page 29****Camp St. Charles**Catholic Summer Camp and Retreat Facility  
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# 'Time & Talent Fair' Showcases the Wealth and Depth of Parish Life

After all the masses on a week-end in February, the St. Jane de Chantal Pastoral Council celebrated a Time & Talent Fair in Caulfield Hall. Green, purple and gold balloons and table clothes adorned the 22 tables set-up around the room that displayed the more than 17 parish ministry groups and organizations that form the fabric of St. Jane's Parish. It was a wonderful showcase of the wealth and depth of the church's life.

Under the leadership of Mr. Skip Mahon, the work and dedication of many volunteers made the Time & Talent Fair a huge success. All attendees were very impressed by the grand displays and presentations by the many groups that make St. Jane de Chantal such a wonderful



Canfield Hall was transformed into a warm and welcoming space decorated in the theme of Lent with a touch of Mardi Gras, which conveyed a sophisticated flair to the event. A tree stand holding cards containing photos and names of Archdiocese of Washington Seminarians was on display to encourage parishioners to pray for their vocations.



place to grow in faith with support from others. The best part was that all of the effort resulted in a great payoff with over 70 Parishioners signing-up to join or expressing interest in supporting the various Ministries and Organizations of the Parish. It was a spectacular outcome from such an enjoyable event.

OPT

Lots of smiles, laughter, discussions and fellowship occurred around the exhibit and food tables helping to warmed both the body and soul.

## The Civil Right to Life of the Unborn

by Eve Marie Szczepanski

On January 18, 2019, the Day of the March for Life, hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country congregated in the nation's capital to march for an end to abortion and redirect our cul-

ture to protect life from conception to natural death. Parishioners from St. Jane de Chantal Parish, however, decided not to travel downtown to protest, but rather to come together for prayers, readings and songs on the sidewalk outside of the late-term abortion clinic that is located in their neighborhood at the Wildwood Medical Center in Bethesda. The civil right to life

of the unborn was at the heart of their prayer vigil, which was led by Reverend Samuel Giese.

Seventy-seven year old Dr. Carhart is the owner and also one of the last providers of third - trimester abortions in the United States. It is believed that Carhart has performed well over five hundred abortions at his Bethesda clinic. An estimated seventy-five percent of these abortions were in the second trimester. The mix of patients he treated range

Continued on page 28



Photo by Eve Marie Szczepanski

Pastor Reverend Samuel Giese led a prayer vigil in front of the Wildwood Medical Center on Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, where a late-term abortion clinic is located.

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## The Art of Puppetry and Playwriting

St. Peter's curriculum focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) but the entire curriculum is better described as STREAM to include Religion and the Arts. St. Peter's offers the usual art and music classes but students also have unique opportunities in the performing arts, including a Puppetry class for the fourth grade and a playwriting class for the fifth grade.

The fourth-grade students studied the history of Puppetry under the guidance of Ingrid Haas from BeechTree Puppets. The four workshops covered the history of Puppetry with an emphasis on Shadow Puppetry. The students

made their own animal puppets with paper and posts to control their movements. They learned how to perform a short play where they learned their characters' role and developed an appropriate voice for their character. They also learned how to move appropriately across a shadow puppet screen including how to enter as their character, move across the screen, deliver their lines, and exit according to how their character would move. The final part of the workshop was to perform their show for a live audience. This experience with puppetry gave the student an outlet for creative storytelling and confidence by performing in front of the live

audience.

The fifth-grade students are learning the art of playwriting with an hour class twice a month under the guidance of a teaching artist from Olney Theater, Jean McDonald. The students have learned all about live action story telling including the difference between narrative and dramatic writing forms. Groups of 3-4 classmates are writing their own plays focused on the pillars of character education: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The groups picked one of the six characteristics and their play will embody that theme. Each student creates their own character, their personality, and their voice. The groups are developing a story, writing their lines, and revising their play. Once they finished the writing and editing, they will learn how to perform their play focusing on how to move and speak on a stage. In April, they will perform their play on the Olney Theater stage as the culmination of this program. This experience helps the children learn how to work collaboratively to tell a story, how to creatively develop a character, and builds their confidence by performing on a stage.

OPT



Some fourth-grade puppet performers with their handmade animal puppets

## A Trip Around the World at Third Annual International Night

St. Peter's School in Olney held its third annual International Night celebration on Friday, February 8. Over 20 countries were represented during the educational and fun festivities, which included food, music and an exploration of different traditions and cultures from around the globe.

The event offered students and parents the opportunity to observe cultural artifacts, sample delicious foods and enjoy entertainment from various cultures. A large wall map hanging at the check-in table allowed guests to indicate where they are from in the world. It hangs in the Treacy center as a reminder of how culturally rich the St. Peter's community is. A popular feature of the night is the "Passport Around the World". The kids were given a passport and once they completed the tour of all the countries and correctly answered questions about the countries, they earned a prize.



Parents enjoying good food and friends at St. Peter's Third Annual International Night

Parent volunteers shared incredible home-made foods and fantastic desserts from their countries

*Continued on page 27*

**More St. Peter News  
on Page 27**

**St. Peter's Church**  
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**St. Peter's School**  
**Mary Elizabeth Whelan,**  
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# SJE Students Took Catholic Schools Week to Infinity and Beyond!



Working together to assemble packages for homeless shelters.



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**Mrs. Margaret Durney,**  
Principal  
301-681-7656

**Monica M. Bradford,**  
OPT Editor  
bradfords2@comcast.net

**C**atholic Schools Week created a flurry of activities at St. John the Evangelist School. The students planned and practiced for weeks ahead of time. We began the week with a special Mass on Sunday, acknowledging the students and faculty. Then grandparents and parish seniors were invited to the school for a breakfast reception, book fair, and Open House.

Monday was pajama day with a Read-A-Thon and Dance-A-Thon. Proceeds from those two events were given to the IHM Sisters' retirement account. Tuesday was Career Day, when the students wore the attire suitable to their future

career choice. The eighth graders became the teachers and administrators.

Thursday was Student Appreciation Day. The afternoon began with a rigatoni lunch followed by wild and crazy games! Leading up to this day, the students have divided themselves according to grades: Evens vs. Odds. The eighth graders chose a theme, Toy Story, and taught the even-numbered classes special cheers, a song and dance, and a silent cheer, using sign

language. The seventh graders, Nintendo characters, did the same with the odd-numbered classes. The afternoon began with two opening skits, one from each side. Then the games began—relay races with scooters, bouncing balls, and ball toss. Between each round of games, the students performed their dances and cheers.

On Friday, the school community

attended Mass together in thanks for our wonderful week and for the opportunity to receive a Catholic School education. We also took part in our school-wide Service Project. All grades helped put food and drinks into individual packages. Working with Catholic Charities, we were able to deliver over 1,000 packets to D.C. homeless shelters.

OPT

## SJE Named Trailblazing Catholic School

**C**ongratulations to St. John the Evangelist, one of 11 Trailblazing Catholic Schools that have been including and welcoming children with special needs for many years. SJE will be honored along with the 10 other schools in the Archdioceses of Washington and Baltimore at the Catholic Coalition for Special Education's 14th Annual Spring Benefit on March 16.

To donate, purchase tickets, and to find out more information about this event, please go to: <https://ccse.ejoinme.org/2019SpringBenefit>.

Questions? Please contact Kate Droege at [kate@ccse-maryland.org](mailto:kate@ccse-maryland.org).

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Catholic Schools Week finished with the teacher appreciation luncheon served by eighth-grade students and parents. The decorations and entertainment reflected the Vegas theme.

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Eleanor  
Droege,  
Caroline  
Garagusi,  
Maddie  
Deroscher,  
Fiona Gilgunn  
and Ann-Marie  
Poveda proudly  
represent SJE  
at the March.





## Youth Group Defies Cold Weather with Active, Diverse Schedule

**O**n February 17 the St. Bart's Youth Group had a spirited discussion of Catholic teaching with regard to the death penalty, led by the Youth Group directors. St. Bart's parishioner and local lawyer Frank Maguire was on hand to temper the discussion with legal insights. Mr. Maguire commented, "These students had an impressive grasp of Church teaching regarding capital punishment as well as the many complex moral and social problems that accompany the death penalty."

OPT



St. Bart's Youth Group members take a break from the cold weather to discuss Catholic teaching on capital punishment.



Above, St. Bart's Youth Group students solve the secrets of the Escape Room in Rockville!

On February 17 the St. Bart's Youth Group, at left, took advantage of winter weather to head for the slopes for skiing and snow tubing.

## St. Bart's students put cursive writing skills to the test

**T**he entries are in, and now it's a waiting game. In February, St. Bartholomew's third through eighth graders entered the cursive portion of the Zane-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. The contest selects state and national level winners for each grade, and it offers students an opportunity to enjoy the many benefits of cursive writing.

At St. Bartholomew, cursive is introduced as a separate subject in third grade and taught across the curriculum. "I teach it using many methods that use different senses," says third-grade teacher, Kerry Parker. Those methods include using chalkboards, play dough, the interactive whiteboard, and handwriting books. In an era of smartphones and email, one might wonder, why teach cursive at all? However, it offers substantial benefits to developing brains. "There is a good amount of scientific evidence that children and adults remember more when handwriting is used instead of typing," says Parker. She adds, "The flow of writing cursive anchors the brain when learning. Scientists say that the flow creates continuous brainwaves instead of a choppy learning experience with manuscript writing."



St. Bart's third-graders show off their cursive writing.

Ms. Parker sees cursive as an aide for the common problem of letter reversal, noting that children who are taught cursive early hardly ever reverse letters. She also adds that her students love it. "They say it's graceful, and compare it to wind blowing. They love learning how to write their signatures, and they feel confident and proud." The winners of the handwriting contest will be announced in May.

OPT

### SAVE THE DATES FOR ST. BART'S 2019 LENTEN RETREATS!

St. Bartholomew has announced its annual retreats: The Annual Women's Lenten Retreat, will be held on Thursday, March 21, 8.45 a.m.-3.00 p.m. @ Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda 20817. • The Annual Men's Lenten Retreat, Saturday, March 23, 8.45 a.m.-12 noon. @ Our Lady of Bethesda. Our Retreat Leader will be Rev. Gregory N.P. Konz, S.J., minister of the Georgetown University Jesuit Community. Flyers/registration information can be found in this week's bulletin — you can also download one from St. Bart's website, click on "Current Events."

OPT

### St. Bartholomew Parish

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St. Bartholomew School  
Frank English, Principal  
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More St. Bartholomew  
News on Pages 25 & 34

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Photo by Molly O'Leary

St. Raphael's Sodality Tea Coordinators Mihuryl Fernandez, Jan Rathgeber and Kathy Patterson take time from their preparations to share a welcoming smile.

## St. Raphael's Sodality Tea A Noteworthy Success

St. Raphael's Sodality held their fourth annual Tea on February 12. The theme this year was music and it was a 'noteworthy' success. The ladies dined on savory treats such as homemade stuffed mini sweet pepper halves, Darjeeling poached chicken salad, and chocolate pancetta with smoked ham. We feasted on sweets of Paris tea cakes, jasmine green tea shortbread cookies, and snickerdoodle apple pie cups. The brown sugar cream cheese and chocolate chai

scones were delicious. We prayed the rosary and then sang popular songs; Abba's "Dancing Queen" was a rousing hit! (It was VERY difficult for some of us to stay in our seats.)

The sodalists have a busy Lenten season prepared. As in the past, Sodality will pray the Stations of the Cross, Mary's Way each Friday during Lent following the 9:00am Mass. All are welcome to attend. The group prepared and served dinner for the women at the Interfaith Works Women's Center and will join St. Raphael's Adult Club for a Lenten day of prayer and retreat at St. Anthony's Monastery in Ellicott City on March 14.

Our soon to be deacon, Richard Meyer, will share the story of his conversion from Judaism to Catholicism on April 9 at 7:00 pm in our Parish Library.

To join St. Raphael's Sodality, please send \$30 dues payable to St. Raphael's Church (note Sodality dues in the memo line) to Mrs. Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

OPT

### St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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## Principal Teri Dwyer, Winner of the NCEA Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award!

By Nina Cardillo

Each year, the National Catholic Educational Association honors excellence and distinguished service in

Catholic school education. This year, St. Raphael School Principal Teri Dwyer was named the recipient of the NCEA Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award for outstanding efforts, contributions, and achieve-

ments on behalf of Catholic education.

As founding principal since 2006 and director of St. Raphael

*Continued on page 38*



Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

At the Catholic Schools Week Mass, students, faculty and alumni join Teri Dwyer in celebrating her prestigious Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award from the National Catholic Educational Association—her second major honor this academic year.

## Reading Across America with Kitson Jazynka

In commemoration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for children nationwide to read. During this week, SRS was pleased to host Kitson Jazynka—a Washington, D.C., local, freelance writer and children's book author—to speak with the students and inspire writing and lifelong reading. Jazynka is known for her non-fiction children's books about animals and influential people written for the National Geographic Society

and for her articles for National Geographic Kids, American Girl, and Young Rider magazines. She also contributes to The Washington Post's KidsPost and to The New York Times for Kids, and she has written novels for the Boys Camp Books series. Her time with the students reflected her great love for animals and included a roundtable discussion with some of our middle-school students.

OPT



Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School



Above, Author Kitson Jazynka gets a surprise hug while distributing bookmarks after her presentation at St. Raphael School in honor of Read Across America Week.

At top, students are mesmerized by author Kitson Jazynka as she tells real-life stories about the animals she writes about.

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

As Catholic schools around the nation celebrated Catholic Schools Week, special days of appreciation honored the teachers, clergy, parents, and students of SRS and SRNS. The students brought to life this year's theme—Be My Witness—by preparing sandwiches for area homeless shelters and assembling breakfast bags for Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program. The special activities held during the week recognized the value of Catholic education and all who make it possible.

OPT

**More St. Raphael News on Page 30**

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### Catholic Schools Week – Student Service Project

Led by the Student Council, Mercy students organized and assembled donations of travel/hotel size toiletries for the homeless which were then placed into brand new athletic socks. Over 152 kits were assembled!

OPT

### Developing Leaders at Mercy

Ned Hogan, Director of Development for the McKenna Center, visited Mercy's seventh and eighth-grade Leadership students on Friday, February 8.

He shared stories and experiences of Father McKenna and urged students to make service part of their daily lives. He challenged students to consider how they can help the poor in our local area live dignified lives. At the end of the presentation, students were inspired and energized to help fill the pantry with essential items at the Fr. McKenna Center.

OPT

## Financial Literacy Training at Mercy

Students in Leadership 7 & 8 participated in the first two sessions of a three-part series in financial literacy taught by SPARK Business Academy. The topic of Session One was Investments, and covered the following:

Private and Public Companies, IPOs, Bull/Bear Markets, Rate of Return, Retirement Calculations, Industry Sectors, and Main US Stock Market Indices. Session Two introduced countries and their currency, and Budgeting Basics (including spending, saving, investing, and donating). Students worked through a real life budgeting scenario looking at monthly income and expenses. The session concluded with a lively game of Kahoot that recapped components of the lesson. The students are looking forward to the final session which will cover Entrepreneurship.

OPT



Mercy Leadership 7th & 8th participate in a three-part Financial Literacy training program.



Mercy Pre-K students celebrate their 100th day of school!



Father Stephen gave Mercy first grade students a special tour of the church.

## Musicians of Mercy Concert

On Sunday afternoon on March 3, 2019 music lovers of the parish enjoyed a concert of Great Master Works, featuring the organ, piano and flute. The music of the concert was composed by Bach, Villa-Lobos, Rachmaninoff, Vienne and Faure. Paul Hardy the organist for the 7:00 AM Mass and Alina Belenky, our Principal Organist and Handbell Choir Director delighted us with a special opportunity to be

surrounded by the beautiful sounds of Our Lady of Mercy's organ.

The musicians contributed and shared their musical, historical and performance insight in the Program Notes that were very interesting and a great help for audience members who might not have been familiar with the music. We are fortunate to have such talented and accomplished musicians at Our

*Continued on page 17*

### Connecting with Mercy Alum!

Alumni never truly leave Mercy. Their connection to the school remains strong even though they have moved on to college, moved into their first profession, or moved to the other side of the country. We want to help them stay connected, and reconnect, with old friends! If you are an alum of Mercy, please take a few moments to complete the Alum Update Form on our website at [www.schoololom.org](http://www.schoololom.org), click Alum. If you know an alum or are related to one, please share this with them so that we can continue to build our community!

OPT

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# Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

By Tommy Brown, seventh grader

**O**ur 2019 Catholic Schools Week was a great success! The students wrote essays about why a Catholic education is important and they were displayed in the Church for the St. Patrick's Parish Community to see.

We started the week off on Monday with Community Appreciation Day. The students dressed as their favorite book character and we participated in a service project for Small Things Matter of Montgomery County, an organization which collects books for children who do not have access to books at home. Each student decorated a bookmark and selected a book to donate. We sent 260 books with bookmarks to support this program. On



Students decorate bookmarks and choose books to benefit Small Matters of Montgomery County.

Tuesday, we celebrated Parent Appreciation Day. We all were able to wear our comfortable clothes (including pajamas) and wrote thank you notes to our parents. On Wednesday, we honored our clergy. Msgr. Parry and Fr. Choi have a terrific vegetable garden behind the rectory, so the students painted stepping-stones to place in their garden. On Thursday, it was Student Appreciation Day! We wore our favorite team's jersey or team colors. Teachers celebrated their students all day with special activities and treats. We also scored a no homework night! Finally, Friday was Teacher Appreciation Day. We love our St. Patrick's teachers! Many of us brought notes of thanks and appreciation for them.

It was a snowy week this year, but we had a wonderful time celebrating everything wonderful about our St. Patrick's Community.

OPT

## St. Patrick's Parish

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Rockville, MD

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Parish Editor  
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FRESH AS a DAISY! St. Patrick's School is delighted to welcome its newest Girl Scout troop of Kindergarten girls. The troop is led by Laura Hoff and Kyla Butts.



Kindergarten students show off the George Washington hats they created for Presidents' Day.



**UPS AND DOWNS**  
Eighth-grade students spent three days designing and testing roller coasters as part of their physics unit on velocity, inertia, and friction. Designs had to be 18 feet in length and include two hills and one loop. Science teacher Jill Fecko was proud of their creativity and collaboration.

The students pictured participated in the Odyssey of the Mind competition on March 3, 2019 at Oakland Mills High School. Forty teams competed from Maryland and DC schools. The students used creativity and teamwork to solve spontaneous challenges. Division 1 team includes Eliana Zelaya, Reagan Lukes, Alexandra Potter, and Juliette Stone. The team is coached by Odyssey of the Mind coordinator, Teresa Sutherland.



The students pictured participated in the Odyssey of the Mind competition on March 3, 2019 at Oakland Mills High School. Forty teams competed from Maryland and DC schools. The students used creativity and teamwork to solve spontaneous challenges. Division 2 team includes Patrick Moran, Daniel Stone, Olivia Marinucci, and Joshua Wadja. The team is coached by Odyssey of the Mind coordinator, Teresa Sutherland.





Monsignor Edward J. Filardi, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes church in Bethesda, Maryland, leads a prayer during the noon kickoff on March 2 of the 2019 40 Days for Life Campaign. Participants of the Lenten anti-abortion campaign will hold prayer vigils from March 6 to April 14, 2019 (7am to 7 pm daily) outside the LeRoy Carhart's late-term abortion clinic at the Wildwood Medical Center located at 10401 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, Maryland. Photo by Angelyn Tugado-Marzan



Spelling Bee participants proudly pose for a picture.

## Annual School Talent Show/ Spelling Bee Contest

By Bridget Launi

You could feel the excitement in the air as students and parents began to assemble for the annual Spelling Bee and Talent Show at Our Lady of Lourdes School, on February 21, at 6:30 pm. This popular event has been a long-lasting tradition and student showcase at Lourdes for

many, many years.

Preparation begins several weeks before the big day. Students must first take part in a preliminary screening for both the spelling and talent portions of the show.

This year, there were 50 students interested in participating in the Spelling Bee. Each hopeful participant took a spelling test and

*Continued on page 37*

## Celebrating Many Cultures

By Chelsey Hipp

On Friday, February 8, Our Lady of Lourdes School hosted their first Multicultural Night. Families from the school represented 25 countries including Argentina, El Salvador, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Spain, USA, and Vietnam! Each country had a beautifully decorated table laden with food, clothing, and artifacts from their respective country.

The tables were spread out over the cafeteria, library, and gym. As you walked around to each room and table, you could take a "passport" and receive a stamp or sticker to show that you had "visited" that country. The children at this event loved traveling the world! The families hosting each table talked about fun facts, had information you could read about that country, and described the food available for you to try. The food



Mr. and Mrs. Beuermann perform a Peruvian Marinera Dance.

ranged from empanadas to delicious desserts to grapefruit soda. There were so many delicious options to choose from!

The treat of the night was the entertainment! Mr. and Mrs. Beuermann performed

*Continued on page 37*

## 2019 Youth Rally and Mass for Life

By Anthony G. Sabadi

The right to life is the first among human rights. We need to see each child as a gift to be welcomed, cherished, and protected, "said Pope Francis.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School students are taught to respect life. As followers of Jesus, students defend life by seeing Jesus in all people – at all stages of human life. For example, each November, students see Jesus in the homeless by generously giving canned

*Continued on page 36*

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street  
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi,  
Pastor

301-654-1287

Ms. Amy Moore  
Principal

301-654-5376

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## SHORT

Con't from page 1

a once child-focused culture in the Church has shifted significantly to a culture heavily laden with policies and procedures that anticipate harmful adults and damaging legal action. Can we have moved any further from Christ's tenderness? In our January reflection we asked the question, what is a Catholic to do amid the angst associated with the present scandal. This time, I suggest we attempt to answer the urgent question of how parishes can take actions to focus themselves more on the spiritual well-being of children and enhance their capacity to serve children with the loving and welcoming heart of Christ?

As the leadership of the Church appears unable to take substantive action in the matter of abuse, civil authorities and lawyers are moving in with their own remedies. Their remedies are not Gospel driven. Necessarily they intend to protect children from harm and to hold the Church accountable. As Church leaders and civil authorities struggle with responses to the crisis, the question remains, who among the Church faithful will lead efforts to care for the spiritual well-being of children? Certainly, there is enough darkness to curse. Yet, the objective of our faith community must be to actively reaffirm the principle that children are the greatest gift from God and parishes must light the way to their future. Will children perceive their Church as

the loving Christ or as an intimidating institution? Parishes have little control over the actions of Church leadership, but we can control our local response. Local parishes can send an unrelenting message of love and welcome. Let the children come to us!

From earliest times, nurturing children was a shared value within Christian communities. While families were primarily responsible, children found security and safety within a largely non-Christian world under the protective eyes and loving care of the adults in the community. This shared love led to generations of children growing into good and faithful Catholic adults. Children were certain they were welcome and valued in arms of Christian communities.

At this time within a compromised Church, might Christ be calling us not only to reaffirm our priority for children but more, to transform our parishes into places where the entire faith community focuses itself on the spiritual, social, educational and physical well-being of children? Parishes do much for children. In the current environment, more needs to be done, much more, to reassure and prepare youngest members. Here's an idea.

To increase the focus on children, a parish or group of parishes may consider establishing a Children's Development Council. Elected by members of the parish(s) and with principal children and youth serving ministries represented, the Council would be charged with promoting

the well-being of all children in the parish(s). This would include: 1) assuring a safe environment in the parish(s); 2) integrating spirituality into all activities for children and youth in the parish(s); 3) broadening the CYO to go beyond sports, into social, spiritual and personal development activities such as dances, youth retreats, and liturgy, infused with moral and religious guidance; 4) increasing the emphasis upon social justice education and community service; 5) assuring there is a meaningful place in all parish activities for children with special needs; 6) sponsoring activities which promote the sanctity and dignity of life for all people; 7) building a strong foundation in effective advocacy for justice and charity in the Church and in the public square; 8) assuring the availability of direct services provided if necessary, by parish volunteers to assist children such as respite care for families with disabled children, support for foster care; career counseling and part-time employment, mentoring; 9) enhanced support for formal religious education through parish schools and religious education programs; 10) creative and responsive children's liturgies for many occasions.

Children's Development Councils would not replace existing successful activities. They would encourage and help support new strategies and initiatives by seeking financial, volunteer and technical assistance. The Councils should be major entities within parish communities with the resources, visibility and empowerment needed to transform parishes into centers of intense children and youth development. Yes, that's how important our children are to parish life!

To do these things will require more financial and volunteer support from each and all of us. Significantly more. Many have responded to the scandal by withholding financial support or "voting with their feet". This is understandable. But rather than lighting the way for a better future for children, it's a darker response more like the abandonment we feel from Church leadership and different from the portrait of Christ summoning the children to Him.

We can do better... for the sake of our children and our faith.

Blessed Lent, Happy Easter and God Bless!

Chuck Short

(cshort5@verizon.net)

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## TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE

See page 2  
for details.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE



## Holy Redeemer

## STEM has landed at the School Library!

By Mrs. Enkir, School Librarian

**H**ands-on robotics experiences for PreK3 – Grade 5 launched the first week of February and will continue through April. Thanks to the Weber Family, we have access to Ozobots, DASH, Botley, and 12 Tablets. For Grades K-5, Kodable's Hour of Code provides a website for leveled practice of specific computer programming skills. Additional materials are being acquired, using some of the proceeds of our Scholastic Book Fair.

Ann Enkiri and Jessica Weber worked collaboratively to plan the grade-level lessons with the overall objective of introducing and extending each child's knowledge of robotics, computer coding, and electrical circuitry in a developmentally appropriate way. Lessons focus on engaging students' creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication skills. Most STEM Makerspaces occur during a scheduled Library Class or on Thursday mornings.

The students are excited about these learning opportunities. It is no surprise that they demonstrate great aptitude at asking questions, working together to solve problems, and sharing their ideas.) or Jess Weber (jess.m.weber@gmail.com).

OPT



First grader Michael Tallamy earns Hour of Code Certificate



First graders Annie and Neal make Ozobot mazes



Second Grade students experiment with color and Ozobots

## CONCERT

Con't from page 13

Lady of Mercy. Paul Hardy is the Cathedral Organist at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle and he is a regular assisting organist and carillonneur at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Alina Belenky grew up in and started her study of music in Kaliningrad in a Russian enclave on the Baltic Sea. She equally likes playing the organ and piano and she arranges and plays choral, folk and symphonic music for organ and piano solo. Jayne Traynor Rose our Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music taught herself to play the flute at the age of 12 and has been devoted to it ever since. She

has performed in Paris and Belgium and at National Flute Association conventions.

During a short break, a collection was taken up for the benefit of the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The organization has assisted the Social Justice Ministry of the parish in their study of the issue of domestic violence.

OPT



Mercy Musicians (l-r) Alina Belenky, Principal Organist and Handbell Choir Director; Paul Hardy, Organist for the 7 AM Mass, and Jayne Traynor Rose, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music.

## MATH TEAM

Con't from page 7

45 minutes. Along with processing the math, they had to strategize how to have everyone view each problem, work on the answers and have all the questions answered within

the specified time limit. The team captain, Paul Molinaro, entered the answers agreed upon.

The reward: Pizza and drinks for everyone, knowing they completed a job well done and, of course, getting dismissed early from their last period class! Great job, HR!

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# ST. JOHN'S

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Mary of Nazareth students rally for life at the Nation's Capital.

## Mary of Nazareth Marches for Life

**M**ary of Nazareth's eighth grade ventured down despite the risk of snow to the March for Life again this year. Students gathered in the wee hours of the morning arriving before the sun arose to board a bus bound for the Capital One Arena in Washington, DC. The students, bundled up and brimming with energy, filed in just before the start of the Mass. They proceeded to sing at the top of their lungs and fill the center with their energy.

Post Mass, they stopped for lunch at the building museum, and they snapped a group photo. Many students were clamoring for an opportunity to take a selfie

with their teachers. Following the Mass and lunch, the eighth grade marched with enthusiasm and did a grand job serving as a positive voice for life. They joined in chants, and one eighth grade girl took it upon herself to start and lead several of her own. Following their participation at the March, they had an opportunity to visit some of downtown DC including a stop-over near Gonzaga College High School where many of them had applied. They had their fill by the time the bus arrived and returned to their school just after sunset after leaving just before sunrise. They stuck with the March from the very beginning of the day to its natural end.

OPT

## Mary of Nazareth takes First Place at Odyssey of the Mind Competition

**O**dysey of the Mind is a critical thinking competition for elementary students all the way to high school students. The competition is broken into two parts: a long-term problem and a spontaneous problem. Students are asked to prepare a long-term problem that involves engineering, performing, and critical thinking. This problem usually has a time constraint as well as a budget the students have to keep record of. In the second part of the competition, the spontaneous portion, students are asked to complete a task that they do not prepare for ahead of time. Both events are scored by a rubric that assesses students' creativity, style, and ingenuity.

Seven Mary of Nazareth sixth-grade students competed in the second division. This was their first year in the middle school division and they took home first place! These students had to develop a script that incorporated a 'creature' that they engineered from materials of their choosing. This creature had to complete three separate tasks and



Sixth-grade students participated in Odyssey of the Mind, taking first place and qualifying for a spot at the world championship.

transform three times without direct human power. Our students worked so hard for this completion and their first place has reserved them a spot at the world competition in Michigan!

OPT

## Eighth-Grade Students Place First at Good Counsel Math Competition

**O**n Monday, February 25, Mary of Nazareth Catholic School students won first place in the 45th Annual Our Lady of Good Counsel High School Eighth-Grade Math Contest. Among the participants were Breana Alcantara, Maria Ayoub, Katie Barrow, Kate Nonnenkamp, Meghan Stone, and Tam-Anh Tran. Students were chosen to participate in the competition based on high achievement in the eighth grade Honors Algebra course. The school community is very proud of these talented young women for participating with grace and humility as well as



Mary of Nazareth students pictured with first place trophy from OLGCHS Annual Math Contest.

obtaining Mary of Nazareth's first win in the math contest.

OPT

## Prayer Jars for Prayer Partners

**M**ary of Nazareth's middle school prayer partners got to show their creative side with their elementary

school prayer partners. They went about taking ordinary cups and art materials and turning them into a memory and a prayer activity for their younger counterparts. The middle school and elementary school met up, albeit outside of the normal Catholic Schools' Week Celebration, to design and build a prayer jar.

The activity, spearheaded by Mrs. Jimenez, involved decorating a jar for the purposes of placing popsicle sticks with various prayer intentions inside. Then, when praying, the students could take a stick out at random and focus on that intention. Many of the younger students were excited about and asked great questions like "Can I put my favorite prayer on the other side of the stick?" This helped some of the students know what to say when praying for someone, and so many sticks had "Hail Mary", "Glory Be", or other prayers written on them in addition to their intentions. The younger grades happily marched out with a lovely jar and some with decorated sticks as well.

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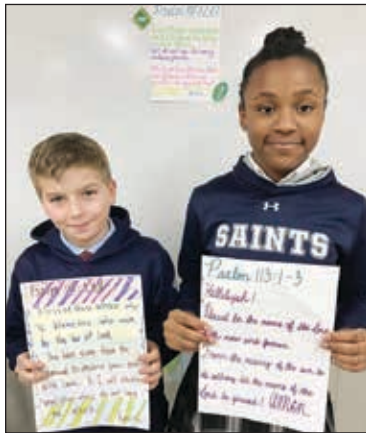
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**Assistant Principal:**  
**Mrs. Rosemary Adams**  
301-869-0940 (tel)  
301-869-0942 (fax)

**Mary of Nazareth**  
**OPT Editor: William Antonetti,**  
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**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.





Our sixth-grade classes designed mini Psalms posters in religion class.



Our First Graders reported on Famous African Americans this month, and they did a phenomenal job. We learned about men and women who made major contributions to our country: civil rights leaders, dancers, politicians, singers, engineers, inventors, athletes, poets, writers, astronauts, actors, and pilots.



St. Elizabeth School gathered together for the Blessing of the Throats.

Nathan D'Costa is congratulated by our Principal, Mr. Spadoni, and our Middle School Social Studies teacher, Mr. Hahn, for winning the St. Elizabeth Geography Bee.



## Youth Group Attends Mount 2000

In February, St. Elizabeth's Youth Group attended the Mount 2000 Eucharistic Retreat held at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg. Around 800 high schoolers listened to dynamic speakers who encouraged them to embrace their faith and reaffirm their belief in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. They broke off into small groups that were led by seminarians. St. Elizabeth's group was led by Deacon Brendan Glasgow who will be ordained a Priest in June. The topics varied and one of the tag lines for the weekend was that your greatest ability is availability. One of the highlights of the weekend was the Eucharistic adoration procession around the gymnasium, combined with worship music from Focus Collective it was an awe-inspiring moment of prayer.



St Elizabeth youth group at Mount 2000.

By the end of the weekend, many participants stood up to identify

themselves as discerning religious life.

OPT

## SCIENCE BEE

Con't from page 7

competition against many other talented students from around the area. Addie Breitenbach, Andrea Ciconte, Lucy Crowley, Joseph Enright, Mike Kehoe, Kellen McConnell, Caroline Millard, Anthony Molina, Paul Molinaro, Colin Neary, and Santiago Palacios performed very well against the competition. After three intense rounds of science questions, it was time for the finals. Paul Molinaro qualified for the eighth-grade finals, while Colin Neary qualified for the

seventh grade finals. Colin came in second place among his age group and both Colin and Paul qualified for Nationals in Chicago, later this year!

Each student took part in three rounds of competition. Each round included 30 questions that required students to buzz in with their answer. Students could buzz in before the question was finished, making some of the rounds extremely intense. "Not only was this our first competition, but it was our first time using the buzzer system," Ms. Trotta stated. "I am so proud of how well our students performed!" Eighth grader Anthony

Molina shared in the excitement: "I was surprised at how much fun it was! I knew way more than I thought I did. I would definitely do it again!" Santiago Palacios also commented on his experience, "[i]t was really fun to compete against other people from other schools. There was a lot of great competition."

Holy Redeemer's Academic Competition Team will be looking towards next year's competitions with excitement. They also wish Paul and Colin luck if they decide to compete at Nationals!

OPT

## Three Simple Things Novena Prayer

Following the Three Simple Things letter writing campaign, St. Elizabeth's pastoral council decided to introduce a novena prayer in anticipation of the worldwide meeting in February to

address the abuse scandals. From the feast of the Holy Family until the Sunday of February 24, parishioners were invited to end the petitions at Mass with the novena prayer for Three Simple Things: Truth, Accountability, and Transparency, and prayer cards were distributed throughout the parish so that this prayer could be shared with others and incorporated into personal prayer life. Although the novena timeline is over, the prayer for Three Simple Things still remains.

OPT



Fr. Mike Schmitz and a St Elizabeth parishioner with her Three Simple Things prayer card.

### St. Elizabeth Parish

917 Montrose Road  
Rockville, MD

Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent  
Pastor

301-881-1380

St. Elizabeth School Principal  
Vincent P. Spadoni

301-881-1824

Gerry Moore,  
OPT Editor  
202-887-6475

More St. Elizabeth News on Page 39

## St. Elizabeth's School Summer Camp

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Contact Ashley Ross  
Director of Summer Camp  
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# A Commitment to Taking Action at Saint Francis International School

**S**aint Francis International School is proudly a mission-focused Catholic school. The school's mission emphasizes its character as a "Franciscan family" and states that its main goals include nurturing students to become "instruments of God's peace" and "global citizens" in addition to being scholars. Over the years, the commitment to this mission has resulted in a number of creative programs from reading with dogs in first grade to a community salad garden in third grade to the eighth graders weekly work to help unload canned goods for the St. Camillus Food Pantry. One program that especially stands out is the "Make Me an Instrument of Peace" project that SFIS has been undertaking since 2015. SFIS won



SFIS has received the "Kindness Certified School" designation from the Kids for Peace for the fourth straight year.

a national innovation award from *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine for developing this program with the Little Friends for Peace, an organization out of Mt. Rainer.

The "Make Me an Instrument of Peace" program includes annual lessons for third, fifth, and seventh graders about self-regulation, meditation, problem solving skills, peacemaking models, and conflict resolution. The program has grown over the years and also now includes annual "Peace Camps" with St. Camillus Church that share the same peacemaking techniques with children of the parish and the larger community. SFIS middle school students often serve as counselors in training because of

their in-school exposure the Little Friends for Peace techniques.

Last spring, however, with signs of hate, racism, and discrimination rising in our nation and world, the leadership of Saint Francis International School decided that the positive peacemaking practices of the "Make Me an Instrument of Peace" project were not enough. The administration and faculty of SFIS along with the pastor of St. Camillus wanted to help students become aware of the hate in the world around us and find ways to equip students with tools to fight hate.

SFIS principal Toby Harkleroad has had an association with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) since 2004 when he attended the Bearing Witness program with other Catholic school teachers. Bearing Witness is a weeklong program where Catholic educators meet with Jewish and Catholic experts from the ADL, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Catholic Educational Association, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and others to learn about how to teach about the Holocaust and Catholic-Jewish relations in Catholic schools. Following that powerful experience Mr. Harkleroad also had the honor to

*Continued on page 31*



The entire SFIS middle school went ice skating for Catholic Schools Week



SFIS mourns the loss of Coach Scott Gales who led the Saint Francis Lions to CYO soccer championships when his son was in middle school.

## St. Francis International School

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

**Tobias A. Harkleroad,**  
Principal

**St. Camillus Campus**  
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Miss Maryland, Adrianna David, visited St. Mary's School during Catholic Schools Week. She shared with our students her path through Catholic Education and how that was a foundation to her leading a life of service. Adrianna led the students in a pledge to serve others, helped our middle school students fill bags for a SMARTSACKS program and read to our Kindergarten students. She is a beautiful young lady inside and out!



## Seussical: The Spring Play

By Sarah and Naimah

Every year St. Mary's puts on an outstanding spring play. This year's spring play is *Seussical*! It encompasses all our favorite Dr. Seuss stories mixed together in one big, terrific musical. Mrs. Berg, our music teacher and Ms. Rodda, our science, math, and drama teacher, are the faculty advisors for the play.

*Seussical* was chosen by Mrs. Berg and Ms. Rodda because it was different from last year's play which was *The Sound of Music*. *Seussical* is a comedy with fun music. We were curious as to how our great teachers come up with their ideas, year after year. Mrs. Berg told us that she and Ms. Rodda discuss their favorite plays and discuss what would work best with our students and budget. The play is open to all fifth to eighth-grade students. The next question

we asked was what her favorite play is that she has assisted with here at St. Mary's. She answered that her favorite play was *Fiddler on the Roof* because it dealt with a mature topic and the students acted very well in it.

Describing *Seussical*, Mrs. Berg told us that it is like all your favorite Dr. Seuss characters coming to life in one play, accompanied by outstanding music. There are about 33 songs in the play! The performances are quite professional looking because the school rents costumes from a theater company and we are assured they will have lots of sparkles and feathers. Mrs. Berg told us that her favorite part of the play is sitting back and letting the children do everything!

This year's production will be April 5 and 6 at 7:30 pm and April 7 at 2:30 pm. Admission is \$5. We hope to see you there!

OPT

## Kelley Bula's Memory is Alive at St. Mary's

St. Mary's School and the DeSantos Family hosted The Kelley Bula Memorial Scholarship Dance on Friday, March 1 to raise funds for the scholarship that keeps Kelley's memory alive at St. Mary's. This year the school raised \$2,200 for the scholarship fund from donations at the annual gala and the Kelley Bula Dance.

Kelley attended kindergarten and first grade at St. Mary's School from 1993 until 1995. Kelley became too ill to attend school and was home-tutored for second and third grade. Throughout Kelley's illness, she remained close to her friends and often visited the school. Kelley ultimately lost her battle with cancer on January 18th, 1997. She was only 8-1/2 years old.

Kelley was a beautiful, happy, courageous little girl who loved her family and her friends. She was full of the spirit, joy and grace that each of us would be lucky to have. She loved her school. It is because of this love for her school and in remembrance of this beloved child that the Kelley Bula Memorial Scholarship was founded.

Each teacher in grades K-7 selects one child whom they believe demonstrates the same qualities and attributes that Kelley had (a love of God, of life and of fellow man; a strong faith; happiness, courage, sensitivity and caring). Once the teachers make their choices, the principal, Mrs. Eisel has the unenviable task of choosing one person from this group.

The 2019-2020 winner of the Kelley Bula

Memorial Scholarship will be announced on Friday, May 31, 2019, after the 9:00 a.m. student mass. The Scholarship recipient will receive a full tuition scholarship to St. Mary's School for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mrs. Eisel sees Kelley's memory alive in St. Mary's School as she witnesses the kindness the students show one another daily in school. Mrs. Eisel has said, "It is a very difficult task to decide on the student most worthy of this recognition and scholarship because so many of the students at St. Mary's School display the kindness, courage and love Kelley showed us in her lifetime."

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## 2019 Multicultural Festival



St. Mary's celebrated the rich diversity of the parish and school at the 2019 Multicultural Festival. Nineteen countries were represented with beautiful displays, delicious cultural dishes, and traditional music and dance.

## St. Mary's School -- 2019



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## SURVIVOR

*Con't from page 1*

things happen, they don't exclude young people." With many students (and probably adults) in the room that might have a hard time identifying Rwanda on a map, this tied everyone together. Regardless of location or age, sin still has a hold on our hearts.

Take a moment and imagine the weight of the world that pressed down on Immaculee. With her family gone and deprived of the most basic human necessities, she repeatedly said that her time spent in that bathroom felt like Hell on Earth. She mentioned the levels of grief, loss, and abandonment she felt in the early days. How could

anyone overcome that deep sorrow and fear? Immaculee's modest, unadorned answer spoke volumes: "Pray the Rosary with all of your heart. If you have suffering, don't seal it off to God. If you haven't cried, how do you think you will be able to understand someone who is crying?"

Immaculee mentioned her relationship with the Rosary and with Our Lady as the only things that maintained her through the depths. Living in a constant, hellish torment, she said that each day became more and more manageable once she started praying the Rosary from sunrise to sundown. Connecting with powers beyond human imagination was her way of transitioning from a certain kind of Hell to Heaven itself. Not only did this provide her with a deep well of faith

and relief, but it also allowed her to access a reservoir of forgiveness. Hating the 8,000,000 members of the Hutu tribe makes sense. How would you not feel the need for vengeance or retribution against a group that caused such anguish? However, as Immaculee said, "Genocide and future genocides are the result of a failure to love others. More hate in the world just ends up being more pain." Just as St. Stephen said during his own martyrdom, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60).

Our students walked away from their time spent hearing Immaculee's story with a greater understanding of the dynamic nature of Christ in our world. They now have actionable ways showing them that faith and forgiveness are virtues of power that echo God's love for his Church.

Arriving back at Holy Redeemer, we continued the day with a broad range of activities that continued Immaculee's message. We dove into questions addressing ourselves, how we interact with others, and how to pray for the world as a whole.

Through the eyes of my students, I see the indelible mark that Immaculee left on them. Imagine a church that takes a brave approach to love, forgiveness, and prayer shown to us by Immaculee. What future tragedies might not ever occur? How many countless lives will forever be impacted by a practical approach to prayer? I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to hear this amazing woman's story and continue to bow in awe at its reflection of the love Christ has for all of us.

## ENZLER

*Con't from page 1*

"He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:30) – Lent can be a time of real growth for us as individuals and for our whole Church.

I see this growth every year. Daily Masses are better attended. Retreats and days of recollection are more plentiful, as are opportunities for Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and Reconciliation (through the The Light is On for You). All of these provide us with the means to grow beyond the regular activities of our liturgical year.

I have come to appreciate Lent more and more. I have found over the years that I need the extra structure and reminders that the liturgy and the Church provide throughout these forty days. My prayer becomes more focused. My little disciplines become better reminders of my need for God and God's love for me. My outreach to the poor becomes more specific.

For all of us at Catholic Charities, the Lenten practice of almsgiving – or caring for those most in need – really resonates. People come to us for help all throughout the year, but in Lent we are better at focusing on helping them and also growing spiritually ourselves. With this heightened awareness, there can be real change in our own hearts and our commitment to the Gospel.

Many of us focus on giving things up in Lent. I do that as well. Wouldn't it be great if we also tried to add something? To do something more?

We can reach beyond ourselves and draw closer to God by seeing Jesus in the poor. We can adopt a project, a person, or some other way of helping the poor as we live out these forty days. We can smile at the person on the street asking for help rather than turning the other way. We can respond more willingly to requests in our parish bulletin and from our pastors for involvement in various aspects of service in our parish community.

I know we respond all throughout the year, which is great. This Lent, perhaps our response can come out of a strong spiritual desire to give alms – i.e., give ourselves. In so doing, we will find that we are changed as much or more than those we help.

May this Lenten season be a time of growth for us all, in daily practices of discipline but also in looking beyond ourselves and into the eyes of those who need our compassion and care. Our response will allow them to sense the goodness of God in the love of their brothers and sisters. It will also allow us to sense that God truly works through us, that we are part of the way God builds his kingdom, and that we make it possible for others to join that kingdom through our generosity and care.

When viewed that way, Lent looks a little different. It is no longer a season of gloominess and sadness but one of celebration and joy as we give ourselves to those who are most in need. Jesus died for all of us out of love. He asks us to take care of each other out of love. And on Easter Sunday, He will rise to open the gates of Heaven to all who live in that same love.

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## First Penance at Saint John the Baptist

By Merianne R. Spencer

Children from Saint John the Baptist (SJB), with ages around 7 and 8, celebrated their First Reconciliation on March 2 at 9:30am. Father David Brault, SJB's pastor, gave a tour of the confessionals, showing the children where they may enter, where the priests sit, and that the children may choose to sit or kneel behind a screen or speak face-to-face. The children then divided into smaller groups to form lines and initiate their first Penance. Following this, each child received a printed cer-



Second graders Ava (left) and Alicia (right) standing beside confessional waiting patiently for their turn in line for First Reconciliation.

tificate and many children took pictures at the front of the church to remember the occasion with friends, family, and SJB staff.

"The children have been working to memorize the Act of Contrition prayer for several weeks," said Jessica Dodson, the second grader teacher of SJB. "This has been a day they have been preparing for several months, both in and outside the classroom."

First Reconciliation is a critical milestone before the children's First Holy Communion, for which the group Mass is scheduled on May 5, 2019.

OPT

## A Day of Fun: The Rescheduled SJB Bingo Day

By Merianne R. Spencer

Kids Bingo Night, which was originally scheduled for February 1, was postponed because of the snowy weather to February 15 at 12pm. This worked out because February 15 was scheduled to be a half-day of school, which enabled working parents to work a longer day and pick up their children at 3pm instead. Despite rescheduling Bingo to an afternoon time, everything came together and the children had a fun-filled afternoon.

Kids Bingo Night has been an ongoing SJB tradition where students join their classmates to enjoy food and Bingo games and the chance to win various prizes that can include science activity kits, giant inflatable toys (e.g., boat, sled), gift baskets, chocolates, and other goodies. Pizza, soda, chips, candy and ice cream are distributed to make the event extra fun, and every student is guaranteed to leave with at least one prize by the end of the day. As part of the tradition, the final Bingo game is always reserved for a grand prize, which was a sixth generation Ipad this year.

"I didn't think I'd win at all," explained Saria, a kindergartener who won the grand prize, "I can't wait to play it at home!"

During the many games, students can be heard calling out the letters and numbers they needed, with much laughter and joy resounding the gymnasium (where Kids Bingo was held). Oftentimes many students join in chanting to "B-11! B! B! 11!" – and squealing in excitement when a fellow student or friend won a game.

"SJB Bingo is a day just for the kids," one SJB faculty explained, "This is not a fund-raising event, but rather, something that the teachers and parents put together each year for the kids to have a great time."



Kids Bingo at Saint John the Baptist Catholic School.



Kindergarteners Saria (left) and Isaac (right) showing their Bingo prizes.

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More St. John the Baptist News on Page 29

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## Young Adults with Special Needs Stepping Forward to Claim Roles in the Church

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

For decades, clergy, staff and ministry leaders at St. Francis of Assisi Parish have worked to incorporate people with special needs into all aspects of community life, reflected in its Special Needs Religious Education Ministry and annual Mass for All God's Children. After many years of making these practices part of parish life, the seed has borne fruit, in a small, but growing, number of young adults with special needs joining parish ministries.

### Meghan Jones

In 1999, St. Francis parishioner Robert Jones asked his then-10-year-old daughter, Meghan, whether she wanted to take a new altar server training class at their church. Meghan said yes. And, 20 years later, she still relishes her role.



Samuel Liang

"I like serving the Lord and helping Fr. John and Fr. Jack," Meghan said. "I also like serving the people in our church."

Meghan, who has Down Syndrome, said she most enjoys holding the book for the priest and



Meghan Jones has served as an altar server at St. Francis of Assisi Church for 20 years.

ringing the bells when the wine and bread are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. She said that she particularly enjoys serving with Fr. John and Fr. Jack, saying

they do an "amazing job" celebrating Mass.

Meghan also serves as a CORE team member, lector and usher at St. Francis and read at the Papal Mass for Pope Francis at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in September 2015. But she feels most comfortable serving the Lord in her home parish.

"St. Francis parishioners treat us like everyone else and that is the way we want to be treated," Meghan said.

### Samuel Liang

After Samuel Liang went through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at St. Francis about five years ago, he began looking for a way that he could serve. Because the 24-year-old loves church music, he and his family approached the Contemporary Choir, the folk group

that sings at St. Francis' 11:15 am Sunday Mass, to see if he could join.

"I wanted to worship the Lord with a powerful singing voice," Samuel texted recently. "I also wanted to belong to a community of believers who serve the Lord together."

Samuel has cerebral palsy, is on the autism spectrum and has dyspraxia, conditions that impact movement and speech. He said he finds the "Glory to God" after the Penitential Rite the most beautiful part of the Mass. His favorite hymn is "Morning Has Broken," because of its "happy instrumentation," he said.

Samuel's mother, Rosemary Liang Powers, said her son loves the choir practices and helping lead the Mass in song. "He wants to continue to grow as a choir member and in his friendships with other members," she said. **OPT**

## Parishioners Tackle *Why I Am Catholic* for Their Lenten Small Group

This Lent, about 75 St. Francis of Assisi parishioners will search the soul of their Catholic faith by reading and discussing an aptly-named book as part of their Lenten Small Group program.

The book, *Why I Am Catholic (And You Should Be Too)*, is written by Millennial author Brandon Vogt, a blogger and content director for Bishop Robert Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. Tony Bosnick, director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation at St. Francis, said the Adult Faith Formation Team chose the book, partly after some test readers, who are individuals with young children, thought it would work well for people in their demographic.

"To me, Brandon Vogt's unique perspective would help people think in ways to say, 'Why am I Catholic?' and look beyond Catholicism as rules and see it as an invitation to a life of love," Bosnick said.

This is the third year that St. Francis will engage in Lenten Small Groups. While the number of people signed up approaches the 80 people who signed up in 2017 to read Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscover Jesus*, Bosnick said he is pleased



St. Francis parishioner Chris Fecko stands with his copy of *Why I Am Catholic*, next to a sign promoting Lenten events and activities at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

with numbers that approximate their inaugural year's Lenten Small Groups.

"I wonder if we made assumptions that Small Groups were self-sustaining," said Bosnick, whose ministry just completed a two-part offering of Small Groups based on the Gospel of Luke. "People had very high reviews of [the first foray into Lenten Small Groups] and I thought more people would come forward as leaders. But that didn't happen."

"There is more publicity and more encouragement to participate now," he said. "I have a greater understanding that it takes a lot of effort to build Small Groups."

Parishioner Janice DeMare is one person who is sold on Small Groups. Having joined one of the Gospel of Luke Small Groups last fall, DeMare didn't know anyone in the group of six people she hosted each week in her home for prayer and discussion.

"Something happens, and you all get very close. You share things – it's amazing how everything transforms," DeMare said. "That thing about Jesus meeting you where you are is really true in a Small Group."

Bosnick said he hopes friendships will again flourish among the people in the eight Small Groups meeting this Lent in people's homes, at church and even, at the McDonald's just down the street from St. Francis of Assisi. "I'd like to see a core group of people involved year-round," said Bosnick, when asked how he'd like the Small Groups Ministry to look like in five years. "That we'd have 120 people during the fall. And even more at Lent."

**OPT**



Members of St. Francis' St. Vincent de Paul Conference. From left to right, the members are (front row) Betty Baklarz, Janice DeMare and Carolyn Brauer; (back row) Joan Milsted, Tony Bosnick and Fr. John Dillon.

## St. Francis' St. Vincent de Paul Conference Aims to Help Individuals Gain Budgeting Knowledge

As the decision-making group considering local requests for financial help that flow into St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference is constantly weighing the best ways it can help people who ask for assistance. With lacking financial literacy skills often the root cause for why people seek help, the Conference has begun referring individuals to a budgeting and expense course that members hope will make a positive impact on their beneficiaries' financial lives.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's *Money Smart* course offers participants a two-hour introductory class on financial management. Offered through Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, the course covers financial basics, such as the difference between wants and needs, income vs. expenses and budget development.

Tony Bosnick, coordinator of St. Francis' St. Vincent de Paul Conference, said the goal of the ministry is not just to give people money, but offer them the skills and abilities to manage that money. Most requests the St. Francis Conference receives are for financial help with utilities and rent, and about 20 percent of the people who approach them have previously asked for financial help.

"We hope, in helping people

develop good financial habits, they'll be ready for [the course]," Bosnick said. "We're happy to help people if they're taking steps to resolve the problems they're facing."

Bosnick and St. Vincent de Paul Conference founding member Joan Milsted took the *Money Smart* course on Feb. 12 and came away with positive impressions, albeit at varying degrees. Bosnick liked that the course introduces the concept of financial wants and needs. Also appealing is the availability for participants to tap into the Financial Stability Network, a 3-year-old program sponsored by Catholic Charities that offers free financial services to individuals who would otherwise not have access to financial education or coaching.

Milsted, a social worker by profession, said the course was "basic," but beneficial to some groups, particularly for young people just starting their careers. "The whole concept is good," she said.

Bosnick said the ministry's referral to people of programs like *Money Smart* help reinforce the St. Vincent de Paul Conference's attempt to build friendships with the poor, instead of treating them like clients – a concept inspired by Pope Francis.

"The founders urged people to build a human response, not an institutional one," Bosnick said. **OPT**

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## 2019 National Geographic GeoBee

### *Fifth Grader Areg Louis Devoyans Advances to State Geo Bee*

**T**en very knowledgeable Woods Academy students entered the competition to display their topographical talent with the support of the entire Upper School on January 28. The three finalists in the 2019 National Geographic School Geo Bee were Francisco Gonzalez-Berrington (5), Will Lankenau (8), and the 1st Place Finalist, Areg Louis Devoyans (5)!

Areg Louis took an online qualifying test and was one of the top 100 students in the state of Maryland. He will represent The Woods Academy at the State Geo Bee on March 29 at Bullis School.

OPT



Geo Bee Finalists (left to right) Francisco Gonzalez-Berrington (5), Will Lankenau (8), and Areg Louis Devoyans with Fifth Grade Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher Kelly Tanzi

## Assistant Head of School Ray Briscoe Recognized by ACT

**M**r. Ray Briscoe, Assistant head of School, was selected as the 2019 District of Columbia (DC) ACT College and Career Readiness K-12 Champion. Mr. Briscoe's oversight and efforts to enhance of The Woods Academy's curriculum, which focuses on entrepreneurship, leadership, and innovation, was the primary reason for his recognition. "ACT is recognizing individuals who are making a positive impact on their communities through their efforts to advance college and career readiness. The ACT College and Career Readiness Champions are individuals across the country who support ACT's mission of education and workplace success."



Mr. Ray Briscoe

Mr. Briscoe notes, "To be college and career ready, children need the skills and expertise to thrive – not just survive – in a world driven by technology. At The Woods, students learn to use complex technology to express themselves, solve problems, and create opportunities as innovators, leaders, and entre-

preneurs. Students participate in authentic projects and gain applicable skills that include collaboration, critical thinking, communication, character, and creativity, growing in the context of the world they will one day lead."

OPT



Madeline Dodge, Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts Teacher (left) and Kelly Tanzi, Fifth Grade Language Arts & Social Studies Teacher (right), with Spelling Bee Finalists (left to right) Martin Gaszner (8), Ariana Plotas (7), and Leo Schuck (6)

## Scripps National Spelling Bee

### *Eighth Grader Martin Gaszner Advances to State Competition*

**T**en amazing Woods Academy spellers entered the competition on February 11. The three finalists were Ariana Plotas (7), Leo Schuck (6), and 1st

Place Finalist Martin Gaszner (8). Martin will represent The Woods Academy at the State Level Competition on March 16 at Bullis School!

OPT

### St. Bartholomew

## *St. Bart's Girl Scouts forge a special relationship with seniors*

**V**alentine's Day found Girl Scouts at St. Bart's spreading love with some very special neighbors. As is the tradition on holidays, the fourth through sixth graders of Troop 3158 brought cheer to Bartholomew House, the assisted living facility that shares the St. Bartholomew campus.

Girls brought handmade cards and cookies, in addition to decorating the senior residence for the holiday. "It's a big part of what we do as a troop and our service to the community," says fifth-grader Sophia Smith. "We really like sharing our time with them, and I think it makes them happy too." For years, the troop has visited Bartholomew House for holidays like Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, decorating doors and sharing time in the parlor. Girl Scout Caitlin Federowicz adds,



Girl Scout Troop 3158 spreads Valentine's cheer at Bartholomew House

"My favorite part of our visits to Bartholomew House is seeing the residents smile and laugh with us and tell us stories of when they

were our age. Some of them tell us about what they did as Girl Scouts."

OPT



## Neuropsychologist Dr. William R. Stixrud will Speak at The Woods Academy

**P**arents and educators are invited to attend a presentation by Dr. William R. Stixrud of Stixrud and Associates on Thursday evening, March 21 at 7:00 PM in The Woods Academy MPR. He will speak on "The Electronic Brain: How Technology Affects a Child's Brain, Personality, and Social Development and What We Can Do About It."

This is a free event offered by The Woods Academy in conjunction with the Guidance Department.

### The Woods Academy

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## March

The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of Jesus. Holy Scripture proclaims him as a “just man” and the Church constantly turns to Joseph for his patronage and protection.

### The litany of St. Joseph

The litany of St. Joseph is one of only six approved by the Church for public as well as private use. When this litany is prayed in public, the congregation responds to a leader with the words in italics.

Lord, have mercy.  
*Christ, have mercy.*  
 Lord, have mercy.  
 Christ, hear us.  
*Christ, graciously hear us.*  
 God, the Father of  
 Heaven, have mercy on us.  
 God the Son, Redeemer of  
 the world, have mercy on us.  
 God the Holy Spirit, have  
 mercy on us.  
 Holy Trinity, One God, have  
 mercy on us.  
 Holy Mary, pray for us (after  
 each line)  
 Saint Joseph,  
 Renowned offspring of  
 David,  
 Light of Patriarchs,  
 Spouse of the Mother of God,  
 Chaste guardian of the Virgin,  
 Foster-father of the Son of  
 God,  
 Diligent protector of Christ,  
 Head of the Holy Family,  
 Joseph most just,  
 Joseph most chaste,  
 Joseph most prudent,  
 Joseph most strong,  
 Joseph most obedient,  
 Joseph most faithful,  
 Mirror of patience,  
 Lover of poverty,  
 Model of artisans,

Glory of home life,  
 Guardian of virgins,  
 Pillar of families,  
 Solace of the wretched,  
 Hope of the sick,  
 Patron of the dying,  
 Terror of demons,  
 Protector of Holy Church,  
 Lamb of God, who take away  
 the sins of the world,  
*Spare us, O Lord.*  
 Lamb of God, who take away  
 the sins of the world,  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord.*  
 Lamb of God, who take away  
 the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy on us.*  
 V. He made him the lord of  
 His house:  
 R. And ruler of all His substance.  
 Let us pray.  
 O God, who in Thine  
 unspeakable providence didst  
 vouchsafe to choose blessed  
 Joseph to be the spouse of  
 Thine own most holy Mother:  
 grant, we beseech Thee, that  
 we may deserve to have him  
 for our intercessor in heaven,  
 whom we reverence as our  
 defender on earth: who lives  
 and reigns world without end.  
 Amen.

## Friends Club

### A social club for men with early stage dementia

**F**riends Club is a social program designed to enhance the lives of men living with dementia that has been serving the local Alzheimer's community since 1990.

Friends Club brings together active gentlemen in the early-to-mid-stages of dementia in a caring, safe and secure environment. The program is specially designed to meet the social and emotional needs of men who are experiencing memory loss. Friends Club is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization whose mission is to not only enhance the quality of life for men with dementia, but also to provide respite and support for their family caregivers.

The Club resembles men's organizations that a member may have belonged to earlier in life and provides a familiar, non-institutional setting. Participants gather with highly trained staff and committed peer volunteers three days a week to socialize, share common



interests and experiences and enjoy intellectual and physical activities.

Friends Club hosts meetings four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 9:30am to 1:30pm, at 6601 Bradley Boulevard in Bethesda. All interested parties must first complete a phone interview and schedule a “visit” to the club. If you or your loved one

would like to join Friends Club, please call the office at 301-469-0070 to set up a “visit” day.

For more information, visit the Club's website – [www.friendsclubbethesda.org](http://www.friendsclubbethesda.org) – and access the Spring 2019 newsletter.

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The Great Courses Library Collection features unlimited access via RBDigital, which provides a broad array of content services from a



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## Maplewood

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## J&A

Con't from page 3

in [the poor], to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them” (*The Joy of the Gospel*, p. 198).

That is one of the blessings we receive as members of the J&A Council as we try to live out our call to community through the work we do. We invite you to join us in that work.

### Upcoming J&A meetings

We welcome you to attend our next meetings which are scheduled for April 24 and May 22 at Holy Redeemer, Kensington at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Brian Dorsey at 240-888-4736.

Anthony Bosnick is a member of the J&A Council and is Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood.

OPT





## Montgomery County One of the Most Culturally Diverse

Montgomery County's rich cultural diversity is recognized by a 2019 WalletHub study, which ranked Gaithersburg as the nation's second most culturally diverse city in the U.S. Germantown is ranked as the third, Silver Spring as the fourth and Rockville ranked ninth.

WalletHub took a snapshot of America's current cultural profile, comparing more than 500 of the largest U.S. cities across three key metrics of ethnic diversity.

The U.S. today is a melting pot of cultures, thanks to increasing ethnic and racial diversification. If the trend continues, America will be

more colorful than ever by 2045, at which point no single ethnic group will constitute the majority in the U.S. for the first time.

To view the WalletHub study, go to: <https://wallethub.com/edu/cities-with-the-most-and-least-ethno-racial-and-linguistic-diversity/10264/> **OPT**

## SPEAKING JOY

Con't from page 1

The heart and soul of the IVC is a spirituality rooted in the teachings of St. Ignatius of Loyola. St. Ignatius writes, "love is shown more in deeds than in words." Ignatian spirituality embraces the world as good and embraces loving action as a source of joy.

Our source of joy is the love we find in the world when serving the poor. In our region, volunteers serve with community organizations working directly with the poor and with organizations that address the structures that effect the poor.

IVC members have a wide range of backgrounds including homemakers, doctors, teachers, nurses, law-

yers, and business and government professionals. Using skills honed in the workplace or God-given talents, IVC volunteers work with partner organizations tutoring, advancing literacy skills, providing healthcare, helping with the search for jobs and housing, and working to overcome poverty. They may also engage in advocacy, counseling, administrative tasks, fund-raising, and more.

Our partner organizations include The Spanish Catholic Center, Anchor Mental Health, TASSC International, Catholic Climate Covenant, Father McKenna Center, Africa Free and Justice Network, Lutheran Social Services, Pax Christi International Fund for Peace, Living Wages, St. Joseph's House, Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, DC Central Kitchen, and Friendship

Place to name a few.

As an IVC volunteer at Friendship Place, I work with homeless and vulnerable people in DC helping them find jobs and support resources. My volunteer days are busy, challenging, and joyous. Through drafting resumes, teaching online job searching, conducting mock interviews, I give those whom I work with hope and in return, they give me joy. What a great way to spend the day and to answer Christ's call to holiness.

Seeking joy? Consider becoming an IVC volunteer. Contact Mike Goggin, (C) 202-277-4447, [mgoggin@ivcusa.org](mailto:mgoggin@ivcusa.org). **OPT**

## St. Peter

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Con't from page 9

which included everything from Salvadoran Tamales to Greek Gyros. In addition, musicians, singers and several dance groups of all ages and cultures performed for the guests, which rounded out the evening with talent of all kinds.

"This is an exciting night," said Elizabeth Whelan, the school's principal, "I think it is good to know the world you live in and I think every person should have that exposure. It is always good to start children on the path to cultural awareness young."

"I never want my children to take for

granted that they get to be a part of such a culturally diverse and enriching environment," said event chair Megan Clark. "It was beautiful to see so many countries represented in one room without separation or barriers - we want the children to learn about their friends and celebrate together."

*"There is not one Church for Europeans, one for Africans, one for Americans, one for Asians, one for those who live in Oceania. No, she is one and the same everywhere. It is like being in a family: some of its members may be far away, scattered across the world, but the deep bonds that unite all the members of a family stay solid however great the distance."*

— Pope Francis 9.25.13

**OPT**



Honor roll students for the second quarter from the fifth grade.

## April

The Church has historically encouraged increased devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist during the month of April..

## Prayer before the Eucharist

—Blessed John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

I place myself in the presence of Him,  
in whose Incarnate Presence I am,  
before I place myself there.  
I adore Thee, O my Saviour,  
present here as God and man,  
in soul and body,  
in true flesh and blood.  
I acknowledge and confess  
that I kneel before  
that Sacred Humanity,  
which was conceived in Mary's womb  
and lay in Mary's bosom;  
which grew up to man's estate,  
and by the Sea of Galilee  
called the Twelve,  
wrought miracles, and spoke words  
of wisdom and peace;  
which in due season hung on the cross,  
lay in the tomb, rose from the dead,  
and now reigns in heaven.  
I praise, and bless,  
and give myself wholly to Him,  
Who is the true Bread of my soul,  
and my everlasting joy.

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## Does intensive blood pressure control reduce dementia?

**M**ajor NIH-funded clinical trial adds nuanced evidence linking brain and vascular health

Intensive lowering of blood pressure did not significantly reduce dementia risk but did have a measurable impact on mild cognitive impairment (MCI), according to the final, peer-reviewed results from the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) Memory and Cognition in Decreased Hypertension (SPRINT MIND). SPRINT MIND secondary results are the first to show an intervention that significantly reduces the occurrence of MCI, which is a well-established precursor of dementia. The results were reported Jan. 28, 2019 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"Dementia continues to be a large public health challenge, and based on the primary results of this study, we still have yet to find an intervention strategy proven to reduce the risk of dementia," said Richard J. Hodes, M.D., director of the National Institute on Aging (NIA). "Nevertheless, the secondary results showing that intensive lowering of blood pressure may reduce risk for MCI, a known risk factor for dementia, gives us additional avenues to explore on the path to prevention."

MCI is a condition in which people have more difficulty with



cognition, thinking, remembering, and reasoning, than normal for people their age. Dementia is a more severe form of loss in cognitive functions that interferes with daily life. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. High blood pressure, or hypertension, is very common in persons over the age of 50 and a leading risk factor for heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and a growing body of research suggests that it may increase risk for dementia later in life.

The participants in SPRINT were adults 50 years and older at high risk for cardiovascular disease. Results of the SPRINT trial, which ended early, showed that intensive blood pressure control, i.e., a sys-

tolic blood pressure target of less than 120 mmHg (<120 mmHg), compared to a standard target of less than 140 mmHg (<140 mmHg), reduced cardiovascular events and overall mortality.

SPRINT MIND aimed to address whether intensive blood pressure control would also reduce the risk of developing dementia and cognitive impairment over the ensuing five years. Cognitive assessments were given to participants who had high blood pressure but no history of stroke or diabetes at the start of the trial, and over 91 percent had at least one follow up. Participants were classified into one of three categories: no cognitive impairment, MCI, or probable dementia.

The SPRINT MIND Research

Group noted that the primary results of this analysis found no statistically significant difference between standard and intensive treatment in the proportion of participants that were diagnosed with dementia. Nevertheless, the secondary results suggested that the intensive treatment reduced the risk of MCI and the combined risk of MCI and dementia.

The authors emphasized that this is the first randomized clinical trial demonstrating that an intervention significantly reduces the occurrence of MCI, which is an established risk factor and often a precursor for dementia. An important conclusion from this research is that the intensive lowering of systolic blood pressure to <120 mmHg target—which reduces the risk of cardiovascular events and mortality—is safe for the brain.

The authors noted that there currently are no proven interventions that prevent or delay the incidence of MCI or dementia. Therefore, people should consult with their healthcare providers to decide the best blood pressure goals for themselves and to determine how to reach those goals (for example, introducing lifestyle changes such as diet and exercise; or lifestyle changes with addition of blood pressure medications).

## UNBORN

Con't from page 8

from women who traveled at least an hour to women from overseas where late abortions are outlawed, or no providers are available.

The civil right to life of the unborn resonated amongst anti-abortion activities as January was also Black History month focusing on civil rights. Fr. Giese quoted from Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches in between praying and reciting the rosary. This spiritual rhythm provided each person a time to discern what the anti-abortion vocation meant to them. The group also talked about putting their prayers into action to increase the number of prayer vigils so that Dr. Carhart and his associates know that prayer vigils invoking the civil right of the unborn will continue in Bethesda until this clinic closes and abortion is outlawed not only in the State of Maryland and the United States, but elsewhere in the world.

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## St. John the Baptist

## 100th School Day at Saint John the Baptist



Above, First graders celebrated the 100th day by dressing up at 100-year-old men and women.

At right, Kindergarteners celebrate the 100th school day by creating 100-day party hats.



## SJB Catholic Schools Week

By Merianne R. Spencer

Catholic Schools Week, which went from Sunday, January 27 through Saturday, February 2, 2019 is a week set aside to celebrate Catholic education. Catholic Schools Week is celebrated with SJB faculty, students and the school families in numerous ways.

This year, SJB focused on the theme "Learn Serve Lead Succeed". Classes throughout the week undertook various volunteering activities to support and serve the community. They made holiday cards for veterans at Walter Reed, donated gifts to Mary's House, and also prepared sandwiches for Martha's Table.



Roll Out of Bed and Read Day during Catholic Schools Week



Spirit Wear Monday during Catholic Schools Week

Also, during Catholic Schools Week students celebrated Student Appreciation Day on Monday, where they were able to wear spirit wear and had a homework-free day. The living rosary was held in the afternoon on Wednesday. On Thursday, there was a special Family

*Continued on page 34*



Second graders sing as a class for a special Family Mass during Catholic School's week

## St. Jane de Chantal

## St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild Hosts Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon

On the first Saturday of March each year, the St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild hosted its Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon. The afternoon event provided a wonderful opportunity for Sodality and guest to come together in fellowship to enjoy good company, stylish outfits, delectable cuisine and fantastic prizes, while at the same time supporting a worthy cause. Attendees found the new array of fashions and accessories from the neighborhood shop, Irresistibles, to be especially fresh and exciting as they were modeled by the Guild's own charming Sodality members. Preparation for this event took months of hard work and planning by the Fashion Show Committee, this year headed by Co-Chairs Tracy McCabe and Karen Salah. The Guild was very



Sodality members and their guests enjoyed a delicious sit-down luncheon and fashion show, which helps to support Sodality projects while strengthening the sense of Parish community.

grateful to its many community partners who have donated goods and services for this year's Fashion Show and have advertised in the event's program. Proceeds from

this and other Sodality events allow the Guild to undertake its charitable projects to help the Parish and the less fortunate in our community.

OPT



Sodality models join together on stage at the conclusion of the fashion show to give the audience a last look at the special spring fashion selections.

## DAR Honors Two St. Jane de Chantal Students with High Awards

Contribution by Mary Russell

St. Jane de Chantal School students, Joanna Pagedas and Michael Blackstone, were honored as the 8th and 7th grade essay winners, respectively, by the Goshen Mills Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Annual American History Essay Contest. Soon after, they learned their essays also went on to win highest state honors. The Chapter's American History Chairman, Karma Beal, was notified that an independent panel of judges in the Maryland DAR's state-wide American History Essay Contest has named both Joanna and Michael as the state's first place winners for their grade levels. Chapter members were especially thrilled, since Joanna was the Maryland DAR's

*Continued on page 34*



Photo by Mary Russell

Two St. Jane de Chantal School students, Michael Blackstone and Joanna Pagedas, were honored by the Goshen Mills Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for their winning essays in the DAR's annual American History Essay contest. Surrounding the students (left to right) were Maryland State Regent Maureen Tipton, American History Chairman Karma Beal, teacher Colleen Kish, and Goshen Mills Chapter Regent Francie Whitlock.





Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

St. Martin's students and teachers enjoy treats on Valentine's Day, above.



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

A seventh grader portrays Sojourner Truth during a wax museum presentation in celebration of Black History Month.



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

Father David Wells reads a story to third-grade class during the school's celebration of Dr. Seuss.

## March for Life Youth Rally

By Sunkarie Sumura, Eighth Grader

I participated in the March for Life Youth Rally this year on January 18, 2019 with my eighth-grade class. This was my first year participating and I hope to attend more because I loved it. It was really an eye-opening experience and I felt like I was part of this huge welcoming family that stood up for what is right.

Attending the Youth Rally, I now have a better understanding of what

abortion is. Some people may commit abortion because they feel like they aren't ready for a child yet and some people may feel scared or pressured to do it. In my opinion, a child is a blessing and a gift from God, and no matter what stage it is in, it is a human life, and everybody should respect that. I also learned that some people who have committed abortion feel guilty about it and regret their decisions. As Catholics, we should not judge them but comfort them when they need it because God would do the same for us.

My favorite part of the service was when a couple shared an amazing story about their family. They were interesting to listen to and shared that they went through a very rough time with their child. Their child was born early and was very sick for a long time and the doctors were not sure the baby would survive. It was inspiring and uplifting to see how their faith carried them through and how they never lost hope. I also liked when an amazing school choir sang for a huge crowd, their voices were really empowering and angelic.

OPT

## St. Martin's Young Adult Attends World Youth Day

By Emily Moldiz

For a busy college student like Josh Bastian, World Youth Day was not in the budget and having the time to fundraise was not realistic. But thanks to a group from the Neocatechumenal Way, Bastian was given a ticket to the 34th World Youth Day in Panama.

"God was really calling me on this trip," said Bastian who is a young adult parishioner at St. Martin of Tours.

January 24- 30, Bastian traveled with a group of young men from different parishes along with Father Jonathan Vanegas also from St. Martins. Besides Father Jonathan, Bastian said he did not know anyone. That quickly changed as the group spent six days together on this pilgrimage to Panama.

"The whole country was so welcoming to us," said Bastian, "They were waiting for us."

The theme for World Youth Day, 2019 was, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38). Bastian said the whole theme was a vocational theme. It was about saying yes to God and discerning His will. On the first day of the trip Bastian said he listened to several teens and young



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

Josh Bastian and his travelling companions at World Youth Day in Panama.

adults share their testimonies and their "yes" to God.

The second day was the pilgrimage to the Vigil Site where they would have the Evening Vigil with the Holy Father. Bastian remembered the walk being extremely hot.

"The people in the houses along the way were waving to you and spraying water on you," said Bastian.

That whole afternoon there was music, dancing, prayer and opportunities to receive reconciliation. One of the most memorable moments for Bastian was adoration. In honor of the theme, the monstration was shaped like the

Blessed Mother presenting the Eucharist to the world.

One thing that Bastian did not expect on the trip was the sleepless nights on the field.

"We slept straight up on the ground. Luckily someone had a tarp," said Bastian. "And there were so many spiders."

Sunday morning the pilgrims celebrated the Papal Mass with the Holy Father, which ended the 2019 World Youth Day. Seeing all the people from all over the world made Bastian feel a part of a bigger family. He said he was proud to be Catholic.

"Everyone is here out of love and unity," said Bastian.

OPT

## St. Raphael

### Making a Difference in the World

This year's Career Day welcomed a talented cast of SRS parent volunteers who presented their working world experiences to grades 4-8.

The students glimpsed into the days of an IT project manager who helps bring about advances in drug treatments with the help of information technologies and of a pediatric anesthesiologist who demonstrated that some of his patients are no bigger than the palms of his hands. They learned what it is like to be a dentist working in family practice and to be the head of government affairs for a large corporation.

Seeing many students wearing St. Raphael School "choose kind" T-shirts, a firefighter shared that he decides to live by this motto every day. While the jobs and industries represented at Career Day were diverse, one quality that all the professionals had in common was their desire to help others. SRS was fortunate to have the parents share their passions with our students, who saw how helping others through various career paths can make a difference in the world.

OPT

### Seeking SRNS Alumni for a Golden Celebration

Plans are well underway to mark the 50th anniversary of St. Raphael Nursery School with a special celebration set for the evening of June 1. Founded in 1969, SRNS has touched thousands of families, and the planning committee is eager to hear from those who attended or worked at SRNS, as well as parents of alumni. Organizers would appreciate help in spreading the word that SRNS is collecting photos, stories, and memorabilia from the past 50 years. Details can be found on the anniversary webpage at [www.bit.ly/SRNS50years](http://www.bit.ly/SRNS50years).

OPT



Did you attend St. Raphael Nursery School? The planning committee is seeking gems like this image for the SRNS 50th anniversary celebration.

### Marching Forward

Visit our website at [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) for more information about our upcoming events.

- March 16: SpringFest community fellowship, fundraiser and fourth annual cornhole tournament. Don't miss online auctioning March 11-20!
- March 22: Middle School Science Fair
- April 5-6: School Musical "Seussical!"
- April 17: Third Grade Artists Tea presents original poetry and artwork.
- April 10: Girls' Night Out invites everyone for a night of shopping and socialization. Bring a friend!

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#### St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. David Wells,  
Parish Administrator  
301-990-3203

St. Martin School  
Stephen Lamont, Principal  
301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey,  
Parish Editor  
240-477-8706  
[www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)



# Remembering SJN's 40th Anniversary Jubilee Year

**O**n February 3, as Bishop Michael Fisher celebrated the closing Mass of the 40th anniversary of our parish, our Pastor, Father Kevin Regan, reflected on the many activities that contributed to the joy of our year-long celebration:

"The year opened up with a Mass of Dedication of the Altar and the placing of the Relics of Saint John Neumann and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Our sanctuary was updated and beautified with the installation of new hand-crafted, solid red oak pews and altar furnishings with matching oak panels that were installed and blessed. Prior to dedication of the altar, we welcomed the Blessed Virgin Mary International Pilgrim Statue for an all-night vigil.

In the fall, a bus load of parishioners traveled on pilgrimage to the National Shrines of Saint John Neumann and Saint Rita of Cascia. A number of parishioners also participated in the Third International Eucharistic Congress of the Pierced Hearts in Florida during the summer. And we saw growth in our Rites of Christian Initiation enrollment with 30 adults (22 taught in Spanish), 30 children and 20 teens.

Social and Community events abounded with the Winter Formal, Rummage Sale, Parish Picnic on Pentecost, the Taste of Saint John Neumann and Oktoberfest.

New devotional and cultural celebrations, especially in our Spanish ministry showed the diversity of our parish with the Salvadorian Divino Salvador del Mundo, the Peruvian Nuestro Señor de Los Milagros, and the Mexican and American Our Lady of Guadalupe, among other seasonal events.

In August, I was installed as



your seventh pastor by Bishop Michael Fisher, your third pastor. While scandals rocked the Church in America, the Church in Washington was particularly hurt. We cannot ignore this event in our jubilee year. In fact, it is a call to action and a reminder of the call to holiness and fidelity that all must live – every cardinal, bishop, priest, deacon, lay-person, mother, father, child! Our family has been hurt by these grave sins and reparations and renewal must continue. We pray for a deeper faith in Christ in the Eucharist who promised to never abandon us and trust to be rebuilt in our leaders.

While our 41st year as a parish will not be one of official jubilee, it will be one of reparation and renewal in our lives. This past year was centered on the sacraments, our growth in faith and building up our family. Every year as a parish is meant to be this. Sticking to these basics will make every year one of favor and of grace!"

OPT



The Traveling International Statue of Fatima visited SJN for the beginning of the Jubilee Year celebration.



During October SJN celebrated El Señor de los Milagros, the patron Saint of Peru, as parishioners dressed in purple and processed with commemorative art.



PIÑATAS—A favorite of the children at the SJN Parish Picnic.



Parishioners went on pilgrimage to visit Saint John Neumann at his shrine in Philadelphia.



Men in lederhosen was the dress-code of the day at this year's Oktoberfest.



Father Sweeney shared the wisdom of the Irish with the parish during the SJN annual St. Patrick's Dinner.



Priests and Deacons at the altar for the installation of Father Kevin Regan as SJN's seventh Pastor.

## ACTION

Con't from page 20

travel to Poland to visit Auschwitz and to Israel with ADL as part of Catholic delegations seeking to learn more deeply about anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and the long history of Catholics and Jews living side-by-side.

This longtime outreach of the ADL to Catholic educators as well as secular educators has resulted in a comprehensive anti-bias and anti-discrimination program called No Place for Hate. A team of interested faculty, administrators, students, parents, and community members formed a No Place for Hate committee in 2018 and spent this past fall receiving training from the ADL and developing a project



The SFIS three-year-olds sing about Dr. King.

to start to give the entire SFIS community the words to be able to describe what hate, bias, and prejudice are.

On January 18, as a bridge between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Catholic Schools Week, the No Place for Hate committee, with members ranging from third to eighth grade, held a teach-in that included student-led lessons and presentation introducing core vocabulary to be able to talk about hatred. The day ended with a whole-school assembly that included students signing a large banner with



A SFIS student signs the No Place for Hate pledge.

the words of the No Place for Hate pledge and the children of Pre-K 3 singing about Dr. King.

The No Place for Hate committee will continue with training and they will have additional major events over the next two school years to make sure that they have a strong understanding of what hate is, but also so that students also acquire real skills and techniques for reducing bias and prejudices in themselves and their classrooms and in the wider world.

Members of the wider community are invited to experience the SFIS commitment to peacemaking and fighting hatred at our summer Peace Camp. Saint Francis Summer Academy offers an academic and experiential program from July 2 to 26 and Peace Camp from July 29 to August 2. All are welcome!

OPT

## Expanding Our Home: Encounter, Communion, Mission

**W**e closed out our 40th year as a parish last month looking forward to needed expansion

of our facilities. Our mission is to build a place of encounter with Christ that leads to communion with Him and His people at Mass, from which we are sent into the world on mission, strengthened by the Sacraments, prayer, fellowship and sound catechesis.

We are engaging in a three-fold building program: NEW Multi-use gathering Space and new Church Entrance will offer Sunday and weekday moments of Encounter. NEW Adoration Chapel will offer larger space for adorers to spend time with the Lord; and NEW Religious Formation Offices and conference room will strengthen the mission of forming intentional disciples.

How do you get involved? Since the beginning of our Capital Campaign project, we have raised over \$2,000,000. We now need your

help to surpass our fundraising goal of an additional \$750,000 in the next 18 months. If you've completed payment of your original pledge, continue with support of your monthly payment for the next 18 months. If you made a pledge not yet fulfilled, you have another 18 months to complete your pledge; and if you have not yet participated by making a pledge to this Capital Campaign, your contribution over the next 18 months would put us over the top.

Prayerfully consider your involvement and contact Rebecca Tuban for assistance: 301-977-5492.

OPT

**St. John Neumann Parish**  
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Gaithersburg, MD 20882

**Fr. Kevin Regan**  
Pastor  
**Rus Wester**  
OPT Editor





Funeral guests enjoying a luncheon and fellowship at St. Mary's Pavilion.

## Funeral Luncheon Ministry at St. Mary's Barnesville

One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to bury the Dead. After the burial of their loved one, families need time to share their grief. Our Lady of Fatima Sodality provides that time by offering parishioners a funeral luncheon where friends and family gather together to share and meal and time together. The luncheon is one less thing that the family must worry about.

Our team of ladies gets a sense of purpose out of this ministry, a sharing of the family's grief and feeding the hungry. There is no charge for the luncheon, but contributions received are donated back to the community through the Sodality and church programs such as the scholarship to graduating seniors and the Haiti Twinning Ministry.

OPT



Christine Drescher and Bonnie Bowei preparing to greet and serve the guests.

Girl Scouts show off a project for The Family of God medal.



## Girl Scout Medals

Girl Scouts of all ages can enrich their faith through the Religious Medal Program. There is an age-appropriate medal for Girl Scouts in kindergarten

through high school.

At St. Mary's we offer the medal programs twice a year, in the Fall and again in the Spring. This spring we have three girls earning The Family of God medal for second and third graders, two girls earning the I Live My Faith medal for fourth and fifth graders, and six girls earning the Mary, the First Disciple medal for seventh through ninth grade Scouts.

We thank the Knights of Columbus Council 6901 for the purchase of the Medal Books.

OPT

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## Sponsor now and save the date for St. Mary's Haiti Festival

St. Mary's 11th annual Haiti Festival will be held on April 27, 2019 at St. Mary's Father Reid Pavilion in Barnesville. All funds raised will benefit the Haiti church building project, health services, and education in Carcasse, Haiti.

The Festival will begin at 6:00 pm to the bluegrass tunes of Sweet Yonder: "Guts. Glory. Soul. Sweet Yonder is a fired-up, all-women, bluegrass band – think Steel Drivers meets the Carter Family. They deliver a soulful punch in every performance with straight up instrumental attitude and truly inspiring



Sweet Yonder Bluegrass Band; shows bluegrass band that will be playing at the Haiti Festival

vocal harmonies. The driving mix of banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, and bass combined with powerful vocals makes this a show you don't want to miss."

The festival features live music,

raffles, silent auction, delicious dinner and an evening of fun and fellowship. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Schedule too busy to attend? We invite you to consider sponsoring the event or simply making a donation.

All Sponsors will be acknowledged in the Festival Program.

Diamond Sponsor	\$500.00 +
Platinum Sponsor	\$500.00
Gold Sponsor	\$300.00
Silver Sponsor	\$100.00
Bronze Sponsor	\$50.00

Please make checks payable to "St Mary's" with "Haiti" on the memo line or visit our GoFundMe Site at [www.gofundme.com/carcasse-haiti-church-rebuild-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/carcasse-haiti-church-rebuild-fund).

OPT



Rendering of the new church; shows a rendering of the new church to be built in Carcasse Haiti

## St. Mary's rebuilding St. Joseph's Church in Carcasse, Haiti

What would you do if you had no place to worship, no sanctuary to feel close to your God? Would the God given environment in which you live fulfill your spiritual needs? One can certainly feel close to Jesus in the sanctity of one's own mind, regardless of where our physical body is located, but is a one on one relationship sufficient?

Communities all over the world face this dilemma when natural or man-made disasters occur. Tsunamis, earthquakes, and hurricanes have been known to destroy communities, while wars leave entire countries in ruins.

For most of us, the problems of the world or even that of a single country are too vast to comprehend, much less address. How do we answer that tug of conscience that compares our relative good fortune to the disasters befalling people near and far? Jesus did not cure all the ills of his time; he only cured some leaving others wanting. The lesson might be, don't let the magnitude of a disaster paralyze you from doing what you can. Bill Gates works on a worldwide stage while people of more modest means work in soup kitchens. There are avenues, within



Bishop Decoste blesses the new church site



Grading site for new church

in 2014. The new church is located farther from the sea and engineered to withstand winds of 200 mph. It will allow St. Joseph's parishioners to once again worship in community, within a church and have a place of refuge when future storms strike. The steel skeleton of the new church is being manufactured in Winchester, Va., with the first of two sea containers having successfully reached Carcasse. The site for the new church has been graded, and construction of phase 1 will soon begin.

On a continual basis, St. Mary's pays teacher salaries and school upkeep in the primary/ secondary school. We also provide medical care through a yearly medical mission and a year-round medical clinic.

St. Mary's 11th annual Haiti Festival will begin at 6:00 PM on April 27, 2019 with all proceeds going toward the new church, health care, and education in the town of Carcasse, Haiti. See related article for details on sponsorship, donations, and attendance.

our unique capabilities, that we can use to help those in need.

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Barnesville is raising funds to rebuild St. Joseph's Church, in Carcasse, Haiti which was destroyed by Hurricane Matthew

OPT



# Is There a Doctor in the House?

By Michelle Ardillo, SJRCS middle school language arts teacher

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, Glenn Benjamin, principal of St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCS), successfully defended his dissertation for his EdD in Interdisciplinary Leadership at Creighton University. His dissertation, entitled *An Examination of the Behaviors and Strategies of Resurgent Parish Elementary Schools*, researches and studies the various models for leadership of a K-8 Catholic school and evaluates the pros and cons of each. The dissertation's topic is an important one given the ongoing decline in Catholic school enrollment across the country.

Upon his return, the school community surprised him after the all-school Mass on Friday, Feb. 8, with a presentation by Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, assistant principal. Dr. Benjamin was given a new name plaque for his door, and a banner

was unfurled congratulating him on his achievement. Students waved little flags bearing a miniature graduation tam and tassel.

Dr. Benjamin began his career at SJRCS at the start of the 2011 school year. Mary Ellen Jordan, who had been the long-time principal and teacher prior to that, had recently retired for health reasons, and Dr. Benjamin was chosen after an extensive search for a new school leader. At that time, SJRCS was struggling with dropping enrollment, soon becoming a single-track school with only one class per grade. In the intervening eight years, Dr. Benjamin has restored SJRCS to a vibrant, thriving, faith-filled school community, with enrollment that continues to grow each year, including wait lists for some grades for the 2019-2020 school year. He has fostered strong relationships with the pastors and communities of the regional parishes that support SJRCS, and more importantly, has hired and mentored

a team of educational professionals who enjoy the benefits of being part of a faculty and staff with high morale and complete support from the leadership of both the principal and the pastor, Rev. Paul D. Lee.

Dr. Benjamin attended Catholic schools for most of his academic life, beginning with St. Elizabeth's for grades 2-6 and going on to graduate from St. John's Catholic High School. He completed undergraduate studies at The Catholic University of America, finishing with a BA in Education Studies in 2002. He went on to obtain a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Johns Hopkins University in 2007. 2019 will be a year of major educational success for him as he obtains from Creighton University his Educational Doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership as well as a Master of Science in LaSallian Leadership from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

Before becoming principal



Dr. Glenn Benjamin, principal of St. Jude Regional Catholic School, in maroon blazer in center of photo, is surrounded by his family, school staff, Pastor Fr. Lee, and school students after earning his EdD degree last month.

of SJRCS, Dr. Benjamin's teaching experience included Bishop McNamara 2002, Holy Redeemer Kensington 2002-2004, San Miguel Middle School 2004-2006, and St. John's College High School 2006-2011. Dr. Benjamin and his wife Kimberly have two daughters, both students at SJRCS: Kelsey in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and Madison in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

The Shrine of St. Jude parish and SJRCS communities are so very proud of Dr. Benjamin's accomplishment of obtaining an Ed.D. while being such a driving force in making SJRCS a successful preK-8 school with excellent academics, a healthy enrollment, and a strong Catholic identity.

OPT

## St. Jude Youth Group Attends Mount2000

Twenty members of the St. Jude Youth Group participated in Mount2000, a weekend retreat at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, organized by seminarians.

From February 8-10, the group joined nearly 900 other participants from youth groups representative of many states and dioceses, including Arlington, Baltimore, Wilmington, and Connecticut.

The retreat theme, 'Ad Fontem,' which is Latin for Back to the Source, focused on the Eucharist, and helped teens discover how the Eucharist nourishes the theological virtues of faith, hope,

and charity. The theme was unpacked via dynamic speakers, Lectio Divina, small group discussion, and an intimate Eucharistic Procession.

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Photo by Elizabeth N.C.C.

St. Jude Youth Group showing some love at their Valentine Dinner and Dance.

## St. Jude Youth Group's Sixth Annual Valentine's Dinner & Dance

By Xiommy Esteban, SJ Youth Group, volunteer coordinator

On Saturday Feb. 16, the St. Jude Youth Group hosted its sixth annual Valentine's Dinner & Dance. The event has served as the youth ministry's biggest fundraiser, with proceeds supporting the ministry's various activities, including service trips and retreats. Over the years, it has become a highly anticipated night of fun for parish families and the community.

The evening, attended by approximately 300 guests, was made possible by many parish volunteers, including the Hispanic Ministry's

social committee and dedicated coordinators Fredes Pham, Pedro Esteban, and Andrea Vargas. Youth group members helped set-up, decorate, and serve throughout the dinner. The evening consisted of fellowship, a delicious dinner prepared in house, dancing, a raffle, and a brief presentation of pictures sharing youth ministry activities thus far. *DJ Rumba* (Raul Marin) played a variety of music from disco and oldies to Latin rhythms, which kept the dance floor crowded all night.

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. The youth group, led by Fr. Gabriel and several young adult volunteers, meets every Friday from 7-9pm. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, the ministry has continued to grow spiritually and in number. Weekly events have included catechesis talks, Adoration, Lectio Divina, game nights, movie nights, and much more. To join St. Jude Youth Group and find out about upcoming events, email Fr. Gabriel at angel.fermin@stjuderockville.org.

OPT

## Grab Your Passport and See the World!

By Michelle Ardillo, middle school language arts teacher

Now in its fourth year, the annual International Festival at St. Jude Regional Catholic School was held on Friday, Feb. 1. Organized by fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Katharine Balog, the festival was the culmination of each grade's study of one country throughout the school year. The study of each country became a cross-curriculum adventure as the countries are covered in the content area of many subjects. With such a vibrant and thriving international community, the families of the school and parish celebrated the school's



Kindergarten students (left to right) Ariana Ciudad-Real, Max Palank, and Christina Bonilla are keeping it cool while waiting to perform the US Presidents and the Fifty Nifty United States song during International Day at St. Jude.

lively entertainment. This year, 30 countries were featured, with booths set up in the Thaddeus Room and its lobby.

The morning-long celebration began with school Mass where the prayers of the faithful were read in many of the native languages represented within the student body. Students carried their "passports" as they traveled from booth to booth, experiencing the culture, cuisine, and customs of each country. The festival ended with each grade performing a song, under the supervision of Mrs. Amy White, SJRCS's music teacher, with some students performing solo acts as well.

OPT

diversity with beautiful decorations, native dress, exotic cuisine, and

performing solo acts as well.

### Shrine of St. Jude Parish

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More Shrine of St. Jude News on Page 35





L to R: David Belli, Mike Furey, John Willging (not pictured, Finance Council member Phoebe Dixon)

## Finance Council Townhall

By Mike Furey, Finance Council member

Christ the King held its first Finance Council meeting, with three of its sitting four members, for parishioners on Sunday January 20, 2019 after the 10:30am Mass. Two financial statements had been distributed in the parish bulletin and were available

at the meeting in more detail to be discussed. The first was for the parish year ending on June 30, 2018; the second was for the first six months of the current year. These statements were of much greater detail than those yearend statements normally included in the parish bulletin. The meeting itself was held in the Colonial Room, sharing the space with the established adult prayer group occupying most of the room, and limiting the amount of discussion, for the Council and parishioners. The small group of parishioners who attended was very interested in the numbers. Next year the Council plans to try to fix and publicize a firm date for the meeting well in advance with the use of a room more conducive to questions and discussion.

OPT

### Christ the King

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

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## The “T” Word

By Katie Holland, parish editor

Finance guru Ric Edelman once explained that the first 10% of his income never belonged to him, always to God (Leviticus 27: 30). Yes, the “T” word, something Catholics never say, breathe, or, for that matter, understand: the tithe.

Tithing is indeed a sacrifice. It is hard to start; but once started, it becomes something done without a thought. Second Corinthians 8:12 guides us to “give according to what you have, not what you don’t have.” To make that commitment, do it blindly, as Edelman recommends, but within your means, as Scripture tells us.

Other countries enforce a tax on their citizens for the church, then distribute the tax to the appropriate church bodies as support. This is not done in the United States. In some very poor areas in both the US and in other countries, individual churches are supported by larger ones, as a Mission. This becomes a difficult concept to grasp for those who arrive in this country, or from poor areas, that

the parish is theirs to support.

Another concept to overcome, for some, is “Oh, but I have been in this parish for decades; I have given enough.” Jesus spoke (Mark 12:43-44) of the widow’s mite, “given everything she had to live on.” and also addressed the people, “the crowds and his disciples”, the need to do both works of prayer and of mercy, as well as the tithe, together, not one supplanting the other (Matthew 23:23). Visits to the homebound and sick, then, are vital, but so is keeping the electricity on at Church, especially during the winter months.

This is the time of year people assemble all of their papers to prepare tax returns. This is also when the first of the year calculation of any adjustment to a nontaxable “income” or pension arrives to show what that monthly payment will be for the coming year. All of the papers showing gross (before deductions) income are at hand. Totalling them, then multiplying by .10 (10%) will give an annual tithe amount. Dividing that calculation by 52

(the number of Sundays in a calendar year) will give a rough idea what a tithe each week would be. For example, a \$50,000 annual income, would result in a \$5,000 annual gift to the Church with a weekly contribution being \$96-97. If annual income is half that at \$25,000 the weekly amount would be \$48, and so on.

We are in Lent. It might be a good time to attempt a tithe commitment. Start small, if you must. If you are one of the “I have given enough already”, toss in a fiver this Sunday. If you think it will stick to your hand and not be released, put it in an envelope ahead of time, use a return address label that all of those charities send (without hope of getting any donation) and write the word “GIFT” on the outside. By the next Sunday, you may be able to give \$10, and by the end of Lent, approaching Holy Week, coming into Easter, who knows? You may have been able to calculate that which is God’s, the 10% of your gross pre-deduction income, your tithe.

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## Christ the King Lenten Mass Schedule

Christ the King will discontinue daily Masses on Thursdays beginning with the Lenten season; this will be the same for the earlier discontinuance of a daily Saturday Mass. It will reinstitute the daily Mass on Mondays, though.

So, to clarify, daily Mass at Christ the King will be Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays. Saturday anticipatory and Sunday Masses remain the same, that is, Saturday 4pm in English, 5:30pm in Spanish; Sundays 8:30 and 10:30am Masses in English, 12:30pm in Spanish, with a 1st Sunday of each month 4pm Mass in Tagalog.

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## St. Bartholomew

## Vocations Tree

Please choose a seminarian and pray for him each day during Lent.

Each year parishes from the Archdiocese of Washington plant a “Vocations Tree”. This year at least 68 parishes are participating. The trees come in different sizes and shapes and may not even look like a tree, but they are budding with prayer cards, some in English y algunos en Español, each with the name, and a short story of a current seminarian. Some of these men are just starting their journey, some are a few years down the road, and some, who are now Deacons, will be ordained Priests later this spring. But all will someday become our priests. And they all need our support.

This is where the “Vocations Tree” comes in. As supporters of our seminarians we are asked to pick a prayer card and adopt a seminarian, (or two!), for Lent. That is, to remember and to pray for your

seminarian each day during Lent. And oh by-the-way, this practice can continue beyond Lent. Also, for anyone interested, please visit: <https://dcpriest.org/faq-for-promoters-of-the-priesthood>

OPT



## DAR

Con’t from page 29

6th grade winner in 2017, and Michael was the 6th grade winner last year. They will both be honored at an awards luncheon on March 23rd 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 5 – 8. It is designed to encourage the knowledge and appreciation of our nation’s history. This year’s assigned topic was “The Women’s Suffrage Campaign”. Students were challenged to write their essays imagining they were living in 1919 while the women’s suffrage campaigns were having an effect on Americans politically and socially. Joanna’s essay took the form of a woman’s 1919 letter to

a friend describing her inspiration to become a suffragette and the experiences that followed. Michael wrote from the point of view of a Baltimore woman who joined activist groups to work on behalf of women’s suffrage and her excitement at being able to vote for the first time. Ninety-seven St. Jane de Chantal School students entered the contest this year, and their essays were evaluated by a 3-judge panel, including a retired American history teacher.

OPT

## SJB CSW

Con’t from page 29

Mass followed by a special Family Hot lunch in the gymnasium. On Friday, students had “Roll Out of Bed and Read Day” where they could attend school in their pajamas and gather to watch the annual Basketball Free-Throw contest in the gymnasium. Traditionally, Open House, where the parents can visit their kids’ classrooms, and Kids Bingo Night also coincide with Catholic School Week at SJB; however, both were postponed because of inclement weather that week.

During the Thursday Special Mass, which was presided by Father David Brault, second graders served as leaders during the service, as readers, ushers, altar servers or leaders of song. At the conclusion of the special Mass, the second graders sang a group song, singing of peace in the kingdom, words, smiles, and love in our hearts.

OPT

# TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE

See page 2  
for details.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE



## A Reflection on World Youth Day 2019

By Juan Xavier Sian

Traveling to Panama for my fifth World Youth Day pilgrimage gave me the opportunity to reflect on my life and strengthen my faith. Twenty-five youth and catechists from St. Michael the Archangel Parish traveled to Panama for World Youth Day. We had an opportunity to be an audience to Pope Francis, camp out at the overnight vigil, listen to the experiences and testimonies of religious sisters and other pilgrims, and participate in the closing Mass the following morning.

The Pope's homily asked the more than 700,000 youth gathered at Campo San Juan Pablo II-Metro Park in Panama City to reflect on our mission in life and for whom we are living. In his words, "the Lord and his mission are not a 'meantime' in our life, something temporary; they are our life!" Pope Francis' homily included a call to holiness, recalling the story of Mother Mary saying "yes" to the Angel Gabriel. His message not to be anxious or



Above and below left, youth gathered at Campo San Juan Pablo II-Metro Park in Panama City for the overnight vigil and Mass with Pope Francis.

afraid of God's will in my life, even if it leads me out of my comfort zone, personally resonated with me. I was reminded to have courage to trust in His plans for my future as I transition into adulthood. The homily also included an inspiring reminder that young people today "are not the future, but the now of God".

During this pilgrimage, the Panamanian people's love for Christ was manifested through their warm hospitality. Pilgrims

were hosted by families who provided food and shelter and were treated like family despite cultural and language barriers. As we made the long trek in the 90+ degree heat to and from Campo San Juan Pablo II-Metro Park for the meeting with the Pope, families opened their doors and provided water, snacks, and fruits to help replenish our energy. God truly showed us an example of the joy of service through the generosity of the people.

Through daily prayer and catechesis, we were reminded of the love and mercy that God has for us. We walked the Old Town of Panama City and visited the *Catedral Basílica Santa María la Antigua de Panamá*, also known as Sacred Heart Cathedral. We asked God for special grace and prayed for our family, friends back home, the Knights of Columbus and the parishioners who made this pilgrimage possible through their generous donations. Although this pilgrimage was much shorter than others, I enjoyed the prayer, fellowship, service, and encounter with the love of Jesus Christ.

OPT

## St. Michael's Nurtures Adult Faith

By John Webster

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Ministry at St. Michael's Parish is creating a new adult faith community intended to help those who are newly initiated into the Catholic Faith with ongoing catechesis and formation. Through scripture, prayer, tradition, and the sharing of testimonies, this community will help to nurture the faith of all who

seek to grow in their personal relationship with Christ or have questions about the Catholic Faith.

The first meeting of the adult faith community will be on Wednesday, March 20, at 7PM in the St. Michael's Rectory Conference Room. All confirmed Catholics are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information about this new community, please email smacc.AFG@gmail.com.

OPT



Members of the Marriage Ministry gather at the Marriage Enrichment event

## Marriage Enrichment at St. Michael's

By John Webster

In January, the Marriage & Family Life Ministry at St. Michael's Parish hosted a Marriage Enrichment Series featuring lectures by Rebecca Mullan, MS, LCPC. Topics covered included Gender Differences, Communication, Marital Sexuality & Intimacy, and Habits of Highly Successful Couples.

The series was attended by 40 couples from St. Michael's, St. Andrew's, St. Catherine Laboure's, Our Lady of Lourdes', and St. Anthony's parishes. The attendees found the concepts and ideas covered in the lectures to be extremely

valuable and helpful to their marriages. This event was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Family Life.

St. Michael's Marriage Ministry is committed to offering impactful programs that nurture faith in marriages and families.

The Ministry is planning a series of Prayer Breakfast Meetings for married couples, men, women, and those who are single, divorced, separated, or widowed. The Ministry also plans to offer a workshop on coping with the effects of addiction on the family later this year. For more information on Marriage Ministry programs, please email smacc.marriage@gmail.com.

OPT

## Shrine of St. Jude

## St. Jude Parish Council Kicks Off Reflection Period



On Feb. 2, the Shrine of St. Jude Parish Council hosted Father Frank DeSiano, who spoke from his book, "Catholic Discipleship: Spiritual Exercises and Reflections." The talk was the inaugural event of a six-month parish reflection.

This reflection was inspired by a Parish Council retreat, where they conducted a parish self-assessment. Based on the results of the assessment, the council is hosting monthly reflections to gather input from the wider parish, where they will identify areas of strength and growth. Titled the Catholic Discipleship at St. Jude series, the council will facilitate the assessment in the areas of education, administration, service, community, and worship.

Be sure to check the Shrine of St. Jude website for other programs in this series.

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Fr. Frank DeSiano speaks to parishioners as part of the St. Jude Parish Council's monthly reflection program.

## Reflection on RCIA

By Nicole Calaro

I was sitting in a room with catechumens, candidates, and catechists when the question was raised, "How do you know when God is talking to you?" It's a question that's been raised over the course of several RCIA classes and likely many times over the course of our lives. Even when the question is answered, it never feels enough. Even when we've discovered how God has talked to us in the past, when we're in the middle of our suffering, we're still trying to learn how to hear God speak.

This is the responsibility we have as RCIA coordinators. We are tasked with showing our brothers and sisters not how they can find God, but how they can recognize how present God is in their lives.

St. Michael's current class of catechumens and candidates are

very eager to learn about God and our Catholic faith. Their questions, stories, and struggles constantly inspire me and increase my faith because I can see God moving in their lives. I am so excited to participate in their preparation for the Rites of Sending and Election and pray that these experiences help them see God more fully in their lives.

OPT

### St. Michael's Parish

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Photo by Lisa Peacock

Resurrection Women's Ministry enjoyed their day at the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City.

## New Women's Ministry formed at Church of the Resurrection

By Susan Ahearn

The newly created Resurrection Women's Ministry made its first Faith & Food Field Trip on February 23rd to visit the Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City. The Resurrection Women's Ministry was formed in January when an estimated 50 women from the parish attended a Women's Mass and Social. The Mass was offered by Father Brailsford and the social took place in the Parish Life Center afterwards.

Sabine Paul, one of the organizers of the event, said the main goal was to get women from Resurrection to connect. "We come to Mass and I feel like we just leave," said Paul, "and don't really make any connections while we're here. But the idea is really for us to come together and just figure out how we can support one another in our spiritual journey."

Several other women helped to organize the inaugural meeting of the Resurrection Women's Ministry, including Lisa Peacock, Kelly Maltagliati and Kathy Ford. According to Paul, the Resurrection Women's Ministry hopes to encourage women to take part in some of the existing programs in the parish. "The more we can encourage women to participate in the activities we already have that are organized for the parish, the better," said Paul. She also emphasized that the Resurrection Women's Ministry is open to new ideas from female parishioners. "We each have ideas, but we're looking for other women to give us their ideas," explained Paul. Women who attended the event were asked to fill out cards indicating their areas of interest, and the main areas women identified included Mass, reflection, fellowship and field trips.

OPT

## Faith-Filled Youth Activities for Lent

By Ana María P. de Jesus EPS DC 15

On March 6, Ash Wednesday, began a new journey of faith for the students of our Religious Education Program (REP) in the parish. As in the past year, the youth participation in the parish activities essentially reflects the careful preparation involved in the planning of the events, the devotion of the parents/guardians in encouraging their kids to join the activities, and the cautious balancing of the type of age-appropriate activities. This year's Lent events continue to follow the theme: "Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ" and offer so many faith-filled opportunities for the parish youth to be a witness for Jesus Christ.

To alert the families of the different schedules of the parish youth activities, a Lenten package

was sent to the classes in the REP for each student to take home. The package contains a wealth of resources with a letter of invitation from Helene Stever, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, suggesting the different ways the family can join in the spiritual exercises of the parish during the Lenten period.

Among the interesting Lenten activities planned this year is the Youth-Led Lenten Stations of the Cross. A call for youths from grades six to twelve was released to invite the would-be participants to a rehearsal. In this unique live-reenactment of the way to Calvary as projected in each station-of-the-cross, a script is followed to bring to life the steps of the suffering Redeemer. Several dates are marked to schedule these activities: Friday, March 15 (at the church); Friday, April 12 (at

the church); and Tuesday of Holy Week, April 16 (at Riderwood Chapel). Those interested in participating are kindly requested to get in touch with Helene Stever via e-mail [hstever@resurrection-adw.org](mailto:hstever@resurrection-adw.org) or at (301) 288-4664 or (301) 787-1170.

While students find it difficult to participate in activities during weekdays, still students are encouraged to assist with set-up, serving, and clean-up on Lenten Wednesdays at the Soup and Spirituality activity of the parish. The following Wednesdays are scheduled for these activities: March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10th. With the Lenten activities available, our parish students and youth are enjoined to experience Jesus through them personally in their lives.

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Photos by Church of Resurrection

After nine musical years as the Principal Organist, Bill Wisnom left the Church of Resurrection late February. He will become the new Music Director at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church. Resurrection prays for Bill on his new journey and will miss him dearly!

## Volunteers Needed for Resurrection's Homeless Shelter

By Emily Kranking

If you are looking for a way to make a difference this Lenten season, consider your options as a volunteer for Resurrection's Homeless Shelter. The shelter will be from Sunday, March 17th through the morning of Sunday March 24th.

Last year's homeless shelter was a great success, holding both numerous volunteers and homeless people in need. When there was an unexpected snowstorm, the Resurrection community rallied with the current volunteers to keep the shelter 24 hours. "Volunteers walked in the

snow to help," recalls shelter director Tina Peachman, "and the Knights of Columbus had let us know that they had extra food in the freezer which we were able to heat for a hot lunch besides a hot dinner. Not only were the guests blessed, but we as a parish were blessed even more with closer relationships with each other and with the blessing of serving others."

Volunteer opportunities include setting up cots, organizing the kitchen, doing laundry, checking guests in and serving food & preparing food. Additionally, volunteers who have skills in nursing, medical & dental care, law, doing hair cuts and job coaching are more than welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tina Peachman at (240) 463-7879 or [drpeaches00@gmail.com](mailto:drpeaches00@gmail.com). "As we are made in God's image," said Peachman, "volunteering helps us see the many faces of God in all people and decreases our misconceptions of those in need. By volunteering our precious gift of time, it also allows God to fill us up and change are hearts by increasing our love of neighbor."

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## Youth Rally Mass and March for Life

Resurrection Parish hosted 60 youth and adults from Diocese of Lansing, Michigan who attended the Youth Rally Mass and March for Life. The Knights of Columbus Council #9808 and the parish youth gave snack bags with food goodies and pro-life stickers, buttons and bookmarks. Photo by Church of Resurrection

## RALLY

Con't from page 15

goods and food for our Food Drive. In December, students see Jesus in the poor by giving coats during our yearly Coat Drive. Lourdes' students follow through with the message of Christ: love one another, as I have loved you. Yet, in today's world, Jesus' calling must especially be shared with the most vulnerable.

As Catholics, we are taught not to comply to a culture of indifference to the right to life – especially those

who are voiceless and defenseless. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Our Lady of Lourdes Students proudly joined thousands of fellow Archdiocese of Washington Catholic School Students – and students across the United States and world, in 2019 Youth Rally and Mass for Life.

On this day, our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students were encouraged to participate in the national Rally and Mass. Here, our students actively gave witness to the Gospel of Life. Students braved the cold and arrived at school by 6:30 a.m. From Lourdes, students rode the Metro to the Capital One Arena. At the arena, our sixth, sev-

enth, and eighth graders listened to speakers, sang songs, prayed, and celebrated in Mass. Students were excited and motivated to celebrate each child as a gift and to share with others a respect and value for life.

We are so proud of our Lourdes' students. Every day, their attitude and actions are ones of respect and love. From their prayers, participation in Mass, financial generosity, and acts of kindness, students carry on the message of Jesus. At Lourdes, students truly see life and one another as a gift.

OPT

### Church of the Resurrection Parish

3315 Greencastle Road  
Burtonsville, MD

Rev. John M. Barry  
Pastor

301-288-4662

Amy Horn,  
Susan Ahearn  
Parish Editors  
240-205-3195



## Our Lady of Lourdes

### SPELLING BEE

Con't from page 15

those with the highest scores earned one of the 25 spots for the night of the event.

As the spellers were working for a spot, the talent show performers were busy preparing their acts to audition for their chance to participate in the show. Teachers lead the audition and worked with students to hone their acts. Part of the audition process involved relaying to students the commitment that is required to participate in the Talent Show and making sure that each one was up to the challenge.

Once the students secured their spots, the real work began. Spelling Bee participants could be seen quizzing each other in the library, at lunch, in the classroom during breaks, and on the playground. Talent show participants attended practice sessions during lunch and after school. The excitement was building with each passing day until finally, the big night was here!

Despite some jitters upon arrival, all the students were eager to share their gifts with the audience. The talent show performers all brought their "A game" that night and entertained the audience with a variety of acts that included: Irish dancing, modern dancing, joke telling, magic, singing, gymnastics, and even some ukulele playing! Their hard work over the past few weeks resulted in a wonderful display of self-confidence and talent that wowed all in attendance.

The Spelling Bee participants were not to be outdone. After a review of rules, they were ready to go. Each student was allowed two misspelled words before elimination.



**Eighth-grade students Kylie Squier, Sage Thomas, Helena Daniel, and Yngrid Bermudo perform the song "Photograph" during the Lourdes Annual Talent Show.**

At the conclusion of round one, all of the spelling bee participants were still standing. As each round continued, however, and the words became more difficult, their numbers began to dwindle. Finally, by round 11, two students were remaining. The final word was lieutenant which was correctly spelled by eighth grader and new Spelling Champ, Helina Daniel. Way to go Helina!

What a great night it was. Thanks to all the teachers who helped organize the event and of course, thanks to all the students who worked so hard to prepare for their shining moment.

OPT



**The GARBO Singers**



**Seneca Mass Choir**

## Mother Seton's Black History Celebration

By Dorrette Paulin

**E**stablished by President Gerald Ford in 1976, Black History Month honors and celebrates the accomplishments of African Americans and provides an opportunity to highlight the best of Black history and culture. Again, this year, as we have done for the past 27 years, the St. Rita Society of Mother Seton Parish hosted its Black history program and invited the Germantown community and residents from the surrounding areas and beyond to gather in the Parish Center to celebrate with Gospel music, poetry readings and a puppet show by the Metropolitan UMC Puppet Ministry.

Also, this year, in keeping with the tradition of recognizing accomplished Black Americans during Black History Month, we paid tribute to the late Foundress of Mother Seton's Black History Program, Ms. Doris Emogene Plummer Hackey. In 1992, Ms. Hackey, a retired Montgomery County Teacher Specialist approached the Pastor to ask him to host a Black History Program; an event that continues today.

On Sunday afternoon, February 24, members of the community, family and friends gathered to listen to gospel music by the

Voices of Praise, Heaven Smiles, St. James AME, Seneca Mass Choir, and of course, the predominantly family choir, the GARBO Singers. In a fitting tribute, Ms. Hackey's brother, Larry Plummer and son, Reverend George Hackey not only reminded us of her accomplishments but on a lighter note regaled us with family remembrances.

As a woman of deep Christian beliefs, Ms. Hackey would have been pleased that we still begin the Celebration with a Gospel Mass. After the Mass, the congregation was invited to the Parish Center to continue the celebration where our Pastor, Father Lee Fangmeyer opened the program with a warm welcome and prayer. The program ended with a benediction, grace and substantial refreshments.

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**Mother Seton Parish**  
19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard  
Germantown, MD

**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor**  
301-924-3838

**Brenda Rosado, OPT Editor**  
Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

### CULTURES

Con't from page 15

a Peruvian Marinera dance for the crowd, which was all about falling in love. Mr. and Mrs. Liezl Argente & friends performed a dance from the Philippines called tinikling. It was exciting to watch as the girls danced between two bamboo sticks being clapped together to the music! There was also a

mariachi band and Mr. dos Santos played Capoeira with Capoeira Barro Vermelho. Lastly, OLOL students Claire Quinn and Grace Reilly represented the Culkin School of Irish Dance and amazed everyone with their Irish dancing skills!

Families came together to celebrate what makes them unique and special and to share favorite parts of their cultures. The Multicultural Night was an amazing sight to see and experience!

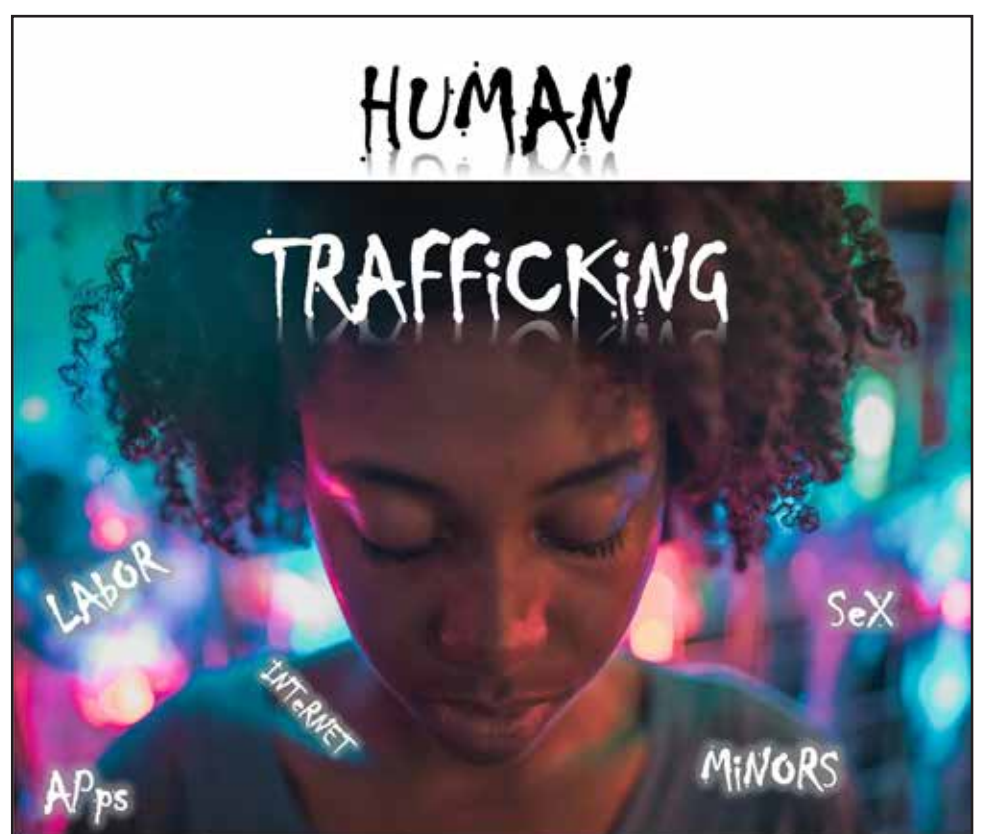
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Spain was represented by the Foley family, above.

Jack, Brenda, and Saoirse Reilly proudly represented Ireland, top right.

Eddie and Ariana Velasquez dressed head to toe in traditional Bolivian attire, bottom right.



#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DISCUSSION PANEL

with Advocates, Survivors, and Professionals

At Mother Seton Catholic Church Parish Center

19951 Father Hurley Blvd., Germantown, MD 20874

**FREE EVENT**

**Sunday, March 31, 2019**

**6:00 P.M.— 8:30 P.M.**

Parents and Teens—Please join us in an informative discussion in different types of trafficking; How to prevent human trafficking; Current APPS that are targeting our children; How to recognize victims; Who are the traffickers and How pornography plays a role in human trafficking.

**\*DINNER PROVIDED\*** Please RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/18911118627>



### 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 us is that the radiant truth of the resurrection brightens the dimness of everyday life and fill us with peace and an abundance of grace from the Risen Christ.

May you have a Blessed Easter!  
Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., PASTOR



OLQP volunteers in the Catholic Student Center kitchen at the University of Maryland preparing to serve the Wednesday Night Dinner for the Catholic Terps on January 30: Bozenna Buda, Katie (Kasia) Roberts, Joanna Roberts, student helper, Andy Michaels, Renata Zeleznik, Tomasz Kolodziej, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak.

## Feeding the Hungry

## OLQP Parishioners Serve Polish Dinner to Catholic Terps

By Bozenna Buda, ED

One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to “feed the hungry.” So, once again, on January 30th, volunteers from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring sponsored and served the Wednesday Night Dinner for the Catholic Terps at the Catholic Student Center (CSC) at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The Wednesday night dinners at the CSC are recurring events during the Fall and Spring semesters. They are sponsored by local parishes and groups to feed the university students, most of whom also attend

the Holy Mass which precedes the dinner. The group from OLQP prepared and served a Polish dinner to more than 200 people that day. On the menu was Bigos (hunter’s stew), Pierogi (dumplings), vegetables, bread, and assorted delicious home-made desserts. During dinner, the students also viewed a documentary film about St. John Paul II.

Many parishioners from OLQP contributed to the success of the dinner. We thank the OLQP Rosary Society, the St. Maksymilian Kolbe Council of the Knights of Columbus, and OLQP Pastor, Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, for his encouragement and support. Many individuals helped, including Joanna Roberts, Renata Zeleznik, Andy Michaels, Adam Hawiger, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Tatiana Psurek, Urszula Kolodziej, Anastazja Kolodziej, Elizabeth Speidel, Tomasz Kolodziej, Katie (Kasia) Roberts, Ela Marciniak, Janina Mols, Edyta Szemiel, Bozenna Buda, Richard Okreglak, Dr. Maciej Poltorak, Terrell Roberts, and Bradley Ortins. We thank everyone for their hard work and prayers!

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## Highlights of Lenten and Easter Season at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St Maksymilian Kolbe Parish

**EVERY SUNDAY IN LENT** at 11:40 AM

-Lamentations “Gorzkie Zale” Devotions

**EVERY FRIDAY** at 7:30 PM - Stations of the Cross, in Polish

Parish Lenten Retreat from April 5-8

**HOLY THURSDAY**, April 18 at 7:30 PM - Mass of the Lord’s Supper

**HOLY SATURDAY**, April 20:

- Traditional Polish Blessing of Food at 10:00AM, 10:30AM, 11:00AM, 11:30AM, 12:00PM, and 12:30PM
- Easter Polish Food Bazaar 10:00AM – 1:30PM
- Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30PM

**EASTER SUNDAY**, April 21 at 10:00 AM

Resurrection Mass in Polish & 12:00 Noon Easter

Mass in Polish

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**, April 28, Special Program

- 10:00 AM – Holy Mass
- 11:30 AM – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12:00 Noon – Holy Mass and veneration of the Relics of St. Faustina and of St. John Paul II
- 1:30 PM – Parish Easter Swieconka Dinner \* (see information below)
- 3:00 PM – Hour of Mercy - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

\*All Parishioners and Friends are invited. \*For reservations & tickets contact Izabela Macander: 301-770-7086 (until April 21).

## Divine Mercy: “Jesus, I trust in You”

On Sunday, March 3, Sister Donata visited our parish and spoke about Divine Mercy. Sr. Donata is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, the same order to which belonged Saint Sister Faustina Kowalska, to whom was entrusted the message of Divine Mercy. The charism of the Congregation is to “cooperate with the Mercy of God (the Divine Mercy) in the work of rescuing lost souls.” Pope St. John Paul II was instrumental in bringing to the world the message of Divine Mercy as revealed to St. Faustina.

Sr. Donata spoke about Divine Mercy Sunday, which is the first Sunday following Easter. This year, it will occur on April 28. The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and concludes on Divine Mercy Sunday. A special program is planned at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring for that Sunday. There will



Veneration of the relic of St. Faustina at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring on March 3, 2019. Sister Donata, who spoke about Divine Mercy, with Polish Scouting Organization (ZHP) scouts Artyom and Daniel and OLQP parishioners.

be veneration of the relics of St. Faustina and of St. John Paul II at the 12 Noon Mass, followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Sr. Donata will join us on that day for the Hour of Mercy.

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## CUP OF JOE

Con't from page 6

Grade, students in Grades Two through Seven worked together in Lewis Hall at various stations to assemble the packaged meals. “The Cup of Joe morning has become a tradition at Holy Cross. It is always a happy morning. Working together as a school community and knowing that we are contributing to such a crucial effort brings everyone a sense of fulfillment,” said principal, Mrs. Kane. “We teach our students to live our faith by actively serving others,” she continued. “It is through our service that we share Jesus’ love with the world.”

In addition to schoolwide service projects through the year, each grade also participates in at least one class service project. For more information about the Cup of Joe program and how you might be able to help, please visit the website for Catholic Charities of Washington, D.C.

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## DWYER

Con't from page 12

Nursery School since 1990, Dwyer has touched and enriched the lives of countless students and families in our community. Her numerous accomplishments are evidenced by the establishment of the school and success of its students and—along with her indefatigable commitment to Catholic education, strong faith, and leadership qualities—also led to her being recognized as the Archdiocese of Washington’s Distinguished Principal of the Year this past September.

Chosen from more than 150,000 teachers, administrators, and dioc-

esan leaders from across the country, Dwyer was among 27 winners of the NCEA award. The news was announced at the Catholic Schools Week Mass by Chris Buchleitner, an assistant superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Washington, and Tom Burnford, president and CEO of NCEA, and joyfully shared with the many faculty, students, parents, and alumni who were there. Congratulations, Teri Dwyer, on winning the NCEA Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award to be formally presented at the NCEA 2019 convention in Chicago on April 23 before 9,000 Catholic school educators—the world’s largest gathering of Catholic school teachers!

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FOR LIFE

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## St. Peter

# St. Peter's Basketball: A Tradition of Excellence

St. Peter's basketball program has served thousands of children in the Parish and School through the years. The program is for boys and girls from kindergarten through high school. St. Peter's believes that through healthy competition kids can discover their personal best, have fun and learn to be part of a team.

Our K-second grade program is an in-house program focusing on fundamentals and proper skill development. The kindergartners have one practice per week with a small "tournament" for the last practice session to give them some exposure to scrimmaging. The first and second grade co-ed teams practice once per week and have a scrimmage each weekend. With 10 teams in the league they play each team one time which allows the teams to experience a wide variety of talent. The coaches serve as the referee for the scrimmages where they often stop play to explain concepts to the kids. No scores are kept during the scrimmages to encourage a focus on having fun while



St. Peter's U10 Girls' Basketball player dribbling down the court.



Solid defense in the St. Peter's first and second grade in-house basketball program.

developing the necessary fundamentals to move to the next level.

The third-twelfth grade program plays in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) League where the kids travel to other local parishes to play other parish teams. The CYO website describes the program goals "... to help young men and women foster strong principles of

teamwork and sportsmanship both on and off the field, all while developing their physical talents, learning to play fairly and enthusiastically, and appreciating Christ's presence in their opponents". In the younger divisions, the rules are modified to allow continued growth of fundamental play and there are minimum play requirements which

ensure all children are given the same opportunity to play in games.

OPT

## St. John the Evangelist



SJE boys basketball team



SJE girls basketball team

## Great Finish to the CYO Basketball Season

Coached by John and Charlie Hathway, the SJE 14U girls' basketball team beat St. Anthony's 18 to 17 to win the 14U Girls Tournament East Division. The SJE 14U boys beat St. Elizabeth's 38 to 25 to win the 14U Boys Tournament South Division. The boys were coached by Mike Allen and Chris Langley.

OPT

## McGANN

Con't from page 1

during Lent - being kinder, taking care with our language, offering to help around the house.

I think many of us see Lent as a difficult time - a time to dwell on our faults and to atone for our sins, and of course, to give up something we like. I have rarely considered Lent to be a time of respite - a respite and relief created by our sacrifices. Recently, I read the words to a beautiful hymn about Lent, and those words led me to consider the opportunities of Lent. The song says, "Come ye apart into a desert place, and rest awhile the aching heart and head." The idea of escaping the vitriol and the anger that surrounds us in today's world and resting our hearts and minds in a quiet place sounds awfully good to me. The song goes

on to say, "Come, spend with me a little while alone. Come when perplexed by doubt or anxious fear, and I will make dark things all clear and plain." God's not asking us for much - just suggesting that if we take a little extra time alone, if we are willing to hand our doubts and fears to Him, He will make things clear for us. What a relief that would be for those of us who worry and wonder what will happen to our Church, our families, our world!

If we and our children could see the sacrificing of worldly pleasures as a way to find those quiet moments - as a way to rest our hearts and minds and find peace - we would be far more eager to make Lenten sacrifices. God certainly doesn't need us to sacrifice for Him! Through Lenten sacrifice we have an opportunity to share our burdens with Him - the sacrifice is for us.

Monsignor Filardi, the Pastor of

Our Lady of Lourdes, frequently encouraged the children of Lourdes to bring their worries and their struggles to the "foot of the altar", to "hand them over to God", and He would help them with those worries and struggles. Monsignor reminded the children to take time to be quiet and be with God, to reflect and to listen. Sadly, none of us has much of that quiet time today. We are ever-ready to check our text messages and emails - to turn on the television or search the internet, and our children do as we do. What would it be like to escape the cacophony of the world during Lent, even for 30 minutes a day? What would it be like to rest our hearts and minds, to relinquish our worries and burdens, and just spend those few minutes each day disconnected from the world and reconnecting with God?

(Hymn written by C.D. Bell)

OPT

This season several of our CYO teams finished undefeated and other teams went onto end of season tournaments making it to the semi-final and final games.

St. Peter's would like to thank its volunteer coaches and assistant coaches because they give hundreds of their hours to the program and we couldn't do it without them. Modeling fairness, cooperation and hard work, we know that our coaches recognize individual achievements and understand winning is not just about the score.

The final event to end our basketball season will happen on March 14 when our eighth graders take on the faculty and staff in our annual event. Go Teachers! Go Students! Go Panthers!

## St. Elizabeth



Our eighth-grade class dressed in crazy spirit wear to take on the teachers in the Annual volleyball Challenge at the end of Catholic Schools Week.

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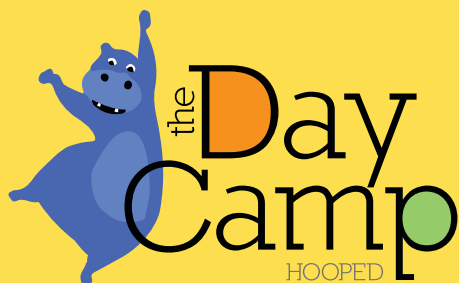
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