



Parish Times

Special
Graduation Issue

MAY 2020

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Missing You

How different life is just since the last issue of *Our Parish Times* in March.

So much has changed these last few months. We are working from home unless it is essential that we go to offices. Our students are learning from home. We go out only when we need to, keeping our safe distances, washing our hands and doing our best to follow CDC guidelines to limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Life is dramatically different for parishes as well. We haven't had public Masses for



Fr. John Enzler

Continued on page 4

Investing in Kindness

I pray this edition of *Our Parish Times* finds you and your loved ones well. Thanks to Larry and Kathleen Hamm for continuing to publish OPT during extraordinary times and to all volunteer parish editors for contributing. This edition of OPT, like all editions, is available on the internet at www.parishtimes.com. The inspiring stories of Catholic generosity, ser-



Chuck Short

Continued on page 13

One day at a time

This really threw us for a loop, didn't it? We were coasting along. Our days were filled with long commutes, calendar checks, conference calls, proposals and negotiations, networking, quick bites here and meeting for a drink there.

Next thing we know we are scouring the internet for masks, and learning how to Zoom. Our grandchildren and distant family miss us – as do our dentists, and our hairdressers. We wipe things down, we binge Netflix, and we worry. We keep checking the gas gauge because it hasn't moved in weeks.



Patricia McGann

Continued on page 22

Easter 2020 at the Shrine of St. Jude

Life-Snuffing Cruelty to Life-Saving Mystery

By Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, Pastor,
Shrine of St. Jude

No doubt, it was the most unusual Easter Triduum celebration. But in its own way, it was very meaningful. While our yearning to be with our parishioners was intense, our prayer for them was all the more ardent. Fr. Bob [Kosty] was the main celebrant for the Holy Thursday Lord's Supper, Fr. Gabriel [Fermin] did the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross, and I celebrated the Easter Vigil as main celebrant. To the Vigil, I invited a family, and their children served and read. It was a large family and they almost filled St. Clare Chapel. The family was very appreciative, and I was so happy to have them in the most significant

liturgy of the whole year. They sent me a text message the next day: "... The kids said 'Wow Mom that was the best Mass I have ever been to'... The pandemic has made us realize how much we take Mass for granted. This was the best Easter ever for the [family name]! Thank you!"

Easter was the fourth Sunday without people. But physical distancing also gives us a renewed appreciation of one another. Social distancing can be an

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"Social distancing can be an opportunity for spiritual growth, and communion. It gives us a rare occasion for solitude, not loneliness." – Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, Pastor
Photo by Tom Roach



St. Martin's teachers get ready to wave to students who drive through to drop off food donations for St. Martin's Pantry. Teachers and students enjoy the chance to see each other and share greetings while collecting much needed food for the Pantry. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

St. Martin's Food Pantry Steps Up to Help Hungry Families

By Emily Moldiz

Churches and parish offices are closed, masses are livestreamed, and confessions are outside. But, the St. Martin of Tours Food Pantry is still open. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pantry averaged 150 families per week. Now for nearly a month, long-time volunteer, Chuck Smith said they are feeding families numbering in the high 200's.

On Monday, April 27, a dozen volunteers from the Pantry distributed about 2.58 tons of non-perishable food and about the same

weight of perishable food (bread and pastries, fresh vegetables and fruit, etc. – primarily donated by local stores) feeding 274 families.

New volunteers have stepped up to the task of serving the needy. From 6:00 am – 1:00 pm, volunteers help direct clients to maintain a safe distance while others pack bags of food in the back. As supplies permit, each client receives the normal bag of non-perishable food, plus one or more bags of bread, pastries, and fresh produce.

"What an incredible labor of love Chuck

Continued on page 36

Participatory Democracy During COVID-19

By Ann Guthrie Hingston

To slow the spread of COVID-19 the Montgomery County Board of Elections is mailing primary ballots to all active registered voters. Democrats and Republicans will choose their party's nominees for President and US Congress and elect national convention delegates. Candidates for County School Board and Circuit Court Judge will be on all ballots, including those sent to Unaffiliated voters.

All voters are expected to mark their ballot at home and return it by mail or drop it into one of the Vote Deposit boxes set up around the county. Ballots must be received by the Board of Elections by 8 PM on June 2. Those who do not receive a ballot in the mail may request a ballot or vote in person on June 2 (7am-8 pm) at one of four vote centers: Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg, Germantown Community Center, Praisner Community Center in Burtonsville, or the Silver Spring Civic Building.

To evaluate candidates, online resources are available, including the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County's Guide at VOTE 411 (www.lwvmocomd.org/vote411-org) and a School Board Candidates Virtual Forum (May 8-June 2) presented by the County Federation of Republican Women at MCFRW.org or the MCFRW Facebook page.

Spring is usually the time for gathering

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Serving Others While Social Distancing

The Academy of the Holy Cross began planning for the move to virtual learning in February. Principal John Sullivan and Director of Educational Technology Dena Maye met with teachers for training on conducting classes in a digital environment using multiple platforms and applications to complement the skills used in our

e-Learning program used on snow days. Teachers received additional training on Blended Learning and Flipped Classroom instructional planning frameworks to further instill Project Based Learning philosophies. When the decision to close campus was announced teachers took time to train students on how virtual learning would be con-



Masks for first responders and healthcare workers

the Sisters of the Holy Cross; baking treats for first responders; sewing masks desperately needed by healthcare workers; crafting blankets for Project Linus and friendship bracelets for hospital patients; and creating encouraging videos for the elderly who are quarantined.

Junior Eileen McConville sewed 22 masks for first responders and healthcare workers over Easter break. She says the project was “very rewarding and gave my spring break purpose.”

Freshman MacKenzie Hoefer created cards for hospitalized children. She noted that she felt connected to the children without even knowing them. “I put myself in their shoes and thought about what it would be like to be in a hospital bed all the time. I know a card with a lot of energy would put a smile on my face. I really, really love this activity and it’s such an awesome way to let them know you care.”

MobileServe is the application our students use to submit their service activities. They recently featured Holy Cross for the significant service our girls have provided since campus has been closed. **OPT**

ducted.

Holy Cross quickly shifted the focus of our Social Justice service requirements for our students from direct to indirect options. Usually Holy Cross girls give over 11,000 hours of direct service each year. Shortly after our closure, Emily Teter, Director of Social Justice at Holy Cross, provided a comprehensive

listing of options that she has continued to update as opportunities have been made available. Our girls have risen to the challenge logging over 400 service hours in the first month of the stay-at-home. Examples of service projects include creating dozens of cards and letters for hospital patients, soldiers, nursing home residents, and

Bishop Condemn Racism and Xenophobia in the Context of the Coronavirus Pandemic

In the midst of fear and anxiety being fueled by the COVID-19 virus, there have been increased reports of incidents of racism and xenophobia against Americans of Asian and Pacific Island heritage. Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee for Cultural Diversity in the Church, Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Salt Lake City and chairman of the USCCB’s Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs, and Bishop Shelton Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux and chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism have issued a statement expressing their deep concern.

“The pandemic resulting from the new coronavirus continues to sweep across the world, impacting our everyday behavior, practices, perceptions, and the way we interact with one another. While we

have been heartened by the countless acts of charity and bravery that have been modeled by many, we are also alarmed to note the increase in reported incidents of bullying and verbal and physical assaults, particularly against Americans of Asian and Pacific Island heritage.

“While a high percentage of Asian Americans work in the health care sector risking their own health to save lives, some have experienced rejection and requests to be treated ‘by someone else.’ Way before state and local ordinances brought to a halt almost every economic sector in the country, communities across the country, from Oakland, California to New York City, reported a sharp decline in the patronage for businesses owned and operated by Asian Americans. These are only a few painful examples of the continuing harassment and racial discrimination suffered

by people of Asian and Pacific Islanders and others in our country.

“As Catholic bishops, we find these actions absolutely unacceptable. We call on Catholics, fellow Christians and all people of good will to help stop all racially motivated discriminatory actions and attitudes, for they are attacks against human life and dignity and are contrary to Gospel values. As we wrote in our pastoral letter Open Wide Our Hearts (2018), racism is ‘a failure to acknowledge another person as a brother or sister, created in the image of God.’

“Our hearts go out to all those who have been victims of these vile displays of racism and xenophobia. These dreadful occurrences are a reminder that, in an environment of increased anxiety and fear, racial profiling and discrimination continue to negatively impact the lives of certain populations, adding to the pain and suffering already caused by the pandemic.

“The acts of violence and unjust discrimination evoke and prod a long history of xenophobia and racism in this country. If uncontested, they could lead once again to a normalization of violence and abuse against particular groups. It would be a tragedy for the United States to repeat this history or for any American to act as if it is appropriate to do so.

“Rather, the reality of the times and all the suffering caused by this pandemic call for a stronger resolve towards unity, demonstrated through acts of solidarity, kindness and love toward one another,

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Justice and Advocacy Council

Books and movies for a time of discontent

By Anthony Bosnick

This time of our discontent will hopefully evolve into a glorious summer, or at least a passable one. In the meantime, during this time of confinement, the Justice and Advocacy Council (J&A) suggests some books and movies to inspire and entertain. The theme that unifies these suggestions is Catholic social teaching (CST).

Celebrated by the Church, but often unknown by most Catholics, CST provides a lens for looking at the world, especially public policy. CST is often called the church's "best kept secret," but maybe that is slowly changing. *Washington Post* columnist Michael Gerson, an Evangelical, recently referred to it as "Christian social teaching." Interesting and appreciated!

In any event, below are ten books and movies recommended by J&A Council members which we have found informative and inspiring.

What's it all about?

If you don't know anything about CST, or very little, you might want to start with either of these basic introductions. A very practical one is *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* by Kevin E. McKenna (Third Edition, 2019). The seven chapters each focus on one principle of CST, with questions for thought and reflection.

Another good book is *The Liturgy and Catholic Social Teaching. Participation in Worship and the World*. This book co-written by eight writers was published in 2019

and does just what the title suggests, links the social teachings to the liturgy. Very good.

Relax with a PBS documentary on Dorothy Day.

The poor, hungry, homeless and all those clinging to the margins of life could not have a more devoted companion than Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement. In very practical ways, Day lived out Catholic social teaching.

Day's life story is told in the PBS documentary "Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story" by Martin Doblemeier. Day—a former communist and anarchist, social activist and Church critic—is now recognized by the Catholic Church as a "Servant of God," the first step toward canonization as a saint.

Mystery and contemplation anyone?

Pope Francis gives us both in "The Beloved Amazon," his 53-page apostolic exhortation from the 2019 Synod on the Amazon. This short work connects us with the CST principle on the environment. It is a call to remember and be inspired by the Amazon basin, which in its vast diversity and beauty profoundly reflects God's glory. The exhortation brought to mind the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God" (from "God's Grandeur").

Take some time to read and reflect on Pope Francis' words. You are sure to find much that is reward-

ing and upbuilding. This is just one example: We are "called to turn this relationship with God present in the cosmos into an increasingly personal relationship with a 'Thou' who sustains our lives and wants to give them a meaning, a 'Thou' who knows and loves us" (para 73).

The struggle against racism.

In 2018, the U.S. bishops issued a 27-page pastoral letter against racism. Entitled "Open Wide Our Hearts," it is well-worth reading. The first principle of CST is the "life and dignity of the human person," thus the Church's strong opposition against racism, no matter how often we fail.

We also recommend two books and movies reflecting this struggle. *The Best of Enemies* by Osha Gray Davidson focuses on racism in the 1970s in North Carolina. *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson considers the struggle against racism in the criminal justice system resulting in innocent African Americans receiving death sentences and execution. Both books inspired movies by the same names, which are also very well done.

The Church's own struggle against racism is highlighted in the biography of Fr. Augustine Tolton (1854-1897), one of the first black priests in the United States. *From Slave to Priest* by Caroline Hemesath, O.S.F. captures the struggles rooted in racism faced by Fr. Tolton, whose

cause for canonization has been opened.

The dignity of work and rights of workers.

For a different twist on this principle of CST, consider *Getting Work Right: Labor and Leisure in a Fragmented World* by Michael J. Naughton. This short book (171 pages) looks at issues such as the challenge of integrity in our lives, the purpose of business, what makes good work, good goods, and good wealth. He also considers how our work lives are related to our

need for leisure, and what makes good leisure. This book is deeply rooted in the Catholic worldview, which offers much that can enrich life and make it worth living.

We are not sure when the J&A Council will meet next. In the meantime, take up and read.

Anthony Bosnick is director of social ministry and adult faith formation at St. Francis of Assisi parish, Derwood. The reflection on Dorothy Day is by Joe Weiss of Holy Cross parish, Garrett Park.

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Resisting the "attack on conscience"

Upcoming Cases Provide Opportunity for Supreme Court to Preserve the Religious Liberty of Little Sisters of the Poor and Other Christian Ministries

The Little Sisters of the Poor again find themselves in court defending their community against attempts to force Catholic religious to violate their conscience. The Supreme Court of the United States hears oral argument today in the case of Little Sisters of the Poor v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Additionally, the Court will hear oral argument on May 11 in the consolidated cases of Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru and St. James School v. Biel. These cases involve the right of Catholic schools, free of government interference, to choose teachers who will teach and model the Catholic faith.

Bishop George V. Murry, S.J. of Youngstown, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J. of Oakland, chairman of the Committee

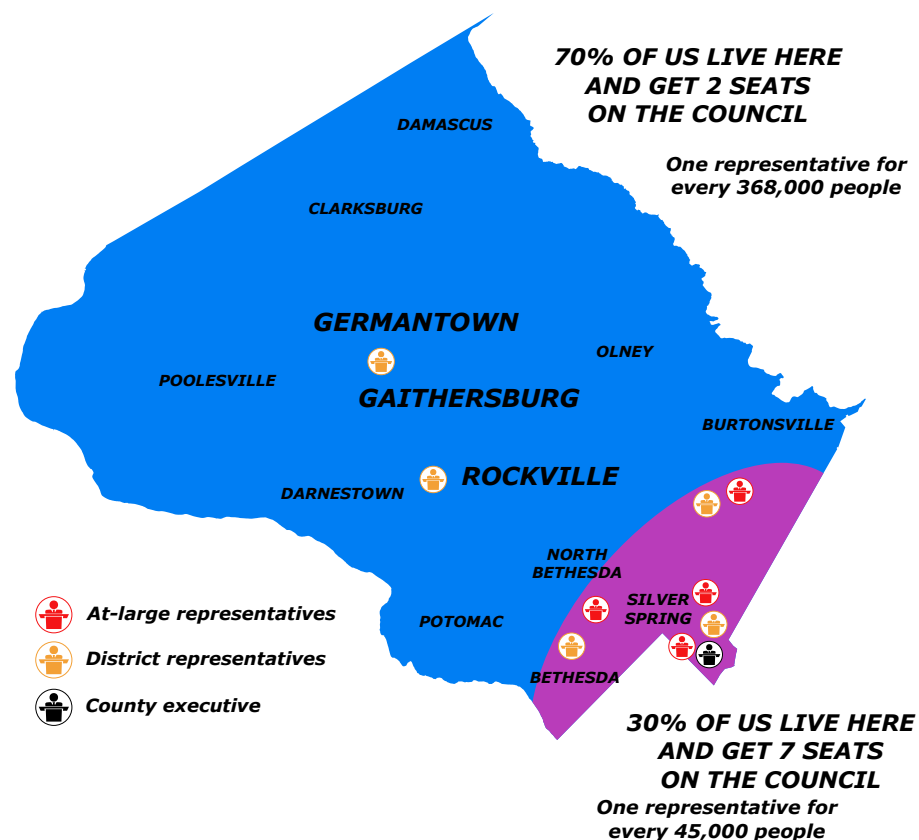
on Catholic Education, have issued a statement addressing the cases:

"The Little Sisters of the Poor is an international congregation that is committed to building a culture of life. They care for the elderly poor, a ministry we appreciate even more as we endure a pandemic to which the elderly poor are particularly vulnerable. Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. James schools continue the Catholic tradition of offering Christian education. All of these ministries are animated by the Spirit of Christ. They are responses to the call of lay and religious to bear witness to the kingdom of God in the world.

"Religious organizations have a right, recognized by the Constitution, to select people who will perform ministry, and the government has no legitimate authority to second guess those ministerial decisions. Nor may the government force a religious order to violate the religious beliefs that

Continued on page 27

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By Authority Nine Districts for MoCo; Mark Lautman, Treasurer

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

more than two months now. Many churches are closed completely or open part of the day for private prayer. I know our priests are doing their best to stay in touch with their parishioners. A number of parishes are live streaming Masses, and I hear that they have been very well received.

In fact, I suspect many of you joined me in watching Archbishop Gregory for the Holy Week liturgies at St. Matthew's. The number of viewers dramatically increased for those celebrations, but I must say it was strange to see the Archbishop with so few gathered around him. This is not our normal experience.

Even *Our Parish Times* has had to deal with changes. This newspaper is handed out at churches and through our schools, which makes it challenging with schools closed and no public Masses.

I suspect you have same feeling I do – a deep desire to be together and celebrate once again. As a priest, I am blessed to celebrate Mass and receive the Eucharist each day, but I know this is not possible for you

right now. I cherish the gift of receiving Jesus daily, but I so miss the people and spiritual energy of a full church that speaks of faith and commitment to the Lord. I miss the music at our liturgies and our choirs that help us celebrate so well. I miss the greetings and conversations after Mass, and the family spirit I've enjoyed in every parish I've been in for my 47 years as a priest.

St. Paul tells us in scripture that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) I think one of the silver linings of COVID-19 is the realization of how much we need each other.

One of the seven principles of Catholic social teaching is community. The primary source of community is our families, where we find a much-needed sense of belonging, but it's also true of our parishes. When we gather, we celebrate our Church family and the gift of being brothers and sisters in Christ. The absence of community reminds us how important it is, and I can't wait to be together again celebrating the wonder of our faith.

These are difficult times for everyone, and we're all doing our

best in our unique circumstances. You may not realize that priests feel pressure as well. They worry about the spiritual needs of their people and not being able to administer the sacraments as easily. They worry about parish finances and being able to pay the bills. They worry about those they normally visit for communion calls but cannot see right now. They're concerned about nursing homes and assisted living communities they cannot visit. Like many of you, they are also wondering about graduations, Confirmation, and First Communion.

It's all a difficult balance of the needs for protection, safety and health while continuing to support the faith journeys of parishioners. With so much completely out of our control, we struggle with feelings of helplessness. We are all reminded to put our faith and our trust in God to help us address these concerns.

I know your priests would be uplifted by an occasional phone call, email or note, sharing with them your prayers and your love. You can also encourage your priests by financial supporting the parish. If you normally give to your parish and your finances are stable at this

time, hopefully you can continue to give at the same level or even increase it a little bit to help your pastor pay the bills.

Let me conclude with a few hopes and prayers on my heart right now for you and our parishes:

May you be enriched by the experience of being quieter, more reflective, and more in touch with your family and your friends (remotely, of course).

May you use this month of May as a chance for spring cleaning, perhaps clearing away the clutter at home and in your spiritual life.

May you come back stronger than ever in your commitment to the Lord through the Church, your parish, and the family of faith that joins you each week for the Eucharist.

May COVID-19 be behind us soon.

May we find the medicines and the vaccines that will give us the confidence to return to our normal activities that we no longer take for granted, from shopping to visiting loved ones to enjoying a meal at a restaurant.

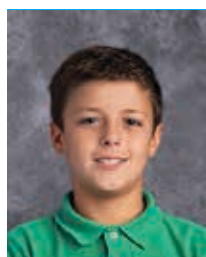
If you or someone you know is in need at this time, please visit our Catholic Charities website (www.catholiccharitiesdc.org) for a list of all the ways we can help. You can also call (202) 772-4300.

Also, a word of heartfelt thanks to all who have supported our COVID-19 response. We have been overwhelmed by your generosity, receiving over one million dollars in gifts and contributions. Most of that supports food distribution, which is such an urgent need right now. If you would also like to support those efforts and have the ability to do so, you can do that through our website as well.

I pray for all of us in these times. I pray for our health. I pray for those most impacted by the pandemic, particularly those who have lost jobs, can't support their families, or worry about their next meal. I pray for all who are anxious about the future. I pray for those concerned about their parents and grandparents, particularly if they are in a nursing home and can't be visited.

Whatever your struggles right now, know that I am praying for YOU.

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Finn Bacon
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VISITATION



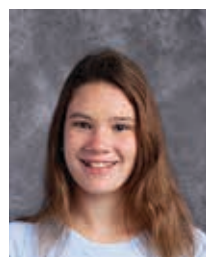
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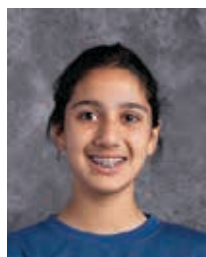
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LOVE of LEARNING
FAITH in GOD
SERVICE for OTHERS

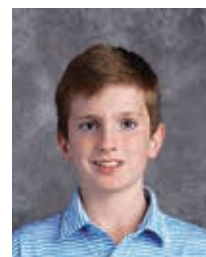
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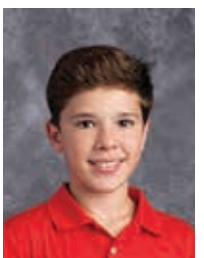
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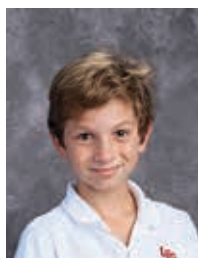
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Congratulations, St. John's Graduates!

The Class of 2020 collectively earned more than \$30 million in scholarships.

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St. Bernadette Grade Eight in Quarantine in the time of COVID 19
Saint Bernadette Grade Eight students capture images representing themselves and what they did during the time of the pandemic COVID 19 while in quarantine.

Scouts from Saint Bernadette Troop 440 coordinate “Operation Sandwich”

St. Bernadette Parish
70 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD
Rev. Msgr. K. Bartholomew Smith
Pastor
301-593-0357
St. Bernadette School
Mr. Ted Ewanciw, Principal
301-593-5611
Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor
301-593-5611

By Laura Nichols
On April 8, in our new day and age of social distancing, Troop 440 of Saint Bernadette prepared 220 bag lunches, individually and in their own homes, for Shepherd’s Table in Silver Spring, MD for “Operation Sandwich.”
Shepherd Table’s mission is to provide help to people who are homeless or in need by providing basic services, including meals, social services, medical support, clothing, and other assistance in an

effective and compassionate manner. Due to the current state of things in Maryland, they cannot serve meals in their facility.
Scouts from Saint Bernadette Troop 440 saw this as an opportunity to offer service from home. They coordinated so that only one Scout family did all the shopping, sorting and delivering of supplies (to porches) and then another Scout family collected the completed lunches from their fellow Scout’s porches the following afternoon and delivered the lunches to Shepherd’s Table. Almost 75% of

our Troop families participated and just over 24 hours! Remember a Scout is Helpful.

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St. Bernadette Troop 440 launches Operation Sandwich to lend support to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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Prayer and Outreach Strengthens Holy Cross Church

While we yearn for the Eucharist and the day we are together again, Holy Cross parishioners have remained connected through online formation programs and prayer meetings. Parishioners can also virtually check-in with each other and our pastor, Father Robert, as he shares his weekly reflections on the Sunday Gospel.

The parish reaches out in many ways. Phone calls are made to check the welfare and needs of parish families; cards were sent to the elderly, home bound, sick, and those living alone; and groceries are delivered to those at high risk. The parish has made it their mission to support families by to help them build upon the Church of the Home. Parents are encouraged to gather family members in prayer and set aside time to observe the traditions of the church. Some suggested ways to celebrate the Triduum were to wash each other's feet as an expres-

sion of love and forgiveness to each other; another ritual adapted for the home was blessing each other with Holy Water on Easter as a remembrance of new life and each one's baptism. An initiative to share how each family was celebrating "Holy Week at Home" yielded creative responses from parishioners of all ages. Some created special prayer spaces, marked front doors with greens for Palm Sunday and proclaimed Jesus' resurrection using sidewalk chalk! Finally, Holy Cross continued to support its partner agencies working with vulnerable populations through the distribution of gift cards.

The love and service nurtured by Christ through his Church has spilled over to the community through the acts of kindness and faithfulness of Holy Cross Parishioners in this challenging time. The spirit and strength of Holy Cross lives as Jesus lives! Alleluia!

OPT

Learning Continues During the Quarantine

By Brady Heafitz, Class of 2020

Despite being at home, Holy Cross students are continuing to learn!

Third grade is exploring different writing genres. Third Grade teacher, Mrs. Givens, works with her students through the writing process, and has been "really impressed with their creativity!"

As part of the Fourth Grade Social Studies curriculum, students traditionally complete a project about one of the counties in Maryland. This year, students recorded themselves and shared their presentations on Flipgrid.com.

"I am a proponent of current

events" says Fourth Grade teacher Mrs. Holt, "so I also created a lesson involving one of Governor Hogan's press conferences. Students viewed a portion of a press conference and responded to it in various ways."

The Fifth grade worked on a wax museum project. Students researched an historical figure, and then dressed up as that person to present a report on Flipgrid.com. "Everyone's presentation was so unique!" said Fifth Grade teacher, Miss Striegel.

Even though the students are not in school, the teachers of Holy Cross are continuing lessons to keep students informed, educated, and enthusiastic.

OPT

The Dirt on Distance Learning in Kindergarten

In Kindergarten at Holy Cross, Earth Day was the launch for lessons about our planet. Using a variety of online learning plat-

Continued on page 23

Tight Knit Faith When We Are Distant

By Zoe Anne Wilson,
Class of 2020

During this uncertain time the teachers at Holy Cross have gone above and beyond to make sure we are connected to our faith. Every Monday the Seventh and Eighth grades pray the rosary together during a virtual class meeting with our Religion teacher, Mrs. Killian. This is a great way to start the school week. It is always nice to sit and pray for the intentions that we have and to take our minds off of what is going on in the world.

We upheld Lenten traditions with Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent with students taking turns to lead different stations. During Holy Week the 8th



A depiction of the 14th Station of the Cross by Zoe Wilson.

grade created a special version of Stations of the Cross. Each 8th grade student chose one of the stations to lead and created a piece of artwork to depict it. Mrs. Killian and Ms. Rappaport, our music teacher, put our artwork

into a slideshow with music which was shared over video to the whole school community. These Stations were in lieu of the Living Stations that the 8th grade would have led if we had been at school. While we all missed participating in living stations at school, it was nice to continue the tradition while we are all social distancing.

The dedication and faith of our teachers has made a meaningful impact in all of our lives. This is especially nice for my class, the 8th

grade, because we were not able to receive our confirmation on time. It is always nice to know that our teachers not only care about our academic lives but our spiritual lives as well.

OPT

At Home with PreK-3's and PreK-4's

Mrs. Bueno, our PreK-3's teacher, and para-educator, Mrs. Menjivar, have been taking their students on virtual field trip via livestream to watch marine life in aquariums and to take virtual walks in the forest to spy on bears, raccoons, foxes, and bobcats.

"We incorporate lots of visual and interactive elements during instruction to keep the children engaged and talking," Mrs. Bueno shared. One student commented that she liked these field trips because "we would not be safe if we saw bobcats and bears in real life!" After each field trip, students create artwork, complete an assignment or project, or share something from home that relates to the field trip.

What's next for these young armchair travelers? "Our class has a special devotion to Our Blessed Mother," Mrs. Bueno said, "so I'm hoping to find a way to visit



The rhyme, "Zip-A-Dee Doo Dah" was the inspiration for this drawing. A PreK-4 student planned an adventure through his neighborhood to show what a wonderful day, "with plenty of sunshine going my way," might look like.

Lourdes, France."

"We always take a multi-sensory approach to learning in the PreK-4 classroom, so we're finding ways to engage students in the same way," said PreK-4 teacher, Mrs. Overly.

Students attend a daily morning meeting, led by Mrs. Overly and paraeducator, Mrs. Downs. "We

present learning topics, but it is also interactive--such an important aspect of learning at this age." Students participate in daily prayers, movement activities, rhymes and word play, and storytime. Throughout the week the teachers meet with small groups of children, too, "so learning is as individualized now as it has always been," continued Mrs. Overly.

Each week students record a video of themselves reciting a rhyme. They also illustrate the rhyme which becomes a springboard for small group discussion. "Oral vocabulary plays such an important part in learning to read. It's why we incorporate guided discussion into every lesson," Mrs. Overly explained.

Parents take the time to express their appreciation for Mrs. Overly and Mrs. Downs. One parent wrote to say that her daughter "absolutely adores" this dynamic teaching duo!

OPT

Creative Approaches to Learning in First and Second Grade

Students in Miss Overly's First Grade class have been mixing it up to practice their spelling words at home! "Students choose how to practice their words. Chalk, paint, shaving cream - even cooked noodles - are favorites," said Miss Overly.

One week, the children wrote five-line poems about their favorite color of the rainbow. They illustrated the poem or found items in or near their house in that color. To share their poems, students wrote it down or recited it on video.

"We had to quickly adapt to



First Grade teacher, Miss Overly, reads to her students during a recent virtual class meeting.

accommodate the stay-at-home rules, but there is a positive outcome! Using a wider range of platforms has given students different ways to demonstrate their creativity and strengths," said Miss Overly.

Second Grade teacher, Mrs. Falcone, and paraeducator, Mrs. Branson, begin each day with a live virtual Morning Meeting--often with a theme such as crazy hat day or wear sunglasses day. Both teachers even found a spot at home to recreate the bulletin boards and teaching resources that students

Continued on page 23

Holy Cross Parish

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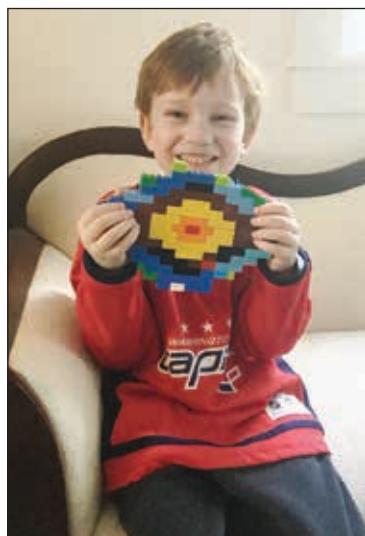
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301-942-1020

Holy Cross School

Lisa Maio Kane, Principal
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Lurana Hogan, Parish Editor
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More Holy Cross News
on Page 23



This Caps fan and Kindergarten student proudly displays his Earth Day building project depicting the Earth's layers, made from Legos.



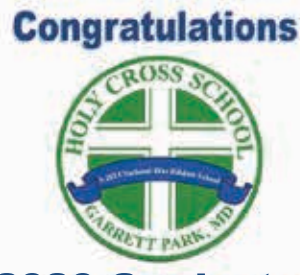
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Kayla Augustin
Madeira



Aashna Balumuene
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Undecided



Elena Flaim
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CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THE CLASS OF 2020!



"Our world is waiting to be shaped by your compassion, creativity, care, ingenuity, and character. Right now, we need you more than ever.
You will change us all for the better, and we are ready to be changed by you."

Maria Shriver, Stone Ridge Class of 1973

Mercy Live

Seamless transition to distance learning

Mercy started preparing for a long-term distance learning scenario well before the decision to close schools was made. Under the leadership of Principal Deborah Thomas, our faculty established a long-term framework in March that would carry Mercy Live instruction through the fourth quarter. Elements of this program include:

- A consistent, interactive platform, Google Classrooms, used for the delivery of instruction, enrichment, and assessment across the grades, complimented by video conferencing, learning packets for the younger students, and extensive on-line resources,
- Weekly professional development in on-line learning practices to help teachers keep students engaged and learning through the extended closure,

- Use of on-line tools, such as Google Documents, Forms, and Hang Outs, to provide students with individualized feedback and guidance for continued learning,
- Continued enrichment and academic support for students with unique learning needs,
- A library of recorded professional development sessions for teachers on using the diverse tools of Google Suite,
- Scheduled video conferencing time with the technology support team to handle on-line challenges,
- Scheduled faculty and grade level team video conferences to keep administration and faculty connected to the successes, needs, and progress of students in this new learning environment,
- Established teacher office hours so that parents and students have access to faculty for questions

and support,

- Transparency with all parents provided with access codes to the Google Classrooms and teacher communications,
- National connections with Catholic learning communities that are providing Mercy with new lenses to reflect on our work in distance learning and make adjustments to best support our students,

The rapid and successful response of our Mercy team reflects the depth of their instructional expertise, continued professional development in all aspects of teaching, and their commitment to excellence in Catholic education. We also recognize the important role our parents are playing in the success of the virtual classroom structure. Thank you for supporting our teachers in this significant effort!

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

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Potomac, MD

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

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676

Eighth-Grade Spotlights & Video Project

We are planning a series of events to celebrate the achievements and graduation of Mercy's Class of 2020. Parents placed Class of 2020 signs in the yards of the eighth graders and "#8thGradeSpotlight" photos were posted to social media pages along with a profile of each student. The Mercy Morning Live broadcast team, with help from several teachers, is coordinating a unique video project, which will combine individual video clips from each eighth grader into a single video. We are also planning a very creative alternative to the traditional graduation ceremony that will involve all of the school families as well as the parish community.

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Students shared their messages of love in a video for their grandparents.

Grandparents Day

Mercy didn't let distance keep us apart from our beloved Grandparents! Since we couldn't celebrate our Grandparents at Mercy this year, we put together a slide show video to send them instead! Parents sent pictures of their students dressed up in their Mercy uniforms holding a sign with a special message to their Grandparents. The photos were accompanied by the official theme song for Grandparents' Day. The video was shared on the school's social media pages, and parents emailed the video link to their children's grandparents.

OPT

It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 28

Congratulations Our Lady of Mercy Class of 2020!

The Class of 2020 has been accepted to the following high schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross
Churchill High School
Connelly School of the Holy Child
DeMatha Catholic High School
Georgetown Preparatory School
Georgetown Visitation
Gonzaga College High School
Our Lady of Good Counsel
St. John's College High School
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart



1st Row (L-R): Ava Molina, Carson Stokes, Peter Clancy, Lucas Sanchez, Julianna Ward
2nd Row (L-R): Leo Gutierrez, Jorge Alfaro, Lola Hahn, Katherine Ondeck
3rd Row (L-R): Ella Tetteh, James Van Eperen, Jack Rhoads, Elam Almas, Edy Thompson
4th Row (L-R): Peggy Lannan, Chase Holahan, Mignon Kaufman



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Virginia Military Institute



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Alexandria, VA
Boston College



John Craig
Chevy Chase, MD
Georgetown University



Frank Daley-Young
Washington, DC
(Undisclosed)



Nicholas Daniel
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University of Notre Dame



Carder del Rosario
Falls Church, VA
University of Virginia



Ciaran Dwyer
Cheverly, MD
Hampshire College



Sean Dwyer
Cheverly, MD
Eckerd College



Kirin Eicher
Silver Spring, MD
Haverford College



Patrick Ekeu
Temple Hills, MD
Westminster College (PA)



Terence Flannery
Alexandria, VA
College of William & Mary



Joseph Foucart
Alexandria, VA
James Madison University



Christian González
Riverdale, MD
Dickinson College



James Grissom
Chevy Chase, MD
Virginia Tech



Zhuohan Gu
Chevy Chase, MD
University of California at San Diego



John Hoeftling
Colesville, MD
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Joseph Horner
McLean, VA
College of William & Mary



Yuxuan Hu
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John Paul Libanati
Silver Spring, MD
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Johnson and Wales University



William Monahan
Washington, DC
Duke University



William Muoio
Washington, DC
Tulane University



Robert Nedoluha
Bowie, MD
Lehigh University



Ian Ogilvie
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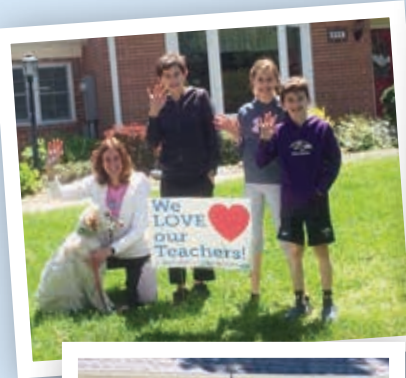
Peter Zorc
Bethesda, MD
Georgetown University

PAX IN SAPIENTIA

Teacher Appreciation Week!

Enough praise cannot be given to our teachers this year. From day one of campus closures, St. Mary's teachers have been teaching their students daily. Overnight, with no deviation from the school calendar, with great individual professional development, St. Mary's teachers made it happen! The administration and parents of St. Mary's are so proud of you! Thank you!

At right, distance learning is an adventure in first grade and we wanted Mrs. Gravell to know how much we appreciate her keeping the first grade on track! The whole family got in on the celebration!



Above, this is our last Teacher Appreciation Week with Senora Silva (she is planning to retire this year) but we wanted to make it one of her best! She will forever be in the heart of St. Mary's!

At right, look who was happy to find her Teacher Appreciation Week surprise on her front lawn! Middle School loves you Ms. Rodda!



At left, we love our fabulous PE teacher with his assistant always making PE a fun filled adventure during distance learning!

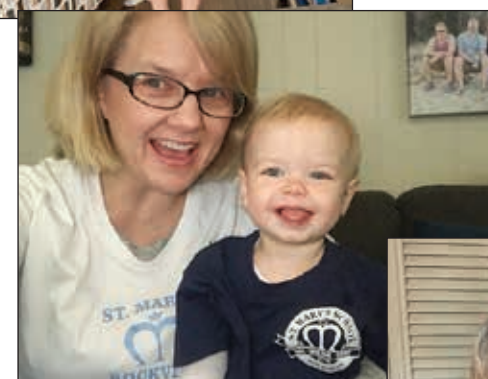


No distance is too far to travel to let our St. Mary's Teachers know how much we love them! We went all the way by the Chesapeake Bay to let Mrs. Jarboe know how special she is!



At left, our students love Mrs. Ashi because she always brings a smile to our pre-school classroom and aftercare!

Wear Your Uniform Wednesday! Crazy Hair Day! Superhero Day! Spirit week fun!



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Rockville, MD

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Pastor

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St. Mary's School
Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal

301-762-4179

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So much fun during our Spirit Week! It's not pajama day everyday for the serious distance learners of St. Mary's!

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SHORT

Con't from page 1

vice and spirituality in OPT are beacons of hope and compassion for local parishes. I'm writing this reflection on May 1 and pray that by the time you read it, the pandemic will have greatly subsided leaving you and your loved ones safe.

Let's continue our reflections on kindness begun last August. These days of anxiety and ambiguity regarding our medical, social and economic futures remind us of the wise adage that when we help others who are suffering, our own suffering diminishes. I believe this to be true. During a time that we are depending more on science, I've been drawn to studies providing empirical evidence that human well-being and health are enhanced by engaging in acts of kindness. Credible journals including the Harvard Business Review and Psychology Today are among the sources. Relevant to our reflection for today, studies underscore life is enhanced for those who directly serve others and/or those who make financial contributions to charitable causes. Both are satisfying and curative acts of kindness.

So I write today about a group of "first responders" we often take for granted. I'm referring to community non-profit organizations critical to helping the most vulnerable and poor in our communities. Through local financial and volunteer support, community non-profits are often the first to help individuals and families in crisis and comprise our community's comprehensive safety net. Of course we deeply appreciate the work of public safety and medical first responders, especially now. They are brave and caring people we see in action daily in the media. It is urgent, however, that we highlight the less visible local community service organizations who have for decades been first responders to human crises each day. I'm suggesting we reflect on these organizations and their essential value to a just community because they are at grave risk of failure from diminishing donations resulting from the current pandemic. Relied upon annual fund-raisers have been cancelled including those of Catholic Charities, Potomac Community Resources, and local Catholic schools and parishes. Designated collections in churches have been missed. Cash donations coming from businesses, employees, and community groups have abruptly declined. All non-profits are suffering financially, but the smaller ones are at most risk of extinction. Many non-profits cannot access federal funds provided by the recently passed CARES ACT. While we are blessed with compassionate and responsive local elected leaders, the County simply does not have the funds to help as much as necessary. If these "backbone" community agencies disappear, our community's ability to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable will be

irreparably diminished.

Let me illustrate the risks with three actual examples in which I have direct experience.

St Camillus has long provided food and clothing for the poor in Langley Park through its food pantry. Hundreds of people, most immigrants who do not qualify for public assistance, rely on the generosity of this Catholic community. Several parishes, St Elizabeth's, Our Lady of Mercy, and St John the Baptist among them, have been helping with monthly food and cash collections at Mass. With Masses suspended, these donations are greatly reduced requiring the food pantry to seek cash, also very scarce, to buy food to distribute.

Our family has been involved

with a mission in Haiti for more years. The mission relies greatly on the faith community for support, including St Patrick's and St Mary's parishes. The support comes from cash and through volunteers who travel to Haiti and deliver direct services several times each year. These trips are cancelled and donations reduced, resulting in less aid to the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere.

The Little Sisters of the Poor have been harmed by crisis before. The Sisters, who have an enduring commitment to the poor elderly, rely heavily on their practice of "begging" for donations often in the rear of parish churches after Sunday Mass. They have also been welcomed to

"beg" at local businesses. Prior to 2001, the Sisters were permitted to "beg" at large federal government buildings. After the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the federal government ended the practice for security reasons costing the Sister a significant income. The Washington home was near closure. Again today, the Sisters are at risk, not only due to lost income but also as themselves caregivers to victims of Covid-19.

Coming to the point, please donate to local non-profit organizations. There are scores of them here in Montgomery County serving elderly, poor, disabled, and homeless people and others in crisis. Many are small community-based organizations like the Langley Park or St Martin's food

pantries. Others are large like Catholic Charities. And, by the way, remember the arts organizations in our community as most of them are non-profit and important to the quality of life and economy as well. Supporting community based non-profits is an effective way to invest some of your CARES Act check and, by the way, the CARES Act provides for a new \$300 deduction (\$600 for joint filers) for charitable contributions in addition to the standard tax deduction for 2020. Help your well-being today while assuring the well-being of our community tomorrow.

Be well and God bless!
Chuck Short,
cshort5@verizon.net

OPT



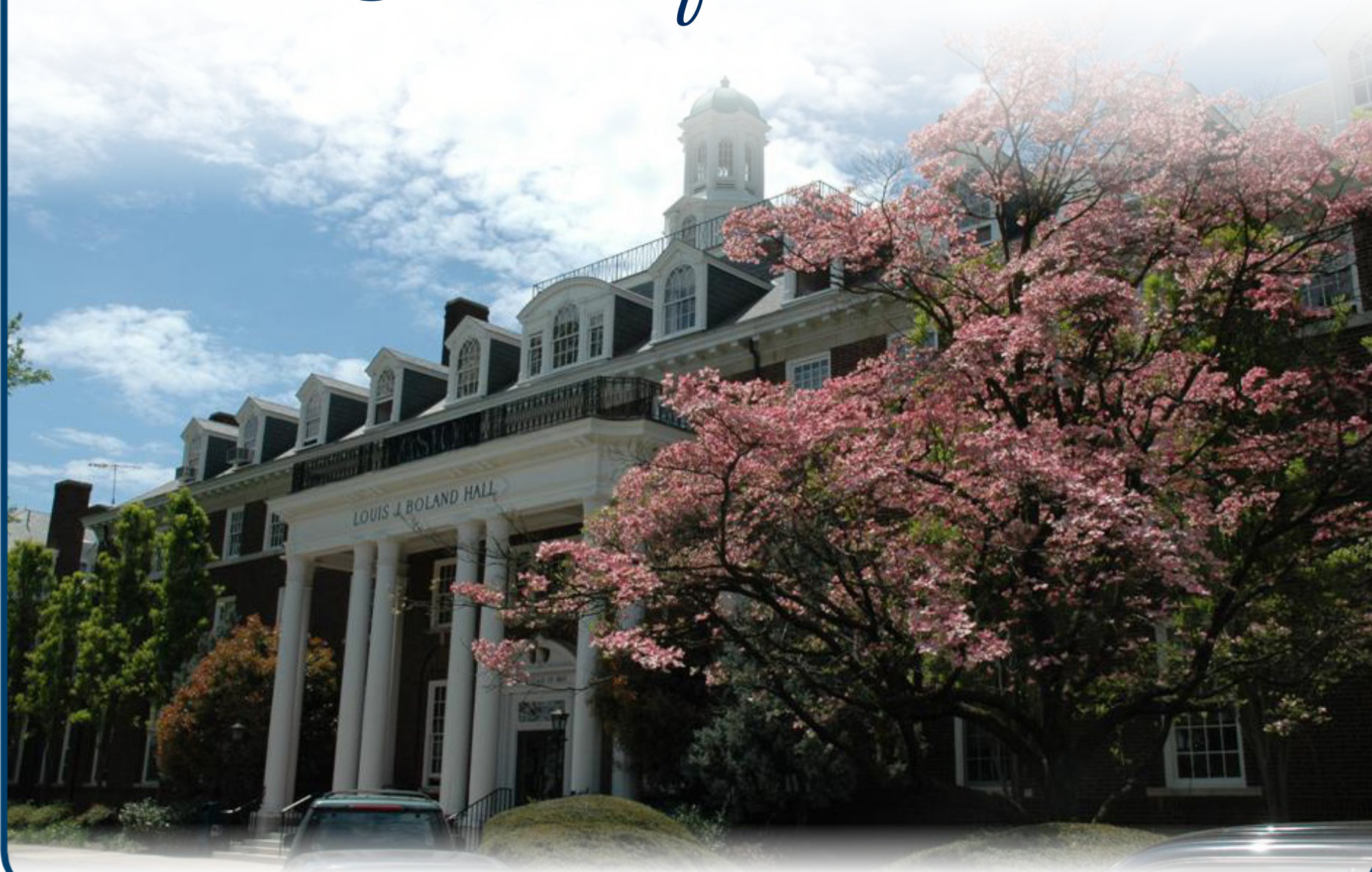
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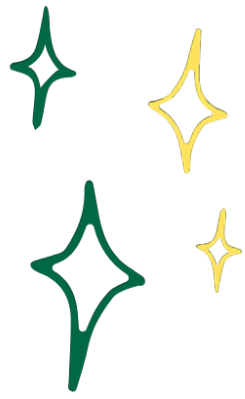
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ROCKVILLE, MD



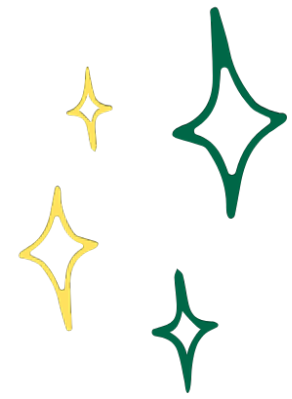
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Visitation
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



congratulates
the Class of 2020!



Be who you are and be that well. — St. Francis de Sales



Mary Katherine Agnew
Connelly School of the Holy Child
Be who God made you to be, and you will set the world on fire!
Saint Catherine of Sienna



Nicholette Ada Bonavia
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun.
Winnie the Pooh



Adalyn Marie Breitenbach
St. John's College High School
Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.
Saint Mother Teresa



Nicholas Thomas Bruno
Georgetown Preparatory School
Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back.
Babe Ruth



Emily Rose Bruthers
St. John's College High School
How did it get late so soon?
Dr. Seuss



Ridgely Eileen Bryer
Connelly School of the Holy Child
I never look back, Darling. It distracts from the now.
Edna Mode, The Incredibles



Andrea Paige Ciconte
St. John's College High School
The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.
Dolly Parton



Christian Gregory Daymude
St. John's College High School
You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.
Wayne Gretzky



Evan Thomas David
Episcopal High School
If you're afraid to fail, then you're probably going to fail.
Kobe Bryant



Julian A. De Armas
Undecided
You will never be happy or successful in life without doing the things you love or believe you can do.
Unknown



Patrick Williams Dunigan
Undecided
I am fast. To give you a reference point, I am somewhere between a snake and a mongoose ... and a panther.
Dwight Schrute



Bridget Anne Ellis
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
Learn from yesterday, live for today, look to tomorrow, rest this afternoon.
Snoopy



Molly Haddon Flynn
Academy of the Holy Cross
May your hats fly as high as your dreams.
Michael Scott



Elizabeth Anne Fry
Connelly School of the Holy Child
I don't want to grow up.
Sponge Bob



Anna Isabelle Giacomini
Academy of the Holy Cross
Yellow-black, yellow-black, yellow-black, yellow-black - Oh, black and yellow. Yeah, let's shake it up a little.
Barry B. Benson



William James Hastings
Gonzaga College High School
Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy, both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me.
Michael Scott



Cecilia Jane Holdo
Holton-Arms School
How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
Anne Frank



Indiana Walter Jones
Milton Academy
If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.
Martin Luther King Jr.



Anna Melia Larkin
Academy of the Holy Cross
Never take anything for granted, learn to appreciate what you have before it's no longer yours to appreciate.
Suzanne McCall



Catherine Siena Lucas
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Just dance, it will be ok.
Lady Gaga



Tatiana Isabel Maduro Garcia
Good Counsel
Wikipedia is the best thing ever. Anyone in the world can write anything they want about any subject, so you know you are getting the best possible information.
Michael Scott



Caroline Margaret Millard
Oakcrest School
Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.
Mother Teresa



Madeleine Mitchell
Holton-Arms School
Dig a little deeper.
Mama Odie



Brady Anne Morin
St. John's College High School
If you're not having fun, you're doing something wrong.
Groucho Marx



Kathryn Margaret Morin
St. John's College High School
Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.
Dr. Seuss



Colin James Neary
Gonzaga College High School
Once you know what failure feels like, determination chases success.
Kobe Bean Bryant



Jessica Elizabeth Olcott
Academy of the Holy Cross
Who here feels like they have no idea what they're doing?
George O'Malley



Catherine Joy Osborn
St. John's College High School
Even the sky is not your limit if you have faith in yourself.
Phineas



Noelle Alexis Polich
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.
Winston Churchill



Chloe MacNeil Quinn
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
I'm not convinced I know how to read, I've just memorized a lot of words.
Nick Miller



Burke William Rembold
Georgetown Preparatory School
What defines us is how well we rise after falling.
Conor McGregor



Kaylee Anne Ruleman
Academy of the Holy Cross
There's a million things I haven't done, but just you wait, just you wait.
Hamilton



Abigail Marie Sloan
Academy of the Holy Cross
When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.
Helen Keller



Luke Matthew Smith
Bethesda-Chevy Chase
I live my life a quarter mile at a time.
Dominic Toretto



Michela Terminiello
Connelly School of the Holy Child
Don't count the days, make the days count.
Unknown



Leo Fowler Turgeon
Georgetown Prep
Number 1 is laugh, you should laugh everyday. Number 2 is think, you should spend some time in thought. And Number 3 is you should have your emotions moved to tears, could be happiness or joy. But think about it if you laugh, you think, and you cry that's a full day. That's a heck of a day.
Jim Valvano



Mia Vannucchi
Undecided
People respond well to those that are sure of what they want.
Anna Wintour



Michael Young
Georgetown Preparatory School
Greatness is a result of hard work and perseverance... stop making excuses and get to work.
Kobe Bryant

AVALON'S GRADUATES

Yasin Abdallah	Brandon Lamont Hilliard
Tianfang Bai	Cleland Eliot Hodges
John Edward Boyle	Cameron James King
Minh Chu	Nicholas Alexander Laboy
John Patrick Collins	Quingren Liu
Thomas Joseph Davern	Yunxi Liu
Darnell Lamont Davis	Sebastian Maximo Mann
Jose De Buerba	Patrick Brady McElhaney
Patrick Andrea De Marchi	Eduardo Roberto Ponce
Bennett Deshishku	Christian Ronan Sorensen
Duc Tri Dinh	Chazz Mateo Wallace
Miguel Garcia Manzano	Kaiwen Wang
William James Hawley	KunPeng Yang

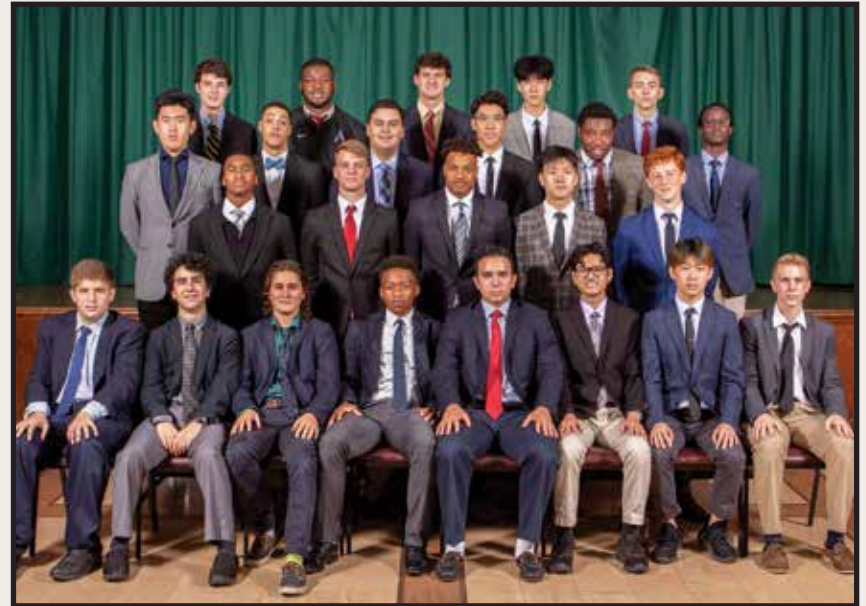
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 ♦ Rutgers University ♦ St. John's University, Queens, NY ♦ Saint Louis University ♦ St. Mary's College of Maryland ♦ Towson University ♦ University of Cincinnati
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 ♦ Montgomery College ♦ Mount Holyoke ♦ Otterbein University ♦ Pace University ♦ Point Park University ♦ Saint John's College, NY ♦ Saint Joseph's University ♦ Shenandoah University ♦ Shepherd University ♦ SUNY, Binghamton ♦ SUNY, Buffalo ♦ The School of Visual Arts, NYC ♦ University of Arizona ♦ University of Dallas ♦ University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign ♦ University of Maryland, College Park
 ♦ University of North Georgia ♦ Virginia Commonwealth University ♦ Virginia Military Institute ♦ Washington College

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Grace Charlotte Boogaerts
 Belency Caryn Cifuentes
 Grace Anne Cotting
 Claire Maria Cristina Daum
 Marisol Cristina Gilardi
 Vanessa Jennifer Ibañez
 Kateri Alisia Kingfield
 Myungjoo Lee
 Mingjie Lyu

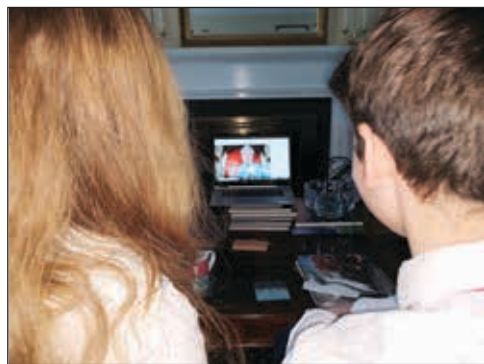
Olivia Rose Montes
 Julia Elizabeth Nelson
 Gabrielle Rose Nerstheimer
 Thu Nguyen Anh Pham
 Josephine Ann Rakow
 Ariana Zahra Shirvanian
 Grace Amber Tifford
 Gillian Blair Tomlinson
 Kathryn Leigh Williams

In uncertain times, St. Bartholomew offers students academics and the comfort of community

Even before the announcement of school closures, St. Bartholomew School teachers were prepared with a plan.

"A few weeks before the shutdown, a conversation took place with the faculty," says Principal Frank English. "It was proposed that teachers do a two-week plan, a four-week plan, and a six to eight-week plan for distance learning." On March 11, plans were formalized at an unprecedented all-staff meeting that caused the school to open two hours late. In hindsight, that meeting proved to be a wise investment of time.

On the first day of the shutdown, students across all ages and learning levels transitioned into a full curriculum of distance learning. Instruction mixes online platforms that allow for cloud-based assignments, classroom meetings, and fun online learning games. Students are working independently, in small



St. Bartholomew siblings watch an all-school awards ceremony hosted by Principal Frank English

groups, and in full classroom meetings. Instruction centers on the core academic subjects, and includes Art, Music, Spanish and Physical Education.

A few weeks into distance learning, the school surveyed parents to get a sense of how it was going from their perspective. Using feedback, teachers honed the curriculum.

"I am continually amazed at the way our teachers and students have managed, and even thrived, during this challenging time," responded Jim Delaney, parent of a second grader and a fourth grader. "The lessons you've provided are great and the videos are amazing - it's like you've been doing them for years."

"I think the teachers are working harder than they ever have before," says Mr. English. "They are constantly going over what they have to do to do their best teaching."

In younger grades, out-of-the-

box instruction included Pre-K teachers delivering distance learning baggies with chalkboards and school supplies to each student.

Face to face classroom time has helped ease the emotional upheaval caused by the sudden shutdown.

"Our students come to class genuinely happy to see each other and their teachers," says Mr. English. "Teachers keep the students engaged, hold them to high expectations, and give them the love and care they need and deserve."

The sense of community is bolstered through Wednesday morning all-school virtual meetings led by the Student Council President and Vice President. The third quarter honors mass also became an online event, complete with a singalong of "St. Bart's Has Heart," a new song composed by Music teacher Daniel Villar.

Mr. Villar has also launched all school singalongs for students to gather and enjoy songs such as Disney favorites. While everybody awaits the day when the school can be together again, the sense of connection and community remains strong.

Adds one middle school parent, "My children are maintaining a schedule and accountability for their education. The teachers have been kind, supportive, available, and engaged with my children. My children's only concern is that St. Bart's teachers have gotten so good at this that it will ruin snow days forever."

OPT

Chukwuma Odigwe is a first year Pre-Theology seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington. He is currently studying at St. John Paul II Seminary in DC and will stay at St. Bartholomew parish through the summer. Chukwuma grew up in Oxon Hill, Md., and is the youngest of four. As a child, he was involved in his parish as an altar server, member of the choir, and member of youth ministry. Before entering seminary, Chukwuma studied at the University of Maryland College Park and went on to work for a short period of time. Chukwuma entered the seminary in August 2019 and has enjoyed his experience so far. He is excited to be at St. Bartholomew Parish and looks forward to meeting many members of the community in the coming weeks!

OPT



Deacon James Glasgow is the third of seven children and grew up in Olney, Md. After graduating high school, he attended The Catholic University of America studying Mathematics and Philosophy. After three years at CUA, Deacon James discerned a call to enter seminary and began studies at St. John Paul II seminary the following year. Upon graduation in 2016, he then began his theological studies in Rome at the Pontifical North American College. Deacon James was ordained a deacon this past October at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. God willing, he will be ordained a priest this June 20th at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Attendant upon the North American College's temporary closure, Deacon James has happily returned to St. Bartholomew's where he joins Fr. Knestout and the wonderful members of the parish in union of prayer asking God's blessings on all of us so affected by these difficult times.

OPT



St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout
Pastor

301-229-7933

St. Bartholomew School
Frank English, Principal
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Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
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COVID-19 Effects

Unique as Coronavirus19 effects are on the World today there was a time when it might have been tougher to be alive. Just ask St. Bartholomew. He was skinned alive and /or crucified upside down like his boss St. Peter!

How Did the Apostles Die?

Reports and legends abound and they are not always reliable, but it is safe to say that the apostles went far and wide as heralds of the message of the risen Christ. An early legend says they cast lots and divided up the world to determine who would go where, so all could hear about Jesus. They suffered greatly for their faith and in most cases met violent deaths on account of their bold witness.

Peter and Paul

Both martyred in Rome about 66 AD during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew went to the "land of the man-eaters" - not definitively identified in the ancient sources. Russians claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached

Continued on page 22



CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATES

St. Bartholomew School

Reverend Mark D. Knestout, **Pastor** • Mr. Frank English, **Principal**



**Cary Preston
Abod II**

UNDECIDED
"Always strive
for greatness."
-Unknown



**Abigail Grace
Adams**

VISITATION
HIGH SCHOOL
"Believe you can
and you're
halfway there."
-Theodore Roosevelt



**Isabella Nichole
Aguilar**

VISITATION
HIGH SCHOOL
"The one thing that you
have that nobody else has is
you. Your voice, your mind,
your story, your vision. So
write and draw and build
and play and dance and live
as only you can."
-Neil Gaiman



**Zoe Elizabeth
Brown**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL
"Not all of us can do
great things. But we can
do small things with
great love."
-Mother Teresa



**Adore Cecelia
Bryant**

ACADEMY OF THE
HOLY CROSS
"It's not about
perfection.
It's about
purpose."
-Beyoncé



**Angel Joanne
Bryant**

ACADEMY OF THE
HOLY CROSS
"Falling down is
an accident.
Staying down
is a choice."
-Dale Bronner



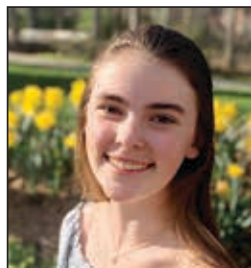
**Veronica
Marietta Carter**

WALT WHITMAN
HIGH SCHOOL
"The surest sign that
intelligent life exists
elsewhere in the universe
is that it has never tried
to contact us."
-Bill Waterson



**Lauren Victoria
Connelly**

STONE RIDGE
SCHOOL OF THE
SACRED HEART
"Visualize your highest
self and start
showing up as her."
-Unknown



**Ashley Arden
Federowicz**

HOLTON-ARMS
SCHOOL
"There are no secrets
to success. It is the
result of preparation,
hard work, and learning
from failure."
-Colin Powell



**Charles Joseph
Gallagher**

GONZAGA COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL
"Graduation is
not the end; it's
the beginning."
-Unknown



**John "Jack"
Byers Hartman**

GONZAGA COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL
"Hard work
beats talent
when talent fails
to work hard."
-Kevin Durant



**Derek Keith
Karns**

GEORGETOWN
PREP
"Ability is what you are
capable of doing. Motiva-
tion determines what you
do. Attitude determines
how well you do it."
-Lou Holtz



**Kvitoslava
Tetiana
Morozov**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL
"All our dreams
can come true, if we
have the courage to
pursue them."
-Walt Disney



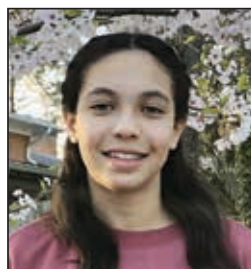
**Zoriana
Halyna
Morozov**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL
"Don't cry
because it's over.
Smile because it
happened."
-Dr. Seuss



**Benjamin
Andrew Kwesi
Osei-Boateng**

SHERWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL
"Everything negative -
Pressure, challenges
- is all an opportunity
for me to rise."
-Kobe Bryant



**Taryn
Stephanie
Ryan**

STONE RIDGE
SCHOOL OF THE
SACRED HEART
"It is very important
to know who you are.
To make decisions.
To show who you are."
-Malala Yousafzai



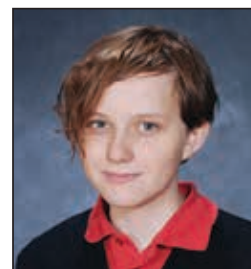
**William
Matthew
Triandafilou**

GEORGETOWN
PREP
"My concern is not
whether God is on
our side; my greatest
concern is to be on
God's side, for God
is always right."
-Abraham Lincoln



**Christopher
Jordan
Youn**

WALT WHITMAN
HIGH SCHOOL
"If opportunity
doesn't knock,
build a door."
-Unknown



**Alessandria
Victoria
Zimmerman**

ST. JOHN'S
CATHOLIC PREP
"When you look at
the world through
rose-colored glasses,
all the red flags just
look like flags."
-Wanda Pierce

Holy Redeemer Catholic School brings taste of March Madness to Kensington with virtual free throw contest

Dave Johnson, WTOP NEWS

The 2020 champions in men's and women's college basketball were supposed to be crowned in Atlanta and New Orleans. The NCAA tournaments were canceled, but there was still March madness in Kensington, Maryland.

In an effort to reconnect students, and get them some physical activity, the Holy Redeemer School in Kensington organized a virtual free throw shooting contest. The competition started with more than 100 boys and girls, kindergarten through eighth grade, divided into brackets and lasted two weeks.

The goal was simple and the competition intense. In each matchup, the kids had 24 hours to video themselves from a private basketball court shooting 10 consecutive free throws. The best score out of ten free throws advanced.

"It kept us all engaged during the first two weeks of the quarantine," said Holy Redeemer Athletic Director Jorge Garayta. "You had to shoot the free throws, somebody had to video you and you could only do one take. We are a catholic school and doing this during Lent, so I said, 'God is watching you



HRS recognizes its virtual free throw champ Cole Frye.

so only one take is allowed."

Initially, the competitors were separated by grade and gender, but by the final of what was called the "Midwest regional," fourth grader Mary Kate Breslin went against eighth grader Ryan Gardner with a spot in the Holy Redeemer final four on the line. It took overtime (or more video) for Breslin to defeat Gardner.

"It was so much fun," Garayta said. "What was great about this was when the camera turned on and you have to video yourself shooting all these free throws, she was able to fight through the nerves and beat all these guys."

And yes, there was even a show for the Holy Redeemer's final four. Garayta did it from his 12-year-old son Sean's bedroom.

In the end, fourth grader Cole Frye defeated Breslin to win the championship of the Holy Redeemer free throw shooting contest. Frye's name is now on the sign outside the Holy Redeemer School and received a trophy as well.

"Alan Vouk, who came up with the idea for this tournament, had a great idea," Garayta said. "He said the trophy should stay in our trophy case forever to remember this time

when we had no sport but we had the Holy Redeemer."

Holy Redeemer even wrapped up its contest in a familiar way: The NCAA men's tournament coverage on television ends with the playing of the song "One Shining Moment" to a montage of highlights.

Holy Redeemer used the song in a video that opened and closed with words from Maryland men's basketball coach Mark Turgeon.

The Holy Redeemer virtual free throw shooting contest was a complete school effort. All the special videos had a professional look and were done by 12-year old sixth grader Patrick Vouk.

The kids might have been physically separated, but through simple free throw shooting and technology, bonds were actually strengthened.

"I had two kids who were part of this thing and they were texting friends, talking trash and congratulating each other," Garayta said. "It was just good interaction when we didn't know what we were supposed to do all cooped up in our houses. It absolutely brought the community together."

OPT

HRS Cardinals – Learning Together at Home

By Ann Enkiri

The students of Holy Redeemer School are leaning into the school's critical fourth-quarter, HRS Cardinal virtue: Commitment. During this extended time of learning together at home, Holy Redeemer students and parents are showing they have true grit. With parental support and guidance, students show up for teacher-led instruction, complete assignments, and share their thoughts and ideas.

Under the leadership of Principal Joan Hosmer, teachers from PreK3 through Grade 8 have found new ways to connect with their students and are exemplars of commitment. With lots of support from Technology Teacher Marianne Green, HR teachers are keeping our students engaged with faith, learning, fun—and with one another. The school's full master schedule of distance learning shows small group and whole class learning—across the academic curriculum and across the virtual platforms. School Guidance Counselor, Mary Ellen Bombara continues to foster the social and emotional health of students. Specials teachers share weekly enrichment resources so that students who are missing Art, Library, Music and PE may find a fun at-home activity.

Faculty tech wizards and masters



Just one of several pictures of HRS teachers posted on social media to support the students

of social media—Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Trotta, and Ms. Green—have created virtual spaces for celebrating Holy Redeemer School spirit as well as academic accomplishments. The week of April 20 featured **Virtual Spirit Week**, complete with daily themes. Students and teachers showed up to Zoom sessions with Crazy Hair, as Superheroes, Outside, in Sunday Best, and of course in Red and White—HR school colors. On Earth Day of that week, Ms. Trotta's middle school science students presented a **Virtual Science Fair**, dedicated to the scientists battling COVID-19. Wonderful at-home video recordings show students presenting their hypotheses, experiments and

conclusions in grade-level videos created by Ms. Green. Spirit Week ended with Music Teacher Meredith Eib's presentation of a **Virtual Talent Show**, literally lifting school spirits.

Holy Redeemer School is first and foremost a space for family, honoring the God-given role parents have as primary educators. Always filled with appreciation for the gift of working with HR students, teachers are witnessing parents as teachers. The entire faculty commends HRS parents, prays for their continuing health, and celebrates their commitment to their children's health, safety, faith and learning.

OPT

Holy Redeemer's Food Drive was a success!

Thanks to all of you generous parishioners who supported Holy Redeemer's April food drive by your prayers, acts of charity, and monetary donations. We were able to provide meals for over 200 families, snacks and goodies to healthcare workers at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring MD. Other recipients of the drive included Catholic Charities: Catholic Spanish Center; Southern Maryland Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity.



Mock Trial

By Andrea Ciconte

On February 12, eighth-grade students reenacted a mock trial for their recent class book *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton. The trial was led by Judge (Colin) Neary accompanied by Bailiff (Luke) Smith. Prosecution lawyers Addie Breitenbach, Cecilia Holdo,

and Indiana Jones accused Johnny Cade, portrayed by Evan David, of murder while defense lawyers Ridgely Bryer, Will Hastings and Bridget Ellis defended the accused.

The verdict by the jury, led by Patrick Dunigan, found Johnny Cade ... not guilty. Special Thanks to Ms. Roby and Ms. Trotta for organizing this great trial and thank you to the eighth grade for putting on a great show!

OPT

Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue
Kensington, MD

Rev. Mark Hughes, Pastor
301-942-2333

Holy Redeemer School
Mrs. Colleen Ryan, Principal
301-942-3701

CONNELLY SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD

Congratulations



ADELPHI UNIVERSITY. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA. AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY. THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. AUBURN UNIVERSITY. BARD COLLEGE. BOSTON COLLEGE. BOSTON UNIVERSITY. BRYN MAWR COLLEGE. BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-SANTA CRUZ. CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON. CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY. CLEMSON UNIVERSITY. COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER. DARTMOUTH COLLEGE. UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON. UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE. DENISON UNIVERSITY. DICKINSON COLLEGE. DREXEL UNIVERSITY. DUKE UNIVERSITY. ECKERD COLLEGE. ELON UNIVERSITY. FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY. FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA. FORDHAM UNIVERSITY. GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY. GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA. HAMPTON UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY. HOLLINS UNIVERSITY. COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS. HOWARD UNIVERSITY. INDIANA UNIVERSITY. JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY. JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY. KENT STATE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY. KENYON COLLEGE LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY. LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY. LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND. LYNN UNIVERSITY. MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY. MARYLAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ART. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND. MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY. MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. MIAMI UNIVERSITY-OXFORD. MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI. MONASH UNIVERSITY. MONTGOMERY COLLEGE. MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA. NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY. THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL. UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON. NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY. PACE UNIVERSITY-NEW YORK. PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH. PROVIDENCE COLLEGE. RANDOLPH COLLEGE. RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE. REGIS UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND. ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. ROLLINS COLLEGE. SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY. SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY. SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY. SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY. SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO. UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO. SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY. SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE. SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN. UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA-COLUMBIA. SPELMAN COLLEGE. ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND. STONEHILL COLLEGE. SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE. THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA. TECHNOLOGICO DE MONTERREY. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE. TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY. THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY. TOWSON UNIVERSITY. TULANE UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF OREGON. UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT. VIRGINIA TECH. WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY. UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE. WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY. WILLIAM AND MARY. XAVIER UNIVERSITY. XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA. YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

EFFECTS

Con't from page 18

in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Philip possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Matthew the tax collector and writer

of a Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Bartholomew had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

James the son of Alphaeus, is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Simon the Zealot, so the story goes, ministered in Persia and was killed

after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Matthais was the apostle chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

John is the only one of the company generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament – the Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.

McGANN

Con't from page 1

We explore streaming Mass options – St. Patrick's this week, Notre Dame next Sunday. Our yards have never looked better, and we finally painted that room and cleaned out those closets. We've got clean baseboards and the gardens are mulched. Now what?

Many of us feel like we have the one thing we always thought there was never enough of – time. If your children are grown, or if you are a young couple just married you have had to figure out how to "fill time". Some of us feel like we've lost time. If you are a young mother – working online, homeschooling

OPT

your kids, laundering, entertaining, cooking, cleaning – maybe you feel like there is no time for quiet thought. You might miss the Metro ride, when you used to plan for the evening and the next day. You might miss that hour before you picked up the kids at school – when you could read a few chapters, or say a rosary, or take a nap. If you're a dad, used to leaving early and returning late, you likely miss the time to read the paper "in peace" or the conversations with co-workers about last night's game.

On the other hand, there are some lovely benefits that come with being "stuck" at home. Mothers and fathers now know a lot more about how their children learn – the supports and challenges they need to keep them engaged in learning. You've realized that teachers know better than you do how to teach Math to a wiggly eight year old or history to a teenager who keeps checking his phone. If you've been deemed "non-essential", you've gotten an instant lesson in humility as you watch the world continue to go around, however slowly, without your usual contributions. If you're a dad you have likely spent more time with your children over this last month than you have in all the years they have been alive. You've discovered that they are simultaneously funny, thoughtful, creative, sulky, and stubborn. They are finding out a lot about you, too – and hopefully most of it's good.

I am newly grateful that I have so many people in my life that I love and I miss – and people who miss me. I appreciate my friends of 50 years who send silly emails and emojis, and my sisters, who can have the most disjointed text conversations, and keep them going for hours. I miss my children. They are smart and funny and such good company. I miss my grandchildren – their hugs, their endless questions, their tiny little hands and their laughter. I have two good men to spend my days with – a husband of 48 years who still loves me (most of the time), and a son who needs me to meet all of his physical needs. They both make me laugh every day, and they both get on my last nerve at least every other day. We have long conversations about politics, Corona Virus, the future, the past, and the weather. We read together, we look at our devices too much, we cook and eat together. I am grateful that I have so much to miss, and I am thankful that I am not alone.

CS Lewis tells us "We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks everywhere incognito." If we replace our worries about what's next with the firm knowledge that God is right here with us, we can slug it out an inch at a time, trusting that He won't leave us out here on our own. We can leave the future to God. We have only the time given each of us – no less and not one second more. It's our job to make the most of the todays we're given. It matters how we do this.

OPT

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Respond to the 2020 Census Now

Every household in Montgomery County has the option to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. Households that haven't received their invitation (or can't find it) can still respond online now – even without their invitation or Census ID – by providing their address. To Respond online, please visit www.2020Census.gov or use 844-330-2020 to respond by phone.

Put the “count” in Montgomery County! Be sure to complete the Census online, by phone, or by mail. It's safe, confidential, easy, and important.

OPT

Community Connection Continues to Thrive at Holy Cross

The campus closure means finding new ways to maintain our deep-rooted community connection with our Holy Cross families. Social media initiatives such as “Learning Never Stops At Holy Cross” and “Wear Your Uniform Wednesday” have been successful in encouraging families to share spirit-filled photos of students engaged in distance learning.

Our traditional schedule of community events to celebrate our Eighth Grade students has been reworked. A three-car caravan comprised of Principal Lisa Kane, Mr. Cilano, Eighth-Grade Homeroom teacher, and Christine Zalewski, Director of Development and Admissions, delivered caps and gowns, congratulatory yard signs, and a personal letter from Mr. Cilano to each student. In addition, we are transforming our traditional “Leavers’ Assembly” into a virtual environment so each grade can honor our graduates.

Music Teacher, Ms. Rappaport, is organizing a virtual talent show which will debut in May. And, the Home and School Association transformed its annual gala into a successful on-line fundraising event.

“While nothing compares to being together in-person,” Principal Mrs. Kane reflected, “we’re working diligently so our relationship with families continues to thrive.”



OPT

The entire Heafitz family were on hand to receive Brady's special delivery!

Continue to Follow Social Distancing Guidelines

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich issued a statement on May 6 in support of the decision to close Maryland public schools for the remainder of the academic year. He also strongly encourages residents to continue to follow social distancing guidelines.

The last day of school for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is currently scheduled for June 15. All MCPS school buildings will remain closed during this time.

“I understand the Superintendent’s decision, and as a former teacher, I know it was not an easy one,” said Elrich. “We will be working with our school superintendent and the Board of Education as well as with our Library, Recreation and Health and Human Services staffs to support our families and our students to continue to learn and grow during this difficult time. I have heard and seen some great examples of creative solutions of teachers reaching out to students, and I appreciate the dedication and hard work. We will do what we can to support you.”

Despite Governor Hogan’s

announcement (May 6 Executive Order) that some outdoor activities may resume on May 7, all Montgomery County Recreation facilities will remain closed until further notice. All programs and rentals are cancelled. While the outdoor areas surrounding County Recreation centers remain open, the public is reminded that all playgrounds are closed.

“We continue to prepare for our reopening,” said Recreation Director Robin Riley. “While there may be some changes to the way we operate in order to ensure the safety of our customers and staff, we are looking forward to the day we can welcome people back into our facilities.”

The County Executive encourages residents to continue to wear face coverings when they go out in public, practice social distancing and continue to follow the Governor’s stay-at-home order.

For the latest COVID-19 updates, visit the County’s COVID-19 website and follow Montgomery County on Facebook and Twitter.

OPT



Planning the layout of a zoo has engaged the attention and efforts of this Second Grade student. His work shows a very detailed understanding of area and perimeter!

CREATIVE LEARNING

Con't from page 8

normally use in the classroom.

Mrs. Falcone and Mrs. Branson are experts at integrating different subjects and learning content into project-based learning, and distance learning has not altered that. A recent example was the “Build a Zoo” project which began with a discussion of a field trip to the National Zoo. Students used that background knowledge to help them consider habitats to design their own zoo. Students applied math skills to work within a budget to purchase items for their zoo. They used measurements for area and perimeter to determine the size for each animal enclosure, and created a scaled layout of the zoo using graph paper.

While distance learning has presented some challenges, Mrs. Falcone sees a silver lining. “One unexpected outcome of this is the students and I are getting to know each other in a much different way than we ever did before in the classroom. It is an experience we will not forget!”

OPT

KINDERGARTEN

Con't from page 8

ways that we can take care of the Earth.

Each day throughout the week, students were asked to watch a short video clip from a *Sid the Science Kid* episode entitled “The Dirt on Dirt” and encouraged to

become ‘dirt detectives’ to explore the composition of soil and how important it is to the health of the planet.

Another website presented topics of conservation and the geography of Earth—including the Earth’s layers from crust to core. Students could draw a picture or build a model of Earth’s layers. “From all reports, the children had a lot of fun

with this project—and they came up with some incredible and creative ways to show the different layers of Earth!” Mr. Stavish explained. “Of course,” she continued, “our faith is central to our teaching, so we placed an emphasis on being good stewards to all of God’s creation.”

OPT

ST. JANE DE CHANTAL SCHOOL

Congratulations Class of 2020!



Lilly Aquino
Stone Ridge

*From there to here,
and here to there,
funny things are
everywhere.*
~Dr. Seuss



Michael Blackstone
Gonzaga

Most trees are blue.
~Jaden Smith



Caitlin Brown
St. John's

*Duty, Honor,
Country, Family,
God, and Love.*



David Cao
Georgetown Prep

*Be a human, not a
robot without
emotion.*



Kevin Emerson
Georgetown Prep

*Don't try to recreate
success, make your
own.*



Joe Flynn
Walter Johnson

*Don't look back at
the past but rather
forward to the
future.*



Grey Gibson
Good Counsel

*Most important
thing is to get rid of
doubt.*
~Nipsey Hussle



Riley Gozycki
Stone Ridge

*Sometimes the
smallest things take
up the most room in
your heart.*



Gianna Greco
The Ogburn
School

*I'm sorry, if you
were right, I'd agree
with you.*



Rachel Hutko
Bethesda-
Chevy Chase

*Don't take life too
seriously, no one
makes it out alive.*
~Elbert Hubbard



Emilie Jabbour
St. John's

*Numbers aren't
math!!!*
~Me



Lizzy Jacobs
Poolesville HS

*You look cute
when you eat
those fries.*
~Ronald



Alessia Jones
Stone Ridge

*It's supposed to
be hard. If it were
easy, everyone
would do it.*



Jessica Khoury
Visitation

*The best thing
about the future
is that it comes
one day at a time.*



Mary Kate Kummer
Walter Johnson

*Do something your
future self will
thank you for.*



Caroline Lennon
Stone Ridge

*Take your victories,
whatever they may
be, cherish them,
use them, but don't
settle for them.*



Jennifer Maxwell
St. John's

*Life moves pretty
fast. If you don't
stop to look around
sometimes, you are
going to miss it.*
~Ferris Bueller



Katie McCabe
Visitation

*A smooth sea never
made a skilled sailor.*
~Franklin Delano
Roosevelt



Declan McGuire
Georgetown Prep

*When life gives you
lemons, squeeze it in
your enemy's eyes.*



Taigh Merola
Winston Churchill

*The choice is yours:
you can become
bitter or better.*



Lucy Meza-Cuadra
Holy Cross

*God knew I would be
too powerful if I
could do math.*



Sydney Michael
Walter Johnson

*Today is a good
day for a good day.*



Cailyn Ness
St. John's

*What feels like the
end is often the
beginning.*



Charley Noah
Good Counsel

*The way I see it, if
you want the
rainbow, you gotta
put up with the
rain.* ~Dolly Parton



Owen O'Keefe
Gonzaga

*A day without
laughter is a day
wasted.*



Reilly Pablo
Gonzaga

*I just don't
understand why
you didn't try the
Big Mac.*



Michael Pavlou
Walter Johnson

Fortnite, Fortnite



Alexander Payne
St. John's

*Things do not
happen. Things are
made to happen.*



Sophia Pimenta
Holy Cross

*If you aren't
obsessed with your
life, change it.*



Meaghan Quirk
Bethesda-
Chevy Chase

*Life isn't about
finding yourself.
Life is about
creating yourself.*



Ciara Rattavong
Stone Ridge

*There are no regrets
in life, just lessons.*
~Jennifer Aniston



Daniel Rhoe
The Heights

*The roof may not be
my son, but I will
raise it.*



Maddie Ryan
National Cathedral
School

*The greatest glory in
living lies not in never
falling, but rising
every time we fall.*



Arion Salim
Georgetown Prep

*The only one who
can change your life
for the better is you.*



Makenna Schoen
Thomas Wootton

*Good friends won't
let you do stupid
things... alone.*



Tyler Singleton
Northwest HS

*Don't believe
everything you read
on the Internet."*
~Abraham Lincoln



Noor Sissoko
Bullis

*I think I'm cool.
That's all that
matters.*
~Tyler, The Creator



Morgan Skibo
Walter Johnson

*People who end up as
first don't actually
set out to be first.
They set out to do
something they love.*
~Condoleezza Rice



Anna Vansant
St. John's

*Do not go where the
path may lead, go
instead where there
is no path and leave
a trail.*



Brett Wall
Walter Johnson

*My skills include
choking on air,
falling up stairs, and
tripping on nothing.*



Kiri Weber
Stone Ridge

*Hannah Montana
said nobody's perfect,
but here I am.*



Alexander Weng
Gonzaga

*If you don't like
where you are in life,
you ain't a tree.*
~Bhad Bhabie



Sebastian Weng
Gonzaga

*You know Oliver,
he's not exactly a
ringer.* ~CC



Thomas Yavinsky
Georgetown Prep

*Always give more
than you receive.*

Fr. Samuel Giese *Pastor*

Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton *Principal*

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The Academy of the HOLY CROSS

ONCE A HOLY CROSS GIRL
ALWAYS A HOLY CROSS GIRL!



Congratulations CLASS OF 2020

Alexis Amina Abdullah
Jacqueline Oluwafunmilayo Adedokun
Victoria Lauren Allen
Grace Elizabeth Allston
Brooke Frances Andrews
Athena Marie Armstrong
Carleigh Spencer Armstrong
Lauren Michelle Bartley
Campbell Rose Bellaman
Colby Eva Bellaman
Caitlin Elise Bendit
Preetam Bhutani
Rebecca Bisrat
Grace Ayn Blanco
MacKenzie Payton Blount-Rich
Meredith Theora Brendel
Kaila Noelle Burgess
Marilyn Joanna Caceres
Sasha Alexandra Carmona
Christina Marie Claverie-Williams
Catherine Marie Connolly
Paula Patricia Cotae
Caroline Julia Crown
Daniela Nicole Cruz
Ryann Dawson Cuddy
Caitlin Ann Cullinane
Kalaya Alair de Leon
Sophia Ann DeCain

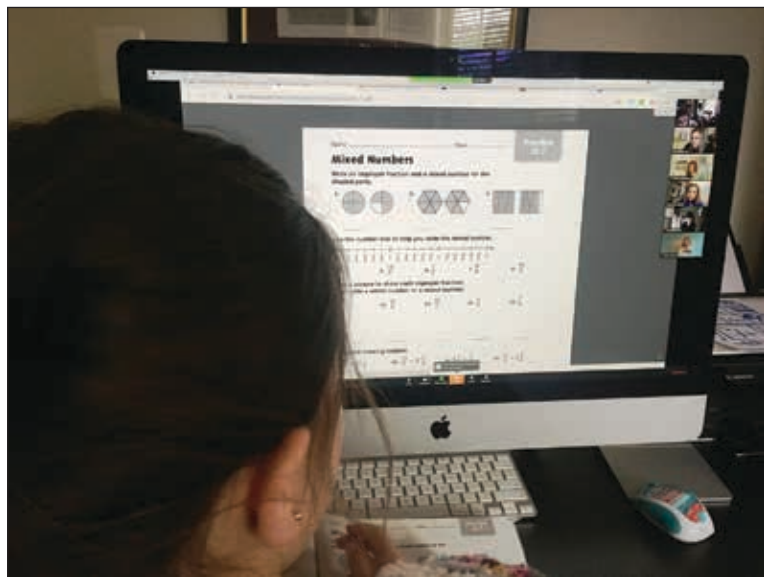
Sienna Skye DeGross
Alessandra Kopta DeSomma
Christine Marie Egan
Isabella Fontana
Erin Elizabeth Freeman
Bridget Kathleen Fry
Carmen Maria Futch Corzo
Kathryn Lyn Gagolin
Samantha Fay Galvin
Lauren Noelle Gaston
Zoe Marie Gerohristodoulos
Nora Elizabeth Gibson
Claire Leia Giunta
Damari A. Greene
Colleen Mary Haanes-Olsen
Jocelyn Marie Hamilton
Emily Grace Hardie
Samantha Ladd Hermans
Catherine Fei Min Hunt-Neu
Caroline Olivia Ionata
Ruth E. John
Annette Elizabeth Johnson
Ana Gabrielle Kaibni
Daniella Mac Karns
Theresa Marie Kelly
Neggin Khaledan
Lauren Nicole Kosiorowski
Molly Elisabeth Kueter

Avery Grace Kulak
Valerie Rose Kuzma
Rachel Mary LaMagna
Carmen Elisabeth Landicho
Hadleigh Marie Locraft
Lauren Jaime Lynch
Olivia Marie Madaras
Jessica Ann Madruga
Bridget Ryan Malone
Anne Denyse Malouf
Alison Elizabeth Manning
Madeline Anne Mara
Kierra Nicole Marshall
Olivia Marie Mascari
Allison Maria McCord
Lillian Clerc McKinnon
Katelyn Sabrina Menjivar
Ruth Ruthie Metzger
Rose Frances Milano
Grace Catherine Esparza Miller
Isabelle Keeffe Mitchell
Meghan Nicole Monahan
Emma Josephine Nalls
McKhaye Lynn O'Boyle
Sophie Elizabeth O'Brien
Izehinosen Okojie
Anna Elizabeth Owens
Joelle Lucinda Packard

Riley Gabrielle Parchment
Mi Phan
Olivia Paige Pinkine
Rosalea Elisabeth Pollak
Kristen Elizabeth Puglisi
Carmella Mary Rizzo
Katherine Eileen Rose
Catherine Lucia Sarca
Olivia Andrea Scuderi
Tsion Seife
Alejandra Gabriela Serrano Colon
Fiona Clare Sheridan
Beza Solomon
Lindsay Alison Strodel
Elisa Marie Terman
Cierra Marie Touma
Alyssa Marie Vetter
Nina Flynn Vito
Elizabeth Grace Walsh
Siobhan Leigh Wampler
Aspen Mackenzie Weber
Rose Helen Weisgerber
Anna Elizabeth Werwinski
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In the safety of home isolation, a third-grade student of St. Jane de Chantal School attends live online math instruction provided by her teachers.

St. Jane de Chantal School Setting the Standard for Distance Learning

By Catie Skibo

During these uncertain times, there is one thing that has remained certain – the education of St. Jane de Chantal students has continued. On March 12th, Montgomery County announced they would be closing schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and St. Jane de Chantal School was prepared and ready to start at-home learning immediately. Students took home their books, learning packets, and Chromebook computers, as teachers prepared online learning communities through Google Classroom. On March 16th students began receiving instruction online and have been successfully learning ever since! Each class has found innovative ways to present students with educational material and learning standards. Faculty share with each other over Zoom conference calls their best practices for these new applications and the most meaningful ways to connect with their students. In many ways, these activities set the standard for distance learning during the current coronavirus shutdown.

Each grade at St. Jane de Chantal School uses Google Classroom as the main hub for each class. Pre-K through third grades can

watch pre-recorded videos of their teachers explaining new material for every subject, reading aloud, and even conducting experiments! Zoom conferencing for the younger grades is known as “snack time.” This is a time for students to connect socially and emotionally with the guidance of teachers and their aides. Fourth through sixth grade classes have been doing a mixture of live and pre-recorded classes. Third grade conducted their annual Wax Museum project over Zoom conferencing, and fourth grade held its annual Famous Americans project over Zoom. Applications such as FlipGrid, Kahoot, Quizzes, Brainpop Jr., IXL, Newsela, and Mystery Science provide outlets for students to communicate, create, learn, and have fun too!

The middle school conducts many of their classes in a live format through Zoom conferencing. Students are expected to sign-in to classes each morning in a polo shirt ready to learn as if they were together in the school building as young professionals. Special teachers are providing instruction to each grade with read-alouds for library class, making instruments for music class, guided drawing for art class, and even 50-yard dash races in PE! St. Jane de Chantal School also has a wellness and health online classroom run by the school’s nurse for students to find different methods to handle the stress and uncertainty surrounding this time in our world and the world of online learning.

The school is thankful for its strong leadership from its principal, Mrs. Hamilton, who has successfully led the entire school into somewhat new territory through online learning. Supporting teachers, parents, and students alike, St. Jane de Chantal School is making positive strides in online learning and looks forward to what new adventures this will bring.

OPT

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Serving the Community

There was no better way to spend a picture-perfect Saturday afternoon in early March before the calls for social distancing. Fortunately, the annual St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality Fashion Show took place just days before the pandemic and confinement orders forced the cancellation of all public events. Many hours of considerable effort went into the planning of such a beautiful afternoon. The Fashion Show co-chairs, Nan Venit and Celestine Kish, assisted by their committee, organized a wonderful display of food, friendship and raffle prizes, and the event also featured an exciting fashion show of stylish designs courtesy of Irresistibles, a clothing store located in Wildwood Shopping Center. Sodalist members modeled outfits perfect for the spring and summer seasons. This event attended by fellow parishioners strengthened our parish community and raised money to support Sodality charitable projects.

The Fashion Show was the last



At the last public event organized by the Sodality Guild of St. Jane de Chantal Parish before quarantining, Sodalist models gathered on stage at the conclusion of the annual fashion show that was held in early March.

public event of the Sodality guild for the Spring season; however, Sodalists have remained active serving the community during this difficult time by providing local food assistance. Sodality recently made a \$5,000 donation to Catholic Charities to support

its archdiocesan food programs and a \$1,000 donation to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC – St. Jane’s sister parish – to support its program providing meals to the needy.

OPT



Before social distancing took place, close to 100 parishioners of St. Jane de Chantal gathered at Caulfield Hall to attend a saint presentation, which was part of Soup, Saint & Stations.

Online Spirituality of St. Jane de Chantal Parish is Very Strong

Lent started very strong at St. Jane Frances de Chantal parish, with a well-planned and very well-attended Soup, Saint & Stations program. Like previous years at the beginning of Lent, close to 100 parishioners gathered every Friday evening to enjoy a delicious and simple meal while listening and learning about the spiritual life of Church Saints, followed by Stations of the Cross in the church. This year’s lineup of Saints was a very impressive list of Church Spiritual Giants. Unfortunately, very soon after the start of Lent, the soup and saints presentations had to be cancelled and the Stations of the Cross moved online. But the confinement did



Pastor Fr. Giese shared the Station of the Cross from St. Jane de Chantal church by broadcasting the event online to parishioners in their homes during Lent.

not deter the parish’s Lent journey and Holy Week celebrations. Private masses have been celebrated and video-casted live for parishioners every Sunday since public masses were cancelled. Station of the Cross were recorded and shared with parishioners during Lent. Holy Week was very intense, with the Paschal Triduum ceremonies privately celebrated in church but attended by the parishioners from the safety of their homes allowing them to continue feeling part of the community. Fr. Giese, the pastor, sent numerous emails and recorded sermons with spiritual guidance and words of wisdom for these difficult times, which

Continued on page 27

St. Jane de Chantal Parish
9601 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD

Fr. Samuel C. Giese
Pastor
301-530-1550

St. Jane de Chantal School
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton
301-530-1221

Susana and Mario Cerritelli,
OPT Editors

Maryland courts plan to reopen

The target date for Maryland courthouses to reopen is June 8, according to Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera of the Maryland Court of Appeals. She told a General Assembly committee on May 7 that there is a multi-phased process that will be implemented if the COVID-19 pandemic abates sufficiently. However, she said that the judicial system will not conduct business as usual.

Social distancing will still be required, which will affect how trials and other proceedings will be conducted, including how jury pools could be safely assembled. Barbera noted that the remote systems used for the court proceedings held during the pandemic have



proved efficient and might be continued after the health crisis has passed.

OPT



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOOD COUNCIL

Food Assistance Resource Map

The Montgomery County Food Council's Online Food Assistance Resource Directory is a mapped database of food assistance providers and benefits application assistance sites in Montgomery County, and is searchable by location, food assistance type, accessibility and many other special features.

The Resource Map is found

at: <https://mocofoodcouncil.org/food-assistance-resource-map/>. To learn more about the features of the database and for a glossary of terms, take a look at the "How to Use This Guide" page.

Results can be downloaded in a printable format to enable Montgomery County residents, food assistance providers, County agencies and other multi service

organizations to easily discover the most convenient source of food assistance services in their area.

Thank you to the Transforming Communities Initiative through the Institute for Public Innovation and the Healthcare Initiative Foundation for making this resource possible!

OPT

LITTLE SISTERS

Con't from page 3

animate its mission. It is dismaying that after the federal government expanded religious exemptions to the HHS contraceptive mandate, Pennsylvania and other states chose to continue this attack on conscience. We are hopeful that the Supreme Court will reaffirm the freedom of our Catholic religious orders and schools to practice their faith and to serve others in love."

The USCCB filed amicus curiae briefs supporting these religious institutions. The briefs can be found here:

Little Sisters of the Poor v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/amicus-briefs/upload/19-431-and-19-454_Amici-Brief.pdf

Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru

www.usccb.org/about/general-counsel/amicus-briefs/upload/19-267-and-19-348-tsac-USCCB.pdf

OPT

SPIRITUALITY

Con't from page 26

were extremely appreciated by all parishioners.

In addition, to allow everyone to feel part of the community, a group of parishioners volunteered their time over Holy Week to contact Maplewood Senior Living parishioners, a Senior Living community next to the St. Jane parish, to connect them with practical and spiritual resources. Many of the Maplewood residents cannot leave their apartments due to the quarantine. They appreciated the calls and were very happy to be able to say a prayer with another parishioner by phone. The residents were also guided to where they could watch Mass online or on TV, and they were comforted by the knowing that if they needed anything they could reach out to the parish.

OPT



Congratulations CLASS of 2020

Santiago Arguello Maduro
John Patrick Bakey
Matthias Edward Barish
William Karol Barvick
Christopher Langley Brubaker
Joseph Anthony Byrne
George William Caldwell
Mark David Cermak
Obi Gabriel Chukwura
Christian Edward Dauchess
Luke Joseph DeAgostino
Benjamin David DeSalle
Jorge Dickens
Michael Egan
Christopher Cullen Flaesch, Jr.

Gregory Harald Fuchs
Adeayo Oluade Gbadehan
Michael Jalen Harrell
Thomas John Hazzard, V
Patrick Matthew James
Bernard Nsamba Kasozi
Thomas Francis Kilmer
Ryan Felix Kim
Isshin Brandon Kurokawa
Peter Quinn Lloyd
Jordan H. McMillen
Carter Charles McNish
Arshon Khosrow MehrRostami
John Joseph Messenger
Joseph Patrick Moynihan

Charles Gordon Mulholland
George deWolfe Murphy
John Raymond O'Neil
Nicholas Augustine Pakaluk
Thomas James Passaro
Shane Gabriel Patrick
Dominic Gordon Provenzano
Ethan Ribeiro
Thomas Augustine Schindler
Jay Randall Sciortino
Eddie Avaughn Singleton, Jr.
Patrick B. Connelley Smith, III
Shaotong Tang
Dominic Joseph Vance
Maximilian Howard Walsh

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The following list is representative of the wide variety of colleges and universities where Heights students have been accepted over the past three years:

Ave Maria University ■ Baylor University ■ Boston College ■ University of California at Berkeley ■ University of California, Los Angeles ■ Carnegie Mellon University (Carnegie Institute of Technology) ■ Case Western Reserve University ■ Catholic University of America ■ College of Charleston ■ University of Chicago ■ Christendom College ■ The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina ■ Clemson University ■ Claremont McKenna College ■ Colby College ■ Colgate University ■ Columbia University ■ Cornell University ■ University of Dallas ■ Dartmouth College ■ Davidson College ■ Denison University ■ Dickinson College ■ Duke University ■ Emory University ■ Fordham University ■ George Mason University ■ The George Washington University ■ Georgetown University ■ Georgia Institute of Technology ■ Gettysburg College ■ Harvard University ■ Hillsdale College ■ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ■ Indiana University ■ James Madison University ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ The Julliard School Loyola University Maryland ■ Marymount University ■ University of Mary Washington ■ University of Maryland, College Park ■ Miami University, Oxford ■ University of Michigan ■ Mount St. Mary's University ■ University of Navarre ■ New York University ■ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■ Northwestern University ■ University of Notre Dame ■ University of Pennsylvania ■ Pennsylvania State University, University Park ■ Pepperdine University ■ Princeton University ■ Providence College ■ Purdue University ■ Rice University ■ University of Southern California ■ Stanford University ■ St. Joseph's University ■ Texas A&M University ■ Tulane University ■ United States Coast Guard Academy ■ University of Vermont ■ Villanova University ■ Virginia Military Institute ■ Virginia Tech ■ University of Virginia ■ Wake Forest University ■ Washington and Lee University ■ Wesleyan University ■ College of William and Mary

THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

THE HEIGHTS IS AN INDEPENDENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN GRADES 3-12 LOCATED IN POTOMAC, MD

10400 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD ■ POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20854 ■ 301.765.2093

heights.edu

Our Lady of Mercy

Keeping Parents Informed

Successful implementation of Mercy Live would not be possible without our parent partners, and we are fully committed to providing them with additional support for managing home schooling. A Parent Information Program, launched in April, included four pre-recorded presentations on Mercy Live, our on-line school. The presentations highlighted: an overview of the program, the technology used, integration of Universal Design for Learning into virtual instruction, and a refresher presentation on how

to use Google Classroom. Parents viewed the videos and were then invited to participate in a series of live Zoom Q&A sessions hosted by Principal Thomas and the faculty. Sessions included: Mercy Live & Technology Overview, Meeting Your Child's Social-Emotional Needs, Preschool, Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, and Grades 5-8 grades. Parents were able to submit questions prior to each session and during the Q&A. Feedback on the entire Parent Information Program was tremendous!

OPT

Congratulations Mrs. Christine Green

Mrs. Christine Green, Mercy's Assistant Principal and Fifth-Grade Teacher, was awarded the **Making IT* Happen Award** from the Catholic Coalition for Special Education (CCSE). *IT stands for Inclusive Teaching. The award recognizes teachers who model the spirit of inclusion by working tirelessly to meet students' individual learning needs. CCSE works across the archdiocese to offer more students with disabilities the opportunity to receive a high quality inclusive education, learning alongside their peers in the classroom and on the playground. We are blessed to have Mrs. Green, the Inclusion Team, and the entire faculty who work so hard to establish a true, and effective, inclusive environment for our non-traditional learners and those who need extended learning opportunities.

OPT

Community Building at OLOM

Community and spirit building initiatives are helping to keep students, staff, and parents connected. Some of the fun programs we have run are:

Mercy Madness – a virtual “March Madness” type of championship bracket; students voted for their favorite Mercy “thing”. Some of the 16 competitors included Father Bill's dog Zelig, the Gym, the Playground, Mr. Bones (our science teacher's skeleton), the Art Room, and our Recess Bell. Although there were some close preliminary rounds, Zelig wagged away with the Championship title!

Virtual Spirit Week – Mercy Spirit was running wild the week of April 27th! Each day was a different theme, including Dress to Impress, Gratitude Day, and Mismatch Day. Students voted on the theme for Day 3 and selected Build Something Day. We had hundreds of photos sent



Mercy Art Teacher Ms. Waites shares her gratitude sign during Virtual Spirit Week

of students and staff who were selected for their outstanding Mercy Spirit. Pride made a surprise visit to their homes and gave them a socially distant “Roar-Out”!

Virtual Field Day – one of Mercy's favorite year-end traditions is going virtual this year. Each class will be assigned a color to wear during this year's event, to be held on May 22. We will be participating as part of the Online Physical Education Network (OPEN). All #NationalFieldDay events are designed to be done indoors or outdoors using common household items (shoes, socks, Tupperware, pencils, etc.) Coffee & Conversation – Each Tuesday, Mercy's school counselor, Susan

Gibson, will host a 30-minute Zoom coffee for staff members who need a little break from their day.

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy Faith – Stronger than Ever!

Although masses are suspended, school families are still keeping the Mercy prayer alive! Father Bill is posting masses every day, including Wednesday's school mass, and is sending regular emails and video messages to our school families with his hope-filled prayers and fun high-

lights.

Friday's with Father – students watch the Wednesday mass video, and then submit their answers to Father Bill's trivia questions.

Rosary Study – students will be focusing on the rosary, and decades of rosary in their Religion classrooms in May. Anna Sullivan,

Mercy's librarian will be reading from a children's Rosary book in hangouts. All Mercy teachers will be emphasizing the importance of Pope Francis' request to pray the rosary in May.

May Crowning – school and parish families will participate in a live Zoom of the May

Crowning on May 9. All are invited to drop flowers (real or homemade) at the school on May 8 which will be placed around the statue.

OPT

By Maryland Catholic Conference

Moving 54 elementary schools online in a matter of days takes a lot of work, but Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington were online as soon as schools were ordered closed as part of state health precautions.

“We took off and started distance learning immediately. Our families deserve the same quality of education whether the campuses are closed or not,” said Vicky McCann, Director for Curriculum and Instruction for the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools.

Technology that already was in place (with iPad or laptop loans made to families where needed), ongoing training for teachers, parent surveys, and flexibility by principals, teachers, and parents have been key factors in making the transition a success, McCann said. Data collection and assessment have helped schools adapt as the online experience has continued.

“There were some bumps,” said Ms. McCann. “We figured out what was working and not working.

From School to Screen



St. Martin School in Gaithersburg, MD, via Twitter

Now, we have a system down and the schools are really taking off.”

For example, live classes are recorded so students who are not able to attend at the scheduled time can watch later, projects may

include offline and online options, and teachers are encouraged to schedule assignments so students can work over a weekend. This has turned out to be important with the complexity of family schedules

during “stay in place.”

She said schools continue to share daily announcements, celebrate birthdays and follow traditions they already had. The day and classes start with prayers, and reli-

gions classes continue to be held.

“We have to give thanks to our priests. They've been offering online Masses for the children,” Ms. McCann noted, as well as leading online Stations of the Cross and praying the rosary with students.

Community service is an important part of the day, also. Students at Cardinal Hickey Academy in Owings worked on thank you notes for first responders this week, and the principal at St. Francis International School in Silver Spring not only is overseeing an online school, but also is coordinating food distribution for low-income families.

It's all part of what a Catholic school community offers. As Ms. McCann said, “None of this could have been possible without our teachers and parents.”

The Catholic schools in the Maryland portion of the Archdiocese of Washington make up Maryland's 13th largest school system, public or private. The Archdiocese is home to 92 archdiocesan and independent schools in five Maryland counties and Washington, DC.

OPT

St. Raphael School Virtually Shines

By Tiffany Murphy

On March 16, online education began for St. Raphael School and Nursery School. Working together, the teachers, parents, and students embarked on a new virtual education adventure. With Facebook birthday announcements, video shout-outs of each of the graduating eighth graders, virtual

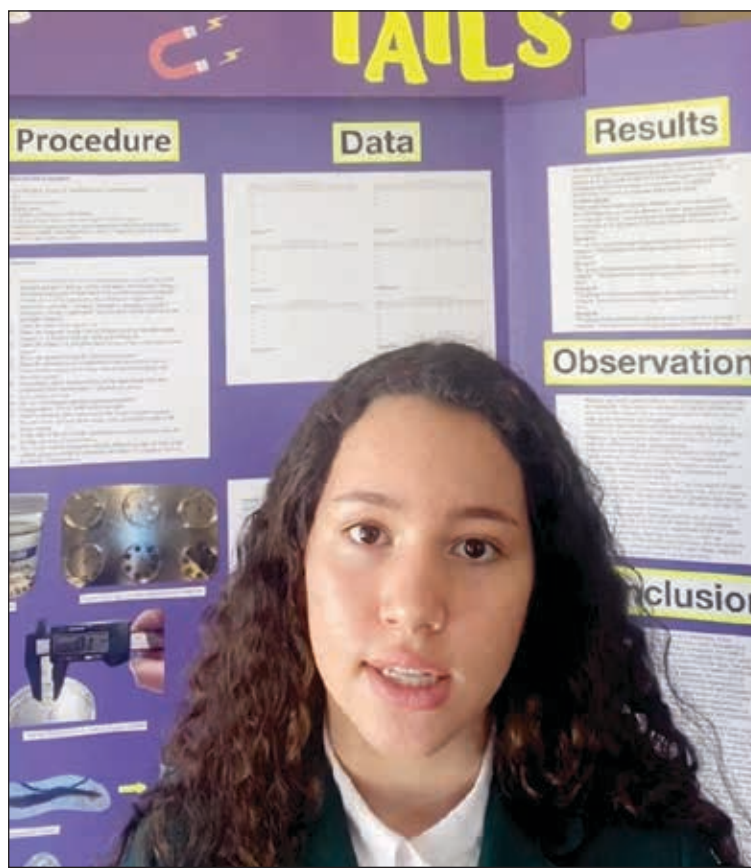
homework assignments, class Zoom calls, Looms from teachers, and the preschool bedtime book club from Mrs. Beall, St. Raphael's continues to shine – and keep everyone connected – through the campus shutdown.

On April 29, during this unprecedented time, St. Raphael School's Science Fair went virtual. Middle-school students videotaped their presentations, which they had been

working on since the beginning of the school year, and the projects were evaluated by a panel of judges. This year, SRS had two honorable mentions and, for the first time, a tie for third place. Honorable Mention: Luke Malanoski and Annalea Vigilante; Third Place (tie): Andrew Partridge and Amanda Ramos; Second Place: Kate Gregory; First Place: Nina Navabi (two consecutive years).

On May 2, St. Raphael's grads-to-be were surprised by a knock at the door to find celebratory signs adorning their front lawns. Special thanks to the Class of 2017 for being our delivery team! The eighth graders will be spreading their wings soon, and SRS couldn't be prouder of the Class of 2020.

OPT



At far left, Eighth-grader Victor Cardillo proudly displays his new SRS Class of 2020 sign. All of the grads-to-be received the surprise in their yards to celebrate the milestone. Photo by Nina Cardillo

At left, Nina Navabi, first-place winner of the SRS Science Fair for two consecutive years, presents her yearlong project, where she studied whether the regeneration speed of planaria increased when exposed to a magnetic field.

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

MJ Zafis-Garcia, OPT Editor

301-762-2143

www.straphaels.org
www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:
@SRSRockville

Congratulations, Class of 2020!



ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL

1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854 ~ www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Alessandra Aguila
Academy of the Holy Cross

Brendan Beane
Gonzaga College H.S.

Victor Cardillo
DeMatha Catholic H.S.

Noah Carrasco
Undecided

Emma Christakis
Academy of the Holy Cross

Daniella Cornejo
Thomas S. Wootton H.S.

Andres Dulcey
Richard Montgomery H.S.

Lauren Everling
Winston Churchill H.S.

Oliver Forrest
Walter Johnson H.S.

Madeline Foulkes
Academy of the Holy Cross

Tatum Francois
Academy of the Holy Cross

Katherine Gregory
St. John's College H.S.

Declan Healy
Georgetown Preparatory School

Kaitlyn Hite
Academy of the Holy Cross

Luke Malanoski
Gonzaga College H.S.

Olivia Malone
Walter Johnson H.S.

Emily Martinez-Olivares
Richard Montgomery H.S.

Casey McGlasson
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Abby Mendez
Academy of the Holy Cross

Denise Mendez
Academy of the Holy Cross

Diana Petragnani
Academy of the Holy Cross

Elizabeth Rascher
St. John's College H.S.

Douglas Rohrer
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Michael Wright
St. Anselm's Abbey School



A 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

The St. E's Spirit During Distance Learning

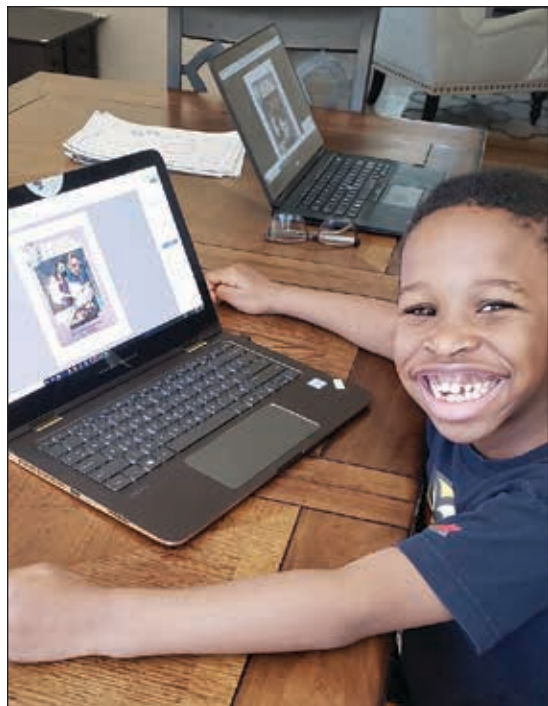
Each day, our teachers are engaging our students in so many incredible ways as they continue their educational journeys of this school year. During this difficult time, our students' well-being continues to be our number one priority. So many distance learning moments and events – our prayer intention page, Fr. Stefan's morn-

ing prayer and birthday announcements, St. Elizabeth virtual Stations of the Cross, the many classes our teachers have hosted over Zoom, and the collaborative learning in which our students have participated – have strengthened the bonds we share as a school family even while we are physically apart.

OPT



At right, Mrs. Hirsch's read aloud of *The Invisible String* has been one of the many ways our students have felt the love that surrounds our school community always and forever.



At left, our Saints are working hard at home!

Below left and right, after learning about Earth day during Zoom sessions with teachers and online assignments, St. E's students took care of our planet in many ways.



Above, our Class of 2020 reconnected with Mrs. Penny on Zoom as we begin our celebration of these incredible soon-to-be graduates.

At left, Father Stefan records morning prayers and birthday announcements for our students and their families on the St. E's prayer intentions page.



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Rockville, MD

Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent
Pastor

301-881-1380

St. Elizabeth School Principal
Mary Penny

301-881-1824

Victoria Wesley
OPT Editor

301-881-1380



Damian Arevalo
St. John's College High School



Nicholas Bannen
Georgetown Preparatory School



Mary Virginia Beck
St. John's College High School



Júlia Bleasby
MacKenzie High School, Brazil



Daniel Bonato
St. John's College High School



Ella Burch
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Caitlyn Clark
St. John's Catholic Prep



Jennifer Corsini
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Matias Coyne
St. John's College High School



Nathaniel D'Costa
Undecided



Catherine Della Rocca
Academy of the Holy Cross



Peter Deoudes
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Olivia Evans
Elizabeth Seton High School



Darby Farrell
Archbishop Spalding High School



Caroline Feldman
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Grace Finnegan
Richard Montgomery High School



Deven Fitzpatrick
St. John's College High School

St. Elizabeth Catholic School

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020

Mrs. Mary Penny *Principal*

Monsignor J. Wilfrid Parent *Pastor*



Reed Frick
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Elizabeth Furtak
Walter Johnson High School



Veronica Gomez
Academy of the Holy Cross



Laura Gonzalez
Connelly School of the Holy Child



Pia Heister
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Christopher Kilburg
Thomas S. Wootton High School



Andrew Kim
St. John's College High School



Garrison Konz
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Mateo Larson
St. John's College High School



Fiat Le
The Brookewood School



Alison Lill
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Gabriela Lopez
Academy of the Holy Cross



Maya Grace Mahoney
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School



Emma McCarthy
Richard Montgomery High School



Charles McNamara
Gonzaga College High School



Mira Meale
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School



Finn Meyer
Gonzaga College High School



Mary Mongelli
Academy of the Holy Cross



Patrick Murphy
Walter Johnson High School



Abigail Murray
Connelly School of the Holy Child



Christine Nareski
St. John's Catholic Prep



Samuel O'Rangers
Bishop Shanahan High School



Ana Maria Pantoja Alfaro
The Brookewood School



Kyan Pires
Gonzaga College High School



Evelyn Plummer
Academy of the Holy Cross



Corey Ray
St. John's College High School



William Reed
Gonzaga College High School



Maria Reynolds
St. John's Catholic Prep



Eric Robinson
Rockville High School



Ava Rodriguez
Connelly School of the Holy Child



Alex Rojas
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Gracie Schrier
Academy of the Holy Cross



Gabriel Serrano
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Dylan Sheldon
Undecided



Marisol Skurla
St. John's College High School



Giovanna Stauffer
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Elena Sunderman
Academy of the Holy Cross



Meghan Tan
Our Lady of Good Counsel



John Teter
St. John's College High School



Marvin Tientcheu
St. John's College High School



Sophia Weise
St. John's College High School



Kalen Wells
DeMatha Catholic High School

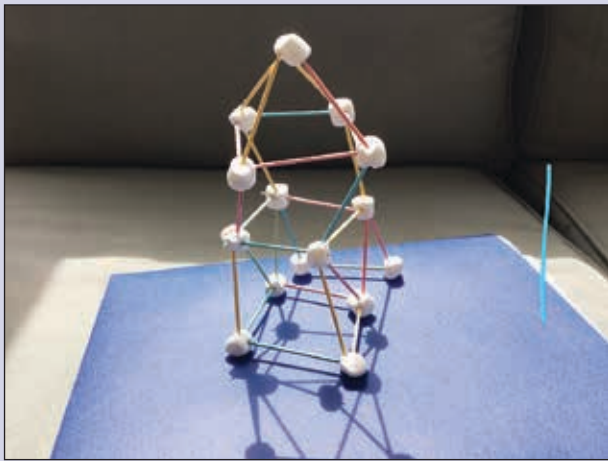


Joseph Zorc
Gonzaga College High School

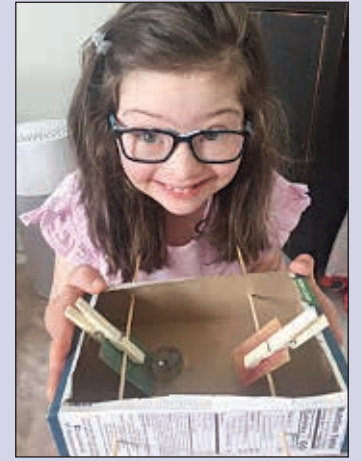
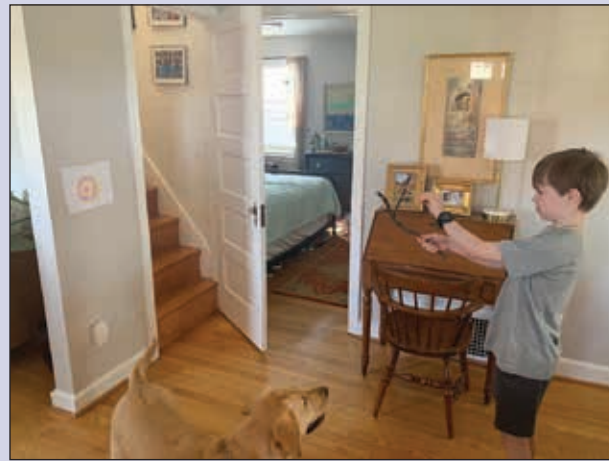
S.T.R.E.A.M. of Learning Still Flowing at Our Lady of Lourdes

STREAM stands for science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and math. At Our Lady of Lourdes we have spent much time this year focusing on the integration of these areas of study. In the fall we completed construction of our STREAM lab and have presented the students with opportunities to take part in learning that encourages them to ask questions, make plans, rethink and redesign plans, and ultimately find solutions. Incorporating faith formation activities into this learning reflects what our school finds most important, learning our faith and making connections to our present lives. This is something that the third grade, under the skillful instruction of their teacher Mrs. Interlandi has been able to accomplish during the year and remarkably even during our distance learning!

How tall can you make the Tower of Babel with tooth-



LOL students make religion lessons come to life through engineering and design.



picks and marshmallows? How can you make baby Moses' basket float without sinking? Can you make David's sling and use it to launch an item that will hit a target? These are some of the questions third graders at Our Lady of Lourdes School have been answering as they apply the steps of the Engineering Design Process to complete STREAM projects during Distance Learning.

The third grade is enjoying these hands-on activities and

using problem solving skills and materials found in their homes to think outside the box. We have been taking photos and videos of their STREAM projects in action and submitting them on our class SeeSaw page. This has been a great opportunity for our students to collaborate during distance learning and discuss successes, challenges, and ways to improve their designs. Way to go Third Grade, we are proud of all you have accomplished!

OPT

Virtual May Crowning

Our Lady of Lourdes held a virtual May Crowning using Zoom on May 7. Msgr. Filardi led the School in honoring our Mother Mary with the help of eighth-grade students and May Queen Lily Capizzi, who read the *Memorare* ("Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary") seeking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin.

Msgr. Filardi and Ms. Moore concluded the celebration by wishing, "Happy Mother's Day to all our LOL Moms, Grandmoms, Aunts, and Godmothers! You make our lives better in so many ways and we thank you for your support, friendship, and love."

OPT



Caption for screen-shot: Our Lady of Lourdes students participate in the school's virtual May Crowning.

Finding Blessings During a Pandemic

By Lily Capizzi and Gigi DuFour, 2020 graduates

We are students attending Our Lady of Lourdes in the eighth grade. We have both

been at Lourdes for eleven years and have encountered many thrilling experiences. Since the closure of our school campus, we have been dealing with negative thoughts and concerns due to the coronavirus, new ways of learning and communicating with teachers and friends, and getting used to a quarantined lifestyle. These are not the things that we considered would be part of our eighth-grade year. We were looking forward to the end year activities, trips, and graduation. We know that we can't sit and sulk about what may or may not happen as we planned. During this time of pandemic, uncertainty, and social distancing, we have found that there are blessings to be grateful for each day.

Some days we have to try harder to make our negative situation turn into a blessing, but that is when we call on our faith and ask God to give us the strength to be grateful for what we have in front of us. We have found that you can and should be grateful for a unique time like this. If we really look, we can find what God has intended us to notice.

Many people in society look at the virus and how we have to stay away from each other in schools, restaurants, and more as a time when we are trapped inside all day doing nothing. We look at what's going on right now as a way to spend more time with your family. It is easy during regular school and workdays to take our family for granted. We have

busy schedules and lots of school activities that take time away from family. If you choose to make the most of the time with family you can see the blessing in being together and not having a busy schedule of appointments, practices, and homework.

Another bonus of these times is we can always try new and exciting things. You could take up an instrument, spend time learning to cook, or even try a new board game. There is also plenty of time to improve on skills you already have. Beating your mile time, perfecting your soccer kick, or mastering the trick you've been working on forever. You can spend more time with your siblings and maybe learn something

about them you never knew. Another fun way to pass time quickly is by video chatting with your friends. It is especially great during quarantine to get some fresh air and appreciate God's creation all around you.

There are many times in the world where we choose to only see the bad in things. We have been given the opportunity to appreciate the little things in life. During this difficult time, prayer, family time, nature, and friends are things we've learned not to take for granted. This 2020 pandemic is hard for many people around the world, especially for graduating classes. As members of the class of 2020, we are ready to face any new challenges that this pandemic brings and to always remember to appreciate all that God has given us and see His light in every situation.

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi,
Pastor
301-654-1287

Ms. Amy Moore
Principal
301-654-5376



OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL
Congratulations Class of 2020 Graduates

Amy Moore, *Principal* • Rev. Msgr. Edward Filardi, *Pastor*



**Brooke
Briscuso**

Connelly School of
the Holy Child

*"Through hard work,
perseverance, and
faith in God, you can
live your dreams."*



**Lily
Capizzi**

Bethesda Chevy Chase
High School

*"Our greatest weakness
lies in giving up. The
most certain way to
succeed is to try one
more time."*



**Devin
Chism**

Walter Johnson
High School

*"Be strong.
Be accountable.
Never complain."*



**Ben
Cocco**

Gonzaga College
High School

*"The important thing
is to not stop
questioning."*



**Miley
Copeland**

Princeton
High School

*"Don't let yesterday
take up too much
of today."*



**Francis
Deausen**

Saint John's College
High School

*"Failure will never
overtake me if
determination to
succeed is strong
enough."*



**Patrick
Donohue**

The Heights School

*"Try not to become a
man of success, but
rather to become a
man of value."*



**Gigi
DuFour**

Bethesda Chevy Chase
High School

*"The greatest glory in
living lies not in never
falling, but rising every
time we fall."*



**Angie
Guevara**

Sherwood
High School

*"Dream, though your
beginnings may be
humble, may the end
be prosperous."*



**Daisy
Lipton**

Undecided

*"Believe in yourself,
push your limits,
experience life,
conquer goals, and
be happy."*



**Alex
Majors**

Saint John's College
High School

*"The secret of happiness
is to live moment by
moment and to thank
God for all that He, in
His goodness, sends to
us day after day."*



**Charlie
Malkus**

Saint John's College
High School

*"And there's a million
things I haven't done.
But you just wait,
just you wait."*



**Colin
McGonagle**

Saint John's College
High School

*"Don't count the days,
make the days count."*



**Jude
McGroarty**

Gonzaga College
High School

*"Success is not final,
failure is not fatal:
it is the courage to
continue that counts."*



**Diego
Orrego**

Saint John's College
High School

*"Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is a mystery,
but today is a gift."*



**Claire
Quinn**

Saint John's College
High School

*"The best way to
predict the future
is to create it."*



**Nayalie
Rene**

The Academy of the
Holy Cross

*"Do not go where
the path may lead.
Go instead where
there is no path and
leave a trail."*



**Ava
Ruggieri**

The Academy of the
Holy Cross

*"Be a good friend,
try your best,
and make the best
of each day."*



**Gabby
Solomon**

Georgetown Visitation
Preparatory School

*"There are no
impossible obstacles;
there are just stronger
and weaker wills."*



**Christopher
Walsh**

The Heights School

*"On the fields of friendly
strife are sown the seeds
that on other days, on
other fields will bear
the fruits of victory."*

Schooling at Home

While the COVID-19 pandemic has closed area schools, **St. Jude Regional Catholic School** [Pre-K–Eighth grade] implemented a robust distance-learning program whereby students meet regularly with faculty and peers through Zoom, pre-recorded activities, and online education



platforms that have been made available during this unprecedented time. Pictured are two young SJRCS students and music teacher Amy White (on computer screen), who continue to work hard while social distancing.

OPT

EASTER

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opportunity for spiritual growth and communion. It gives us a rare occasion for solitude, not loneliness. We all need some time off. So does the whole world. We need a pause to reflect on our life, journey, relationships with one another and with God. Solitude helps us to reexamine what are truly essential. The quarantine naturally leads to a spirit of Quadragesima (Lent in Latin). Our fear and anxiety, waywardly heart and harsh uncertainties... these are what those people of Israel underwent in the desert, which our Lord also had to endure, and currently what we are going through.

Perhaps "April [was] the cruelest month," literally, to many around the world in reference to the pandemic. Then again, this pandemic gives us a pause to be real about the emptiness and despair of modern life and the longing for spiritual answers. In his *The Waste Land*, TS Eliot may be giving a diagnosis to the sterile barren contemporary culture like an epidemiologist.

Good Friday is the day of the Lord's passion, which is our day of liberation. Jesus has overcome the

cruelest passion and death with his life-giving forgiveness and love. It is the day we become one with Him in reverencing His cross. The tree of the most shameful and painful death has become the tree of life eternal for all those who accept this mystery in their soul. Life-snuffing cruelty to life-saving mystery!

One family in the parish sent this message to me: "Our highlight on Good Friday was all of us going to St. Jude, our home away from home. We did the stations of the cross, all of us. We took turns reading aloud, and we all stayed for some private prayer. There were not many in the church, but we went ahead and treated our church like home.... we read aloud, prayed together and spent time doing the Stations together. It was maybe even more intimate than years past. We chose to go together as a family. Our Lord continues to bless us in these difficult times!"

This Easter, we feel the pain of isolation. But as Bishop Murray of Youngstown says: "... a new element has been introduced into our lives. All will be made whole again, because Jesus is alive and speaks his words of peace, healing and hope."

OPT

Prayer to Saint Jude

In these difficult and challenging times, we pray for the intercession of our patron saint, St. Jude:

Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered the beloved Master into the hands of His enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, of things despaired of. Pray for me who am so miserable; make use, I implore you, of this particular privilege accorded to you, to bring visible and speedy help, where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need,



St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of hope and desperate causes. Photo by Tom Roach

that I may receive the consolations and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations and sufferings, particularly (here make your request), and that I may bless God with you and all the elect forever.

I promise you, O blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen.

Say one *Our Father, Hail Mary* and *Glory be to the Father*.

Saint Jude, Apostle, martyr and relative of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Mary, and Joseph, intercede for us.

OPT

Red Cross Thanks the Shrine of St. Jude for Hosting Blood Drive

By David Hull, American Red Cross Blood Services

The American Red Cross is grateful to the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church for hosting an emergency blood drive on March 26. More than 70 individuals registered to donate, and 67 pints of blood were collected. Thank you to all of those who waited patiently to donate! These donations have the potential to help up to 169 patients in need. I would like to send a special thank you to Frank & Fran Benedetti for spending more than 12 hours at the

drive to help welcome and check in donors. It was a challenge with the new procedures in place to protect staff, donors, and volunteers.

The next scheduled blood drive at the Shrine of St. Jude will be on Saturday, June 20, from 8 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

Please register at: www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=SJC%20Rockville

The American Red Cross truly appreciates the parish's time and commitment to our life-saving mission.

OPT



Montgomery County Pesticide Law Is in Effect

Spring has arrived and many residents and homeowners' associations are working at having greener lawns. Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) encourages enthusiastic lawn care, but also wants to send the reminder that the County's pesticides law is in effect.

The pesticide law, which was approved by the County Council in 2015 and upheld by a ruling of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals in May 2019, restricts the use of certain pesticides and herbicides on private lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas and private childcare facilities. DEP sent a mailer with provisions of the pesticides law to all County homeowners in April.

The County's pesticide law aims to protect families, pets and the environment from the harmful effects of synthetic chemicals in the air, water and

soil.

Homeowners, property managers and landscapers should familiarize themselves with the requirements of the law. The law affects property owners and professional landscapers equally, so contracts for lawn care should only have provisions that include the use of organic pesticides or herbicides.

If homeowners are still in possession of pesticides that are now banned, they are asked to hold onto them until Covid-19 related restrictions have been lifted; after such time they may safely dispose of those pesticides at the household hazardous waste collection site of the Shady Grove Transfer Station in Derwood.

The DEP website has additional information on the law, plus options on how to improve lawns using organic methods: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lawns/law/.

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

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Pastor

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St. Jude Regional
Catholic School

Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal

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Maureen Martin,
OPT Editor

MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

The Avalon School and Brookewood School Honor Two International Graduates

The Avalon School and Brookewood School each host around 10-20 international students every year, representing countries from around the world. After finishing their high school degrees, our alumni have pursued challenging majors and careers, strengthened by our schools' education and community. We pray for great success for our international students and would particularly like to highlight two of this year's graduating seniors

Myungjoo (Elizabeth) Lee came to Brookewood from South Korea in the middle of her freshman year, which could be considered a disadvantage. However, Elizabeth, ever up for a challenge, finished her first year with top marks. Before coming to Brookewood she worked in a volunteer center that helped refugees from North Korea, and her desire in coming to the states was to learn as much as possible to be able to help and serve others. Elizabeth has seamlessly involved herself in the life of the Brookewood community: she has been named an AP scholar, has participated in Model UN each year, has played on the lacrosse team, and has even sung and danced in our annual gala. In the fall, she plans to attend the University of Arizona on an academic scholarship as a business major.

Minh Chu, an international student from Vietnam, came to The Avalon School for his junior year with the goal of completing his high school degree and entering an American college. One of the most difficult aspects of international study is not only learning all of

your subjects in a foreign language but also being open to friendships and a new community. Continually studying simply in order to achieve perfect grades can become a trap. Minh, however, was a student who loved learning "for the thing itself" instead of just merely trying to achieve high grades, according to Head of School Kevin Davern. "Minh was an excellent student who knew how to be open, funny, and respectful. He was a leader amongst the international students,

being able to both befriend domestic students and other internationals from other countries." Minh will graduate and continue his studies at Montgomery College.

From our internationals – "Hãy chèo ra ngoài sâu" in Vietnamese and "museowohaji mal-ala" in Korean – "Go out into the deep" and "Be not afraid!"



Chu Minh



Lee Myungjoo

OPT



Principal: Dr. Glenn J. Benjamin

Pastor: Rev. Paul D. Lee

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2020!



ST. JUDE
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

We are . . . St. Jude!



Christina Argyros

The Academy of the Holy Cross



Naomi Barish

The Academy of the Holy Cross



Edon Beqa

DeMatha Catholic High School



Marco Duran

Wheaton High School



Isabella Grijalba

The Academy of the Holy Cross



Austin Lambert

Our Lady of Good Counsel



Raquel Liriano

Richard Montgomery High School



Benjamin Lopez

DeMatha Catholic High School



Ethan Mendes

Wheaton High School



Christian Patiag

Our Lady of Good Counsel



Timothy Sanders

Nauset Regional High School



Rachel Shrestha

Our Lady of Good Counsel



Kayla Smith

Our Lady of Good Counsel



Esha Tamang

Wootton High School



Grace Townsend

The Academy of the Holy Cross



Isabella Turner

Our Lady of Good Counsel



Lily Weiksner

Urbana High School



Eden Yared

Wheaton High School

www.StJudeRockville.org • MainOffice@StJudeRockville.org

CONDEMN

Con't from page 2

so that we can emerge from this crisis renewed and stronger as one American people; a people that places value in every human life, regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender or religious affiliation.

"While we continue to pray fervently for an end to the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus, we call for a firm rejection of racial categorizations or presumptions, racially based verbal assaults or slurs, and for an end to all forms of violence. We ask our elected officials and public institutions, as well as all public figures, to do all that they can to promote and maintain peace in our communities; and we encourage all individuals, families and congregations to assist in promoting a greater appreciation and understanding of the authentic human values and cultural contributions brought by each racial heritage in our country."

OPT

Resurrection Helps Parishioners and Community Navigate Uncertain Times

As with any parish in the Archdiocese, Resurrection found Herself in new territory during the *Stay at Home Order* that Governor Hogan put into place due to the coronavirus.

Church of the Resurrection Parish

3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD

Rev. John M. Barry,
Pastor
301-288-4662

Programs that were set in place had to be canceled. Sacramental liturgies were postponed until further notice. Maybe most heart breaking was not being able to physically attend Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday liturgies with fellow parishioners. However, this has not stopped Father John Barry, Pastor, from leading his flock.

Quickly, liturgies became available for parishioners to watch online. In fact, Resurrection created a YouTube channel for parishioners and the entire community to attend Mass virtually. Clergy has created *The Daily Word* videos for the website where they discuss

the dialing readings. Father Barry is creating a Bible study in the form of a video for the website. Resurrection offers First Friday Adoration with the Monstrance in the indoor Eucharistic Window (Greencastle Road side of parish) and “drive through” confessions in the parking lot (this will now occur every Friday from 4 to 8pm until the church re-opens). In fact, Father Barry set up the window for people to come and pray anytime. Father Barry also brought Resurrection’s Blessed Mother statue to the Eucharistic window for the month of May.

Director of Religious Education,

Mrs. Helene Stever and her team of catechists call their students weekly to check on and let them know how much they are loved. Mrs. Stever has provided websites on talking with children about the coronavirus, keeping a strong Catholic faith as a family and different resources for prayer. Resurrection clergy and staff have been reaching out to parishioners via the telephone, email and snail mail. Resurrection has continued to provide clergy for funerals and private confessions while maintaining social distancing.

The Resurrection Food Pantry continues to assist neighbors in the

area that are in need. Since March 13, Resurrection has provided food to nearly forty families – triple the normal amount. On May 15, the Resurrection Women’s Ministry will have a Zoom event, *Keeping Faith and Gratitude, During Difficult Times*. Zoom has become a very popular for Resurrection as it is used as a communication tool for staff, Parish Council, RCIA, the music ministry and other committees.

Resurrection looks forward to having all parishioners (current and new) back at Mass, no matter what that looks like.

OPT



QUESTION
a b o r t i o n SM

Abortion rights activists promised us a world of
equality and reduced poverty.

A world where every child would be wanted.

Instead, child abuse has escalated,
and rather than shared responsibility for children,
even more of the burden has shifted to women.

Question abortion. No law can make the wrong choice right.

Refuse to Choose® • Women Deserve Better®



FEMINISTS FOR LIFE
OF AMERICA

feministsforlife.org

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Volunteers at St. Martin's Food Pantry organize food donations in preparations for the Monday distribution. The number of families seeking food donations has nearly doubled since the start of the pandemic. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

PANTRY

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Smith and his team—many who are new volunteers—have pulled off over the past couple weeks. Thank you for your donations and support of the pantry,” said Father David Wells, parish administrator of St. Martin of Tours.

Nearly a month ago, with the Stay-at-Home order enforced, Smith for the first time ever put out a plea for food. Since then, the parish community has responded to the need. Besides the usual contributions from the supermarkets like Trader Joes, Sam’s Club, and Costco, members of the community have been donating nonperishable items on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Mondays, from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. Martin of Tour’s school has also contributed more than 8,000 food items and continues

to give. Teachers have collected the food from their “Teacher Wave” events. Parents drive up to the school allowing the students to see and wave to their teachers while also dropping off the food items for the pantry.

Other volunteers have organized days collecting food in the neighborhoods. Volunteers leave their trunks open for donors to place the bags of food, all while being extremely cautious of social distancing.

Parishes around the dioceses have also responded setting up Food Drives and 24 hour Fasts that will benefit St. Martin’s Pantry.

The pantry is still looking for volunteers to help serve in the pantry on Mondays. Due to the health concerns from the coronavirus they ask that volunteers be in good health and under the age of 40.

For more information on how and what to donate to the food pantry, visit the parish website. www.stmartinsweb.org

OPT

Renewal of Consecration of the United States to the Blessed Mother

To begin May, the month of Mary, Washington Archbishop Gregory joined Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and bishops throughout Canada and the United States in renewing the consecration of our nation to our Blessed Mother. On Friday, May 1, Archbishop Gregory participated in a special international dedication liturgy via livestream from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The goal of this dedication is to remind the faithful of the Blessed Mother's unflinching intercession and to renew trust in her aid during the nation's present struggle against COVID-19.

"May is traditionally considered a Marian Month. We often have held special ceremonies declaring our love and devotion to the Mother of God," Archbishop Gregory said. "Once again on this first day of May we ... ask Her protection and comfort during these unsettling times caused by the coronavirus and its impact on the life of people everywhere."

The consecration first took place in 1792, when the first bishop of the United States, Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, placed the nation under Mary's protection in a pastoral letter. This devotion has been renewed on various occasions throughout the centuries, including



in 1847, when Our Lady, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, was named Patroness of the United States of America.

OPT

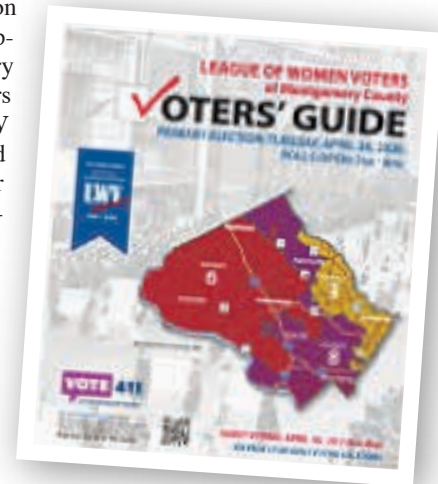
League of Women Voters' Guide and other primary election information

Maryland's primary election is on June 2, and in preparation, the Montgomery County League of Women Voters has issued its nonpartisan **LWV Voters' Guide**. Normally, hard copies would be available at our libraries and other county facilities, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are currently available only online at www.lwvmocomd.org/vote411-org.

The voter registration deadline has been extended to May 27. Voters who register by that date will receive a ballot in the mail or electronically from the Board of Elections. For information on how to register and for the application form, visit: www.lwvmocomd.org/register_to_vote

This election will be conducted primarily by regular mail, with ballots and postage-prepaid return envelopes. The ballots and envelopes will be sent soon directly to voters, so watch for them in the mail. Your completed ballots should be postmarked on or before June 2.

Note that there will be no early in-person voting this cycle and only limited in-person voting on June 2. See the Voters' Guide for information on where you can vote in person.



OPT

Seton's Class of 2020 has earned almost 300 college acceptances and has been offered more than \$10 million in college scholarships. We thank them for their grace and perseverance and for modeling the true Vincentian Charism during this unprecedented time. May God continue to bless them as they graduate and move on to college and university endeavors!

Elizabeth Seton High School

5717 Emerson Street,
Bladensburg, MD 20710
301.864.4532



Congratulations to the Class of 2020

Kamiya Abner
Valerie Abrego Amaya
Oluwaferanmi Adewole
Tyra Agnew
Danielle Aiello
Anjolaoluwa Akintoba
Drew Allen
Leia Alves
Jaden Asiamah
Randi Baldwin
Taylor Barton
Alana Bofo
Lauren Boone
Erin Brinkman
Tiffany Brown
Kimone Bussey
Jaida Bynum
Shea Carroll
Kayla Cartagirone
Enya Carter
Karla Cilien
Kayla Clark
Morgann Clark
Karen Coles
Christal Constantine
Keilah Cook
Kyndal Cooke
Sophia Cooney
Tarsis Coreas
Rea Corraya
Veronica Creel
Kayla Cunningham
Gillian Dixon
Rebeca Dobson
Kayla Edwards

Starr Escoffery
Erica Ezimorah
Lillian Farrell
Zéah Fortune
Wendy Garcia
Alexa Gaston
Andréa Gerber
Amanda Gilbert
Lauren Gomes
Jocelyn Gomez
Macy Granzow
Tyler Gray
Madison Greene
Brianne Gunn
Rajah Gussom
Chayla Hampton
Blair Harris
Sanai Harris
Olivia Hawkins
Felicia Hewitt
Allison Hogue
Leslie Holt
Kayla House
Madeleine Houston
Karizma Houston-Davis
Sharolyn Hyson
Larisa Injinju
Alessandra Irby
Raina Jackson
Bailey Johnson
Julia Joseph
Lucine Kamara
Roselynn Kamara
Mary Keane
Brittany Kilgore

Emmaline Larson
Juliette Leyva
Caeleigh Lillis
Angela Luna-Vazquez
Savannah MacAulay
Peyton Macy
Cydni Maryland
Julianna McCormick
Olivia McFadden
Morgan McGinnis
Ashley Mejia
Trinity Mgongo
Carina Ming
Kaitlyn Minor
Janaye Monroe
Emily Mora
Cyrilyn Morfaw
Solangé Muller
Rachael Neal
Kailah Staley-Neither
Olivia Ngu
Johanna Noriega-Ovando
Naomi Nyeme
Fealiam Ofili
Nneka Okoro
Afoma Okpalannaka
Rebeca Orozco-Guzman
Lauren Ouzts
Princesse Owona
Courtney Parker
Brittaney-Nya Payton
Amanda Peralta
Arianna Pereira
Kiaya Pierce
Viola Pitts

Mykaila Plummer
Kathleen Quinn
Crystal Raghunanan
Ashley Ramlogan
Madison Ratcliffe
Kaitlyn Reagan
Arian Reid
Rachel Rissler
Jocelyn Rivera
Ruby Lynn Roane
Ava Robinson
Morgan Robinson
Kristin Rozylowicz
DeA'nnie Schulerbrandt
Mariana Sheehan
Mia Sims
Nadia Souleymanou
Amariyah Stanley
Nora Sweeney
Hanna Thatcher
Sasha Thompson
Myramonique Tindong
Leticia Torres Carcamo
Lauren Tupaj
Ericka Umaña Portillo
Sidni Vernon-Andrews
Akela Villegas
Taylor Washington
Amber Whetstone
Tiffani White
Stephanie Whiteman
Jade Wilbanks
Maia Wilkins
Mariela Zelaya
Michelle Zelaya

Community Spirit Not On Lockdown!

Often in challenging times, the human spirit is uplifted and the best in people is displayed. This certainly was true at St. John the Evangelist when we had two “drive-by” events. When our beloved “Nana” Margaret Robinson (who reads stories to our Junior Kindergarten class) turned 90, her family wanted to find a way to let her know how special she is to our entire SJE community. So they arranged a drive-by in front of the school where students, past and present, and their parents could wave, display banners, and honk in appreciation for what Nana means to our community.

Our other drive-by came when we needed to hand out more textbooks, novels, and project packets to our students. After carefully packaging all materials in plastic bags, the principal, assistant principal, and several faculty members braved the cold morning in their masks and gloves and handed the packets to families through car windows. Even with masks in place, it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces!

Holy Cross Hospital is right around the corner from our SJE parish and school. Their workers park their cars in our church parking lot during the week and take a shuttle back and forth to the hospital. These essential workers are role models for all of us, and we wanted to let them know how much we appreciate their service. So when we put out a notice to make thank you cards for the workers, the children of the school created hundreds of colorful, heartfelt notes of gratitude. They delivered those cards to school during one of our drive-bys, and the cards were taken to the hospital.

With our campus closure, some might think our May 1st crowning of the Blessed Mother did not take place. But thanks to the Tedeschi and Sloan families, Mary was honored in a special way. Practicing social distancing, the families placed crowns on the statues of Mary in front of the school, in the courtyard, and on the side of the school as they said the rosary together. Afterward, the children drew chalk sidewalk pictures in front of the convent telling the Sisters that they were loved and missed.

Although the Sacrament of Confirmation has been postponed,



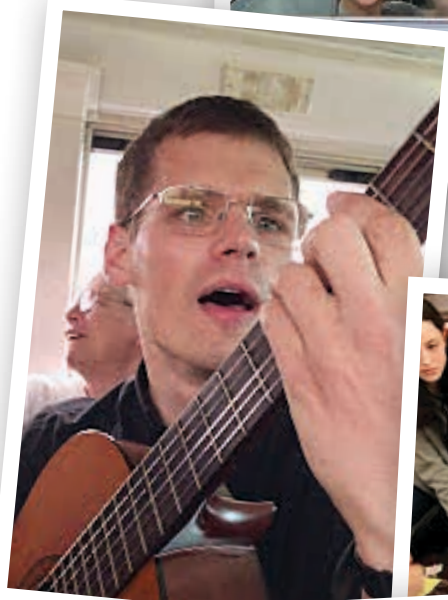
Above, Celebrating Nana

At right, Well-wishers honking for Nana

Below, Father Jan singing for Confirmation Candidates



Below, Working on retreat project



At left, Picking up new supplies

At right, Skit at Confirmation retreat



Above, Thank You cards for Holy Cross essential workers



Above, Nana at her 90th birthday drive-by



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10103 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD
301-681-7663

Rev. Joseph Calis
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Mrs. Margaret Durney,
Principal
301-681-7656

Monica M. Bradford, OPT Editor
bradfor2@comcast.net

we were able to experience a spirit-filled retreat day before the closures. The Confirmation candidates were truly open and ready for the sacred time! They enjoyed engaging in the Church Building project, reciting the Rosary, performing

skits and more with their high-school companions. Father Jan Pietryga, our Parochial Vicar, celebrated Mass. There were over 60 volunteers who helped to make this day a true success. They included the Adult Confirmation Team, Saint

Ladies, snack and lunch crews, 32 high-school companions, and even a parishioner dressed in historic costume that opened John Carroll's Historic Chapel during the lunch hour.

As we all cope with distance learning, online Masses, and separation from our loved ones and friends, SJE wishes everyone good health and safety.



Apply for a **BOOST** scholarship TODAY!

BOOST application deadline extended to June 1

The deadline to apply for a BOOST scholarship was extended to Monday, June 1, 2020. The original deadline was Friday, April 24, at midnight. The scholarships, available to qualifying low-income students, will assist parents in sending their children to a non-public school for the 2020-21 school year. The Maryland Department of Education announced the new date on April 1, while also noting that program administrators will continue to monitor coronavirus developments, should additional adjustments be necessary.

"As of today, the application deadline for BOOST has not changed. We encourage parents to fill out their applications as soon as possible. This program is a great opportunity for families whose children currently attend public school, as well as those with children in a Catholic school who are struggling with tuition," said Garrett O'Day, deputy director of the Maryland Catholic Conference. He also shared the list of schools that are eligible to participate in BOOST for the next school year. See the list [HERE](#).

Approximately \$7.5 million

in scholarships is expected to be awarded by the State of Maryland through BOOST next year.

Since BOOST was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2016, the state has awarded more than 10,000 scholarships, totaling upwards of \$24 million, to students to attend a nonpublic that fits their educational needs.

Apply for BOOST here: marylandpublicschools.org/pages/boost/index.aspx

Source: Maryland Catholic Conference



Would you say that to my face?

Would you tell me that I never should have been born?

That is the message sent when people talk about aborting "gross fetal anomalies."

People who overcome adversity inspire, challenge, and enrich our world.

It's time to *question abortion*®



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St. John the Evangelist Congratulations Class of 2020



Best Wishes from: Father Joseph Calis, *Pastor*
Margaret Durney, *Principal* • Emily Pacconi, *8th Grade Teacher*



First Row LR: Bruk Negash,
Gabriel Abraha, Adam Kelyman,
Carter Weatherspoon,
Dante Tedeschi

Second Row: Erin Cuddy,
Caroline Garagusi, Eleanor Droege,
Savka Klein, Brisa Perez,
Victoria Andrade,
Madeline Desrocher,
Ann-Marie Poveda

Third Row: Fiona Gilgunn,
Mark Johnson, Luke Knestout,
Gabriel Scott, Rene Cathelineaud,
Frank Bruckwick, Daniel Jackson,
Ellie Langley



Happy Birthday Parade for Fr. Lee Fangmeyer



Above, God bless you
Fr. Lee

At left, Fr. Lee
Fangmeyer

Above, Happy
Birthday

Below, Music,
balloons, dancing



Above, Mother Seton
parishioners on parade

At right, Thank you Fr. Lee



On May 3, parishioners from Mother Seton Parish in Germantown showed their appreciation and love for our dear Fr. Lee by decorating their cars and honking their horns in a parade celebrating his birthday. There was music, balloons, dancing, a police cruiser and even a fire truck from our local fire station came by with flashing lights and sirens. Fr. Lee was incredibly surprised and extremely happy to see the parishioners.

Volunteers kept everything rolling smoothly from the moment you came up the driveway, throughout the perimeter of the parking lot and all the way to the exit. Even though no one could stop or exit their cars, everyone was extremely excited and happy to wish Fr. Lee a happy birthday on a beautiful sunny Sunday afternoon.

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Food Drives for Germantown Help and Holy Cross Hospital

During this Pandemic many of our brothers and sisters have been furloughed or lost their jobs. Some have had their hours reduced. All are experiencing the challenges of isolation. There is great need in our Germantown community to provide food to those who can no longer provide for their

families. These are hard times indeed.

Parishioners at Mother Seton have shown their love for our community in a tremendous way generously donating to several food drives for Germantown Help. It started back in March when we collected 50 bags of food. We recently had another one which ended on May 3.

Also, to support our local hospital workers, Mother Seton Parish partnered with Holy Cross, Germantown for a hydration drive. Drinks like Powerade, Gatorade, Vitamin Water, K-cup for coffee and tea, iced tea, lemonade and juice were collected to keep hospital workers hydrated during their long and arduous shifts. We want to thank all who have donated. God bless you and your families.

OPT

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Fr. Lee Fangmeyer
Pastor
301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado
OPT Editor
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A Fun Way to Show Our Support

Mother Seton Parish has put together a video project to show our support for local medical professionals, thanks to the inspiration from our high school youth group. Coordinated by Cathy McTighe, our youth group asked the whole parish to participate and show their love for those on the front lines by taking a photo or video

expressing their immense gratitude.

Our youth group wishes to thank all the people who took time out to participate in this video project and sharing their kind, thoughtful and loving messages for the brave heroes working in the front lines, especially in our Germantown community.

OPT

Virtual Care Ministry

During these difficult times many of us are isolated from our families and friends. Many are experiencing great anxiety and loneliness. To help alleviate the stress and fears our parishioners and our community face during this Pandemic, we have created a Virtual Care Ministry. Coordinated

by Mary Beth DeLuzio, the staff and several volunteers from Mother Seton parish are keeping in touch directly, especially with those people who are alone and the elderly, over the phone, through emails and video chats.

We are accompanying families with resources to pray and share

their faith, providing information for services they may need and reaching our parishioner's homes through social media. Thank you to all the volunteers who are lovingly caring for our parish community.

OPT



Camilia Aliaga
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Isabella Antonetti
St. Andrew's
Episcopal School



Angelina Araj
Poolesville HS
Humanities Magnet



Kwaku Asamoah
Georgetown
Preparatory School



Ava Calabrese
St. Paul VI
Catholic HS



Matthew Chan
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Thanuri Diaz
Northwest HS



Robert Duda
Seneca Valley HS



Meredith Dullaghan
Poolesville HS



Andrew Echeandia
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Luke Essig
Gonzaga
College HS



Emma Feeney
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Danielle Fernandez
Gaithersburg HS



Liga Furlong
Northwest HS



Samantha Gartner
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Sarah Hailu
Poolesville HS
Humanities Magnet



Luke Ingrassia
St. Johns
Catholic Prep



Isabella Kaufman
St. Paul VI
Catholic HS



Laura Koissy
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Nicole Lucas
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Julia Maffeo
Clarksburg HS



Sophia Massaro
Academy of the
Holy Cross



Benjamin Miller
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Jared Mundela-Ciaba
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Kami Najaar
St. John's
College HS



Aggrey Narh
DeMatha
Catholic HS



Braden Newell
Quince
Orchard HS



Reagan O'Rourke
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Natalia Palacios
Poolesville HS
Humanities Magnet



Isabel Preciado
Northwest HS



Jillian Puglisi
Academy of the
Holy Cross



Anthony Ramirez
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Nolan Rascher
DeMatha
Catholic HS



Sophia Riddle
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Isabella Rodgaard
Quince
Orchard HS



Kaitlyn Rodriguez
Georgetown Visitation
Preparatory School



Sebastian Rodriguez
Northwest HS



Victoria Rodriguez
St. John's
College HS



Madeline Rogers
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Davis Rorick
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Dylan Rosia
St. John's
College HS



Naaman Rutabanzibwa
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Rishab Sai
Poolesville HS



Emilyn Sanders
Northwest HS



Madeline Schneider
Stone Ridge of the
Sacred Heart



Rebecca Scholl
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Janissa Sebamompimol
Poolesville HS
Global Ecology Magnet



Connor Shea
St. Johns
College HS



William Skelton
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Kyle Snocker
Gonzaga
College HS



Ellie Soto
Northwest HS



Shayla Spencer
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Mathias Tode
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Jacob Tseronis
Quince
Orchard HS



Owen Watkins
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Cordelia Woolery
Our Lady of
Good Counsel HS



Congratulations
CLASS OF 2020

SJN PARISH BULLETIN BOARD

The church, the parish, the body of Christ continues to flourish, surrounding us with the warmth we yearn for as the freshness of springtime blossoms.



Men's Ministry Daily Rosary – Online

Over 200 men have participated in activities sponsored by the SJN Men's Ministry over the last 5-10 years. Many men of neighboring parishes have also participated. "We are constantly communicating with all of these men offering messages of encouragement, daily texts with scripture verses and reminders of our 4pm rosary that we have prayed together daily since March 19th," said Ministry Coordinator, Eugene de Ribeaux. This March date marked the Feast Day of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, and the Church chose this occasion where Holy Father Francis asked everyone to pray the rosary daily. "Our men started their prayerful gatherings, and have continued ever since," said de Ribeaux. "These times allow us to socialize and bond. Everyone is up on their computer and smartphone screens, sharing the rosary intentions, and at the end we visit and get to know one another better." The Men's Rosary, online every day at 4pm. Contact Eugene de Ribeaux for more info: 301-512-3606.



Daily Mass

Streaming live on-line, M-F at 9:30am, Sat at 9am, Sun 9:30am & 11:30am. Go to the parish YouTube site: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjb9GYizw98bQ_vYHhceQ



Confessions

"The people are coming" said Monsignor Panke. "It's a very important sacrament that needs to be maintained. I like it outdoors. It works fine." Held outside in the church parking lot on Saturday, 3:30-5pm. Check SJN's website for updates. Enter via Warfield Road. The Men's Ministry and the Knights of Columbus work together to guide traffic through the outside confessions. The line moves rather quickly.

St. John Neumann Parish

9000 Warfield Road Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Msgr. Robert Panke, Pastor

Rus Wester, OPT Editor



Food Pantry

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is now managing a food pantry for parishioners and anyone else who needs help with groceries. We also support St. Martin's Food Pantry and will add another parish pantry soon. Non-perishable food is collected in the SJN church parking lot periodically and is available by calling: 301-525-3909.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

During this time when church doors are closed for community worship, the parish has moved its Perpetual Adoration Chapel into the Narthex of the church facing outwards towards us for adoration. For Those in Cars: Turn your engine off while you are at the Church. It cuts down on

noise, reduces pollution, and gives you a zero chance of carbon monoxide poisoning. All are encouraged to visit our beautiful outdoor Adoration Chapel—enjoy the fresh air or stay in your car to adore!



Congratulations Graduating Class of 2020!



Kali Alvarez-Rojas
Academy of the Holy Cross



Jailyn Como
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Hanna Haddad
Damascus High School



Ekene Jackson
Clarksburg High School



Ananya Kebede
Gaithersburg High School



Maedot Kebede
Gaithersburg High School



Jaden Mawanda
Northwest High School



Sosena Mesfin
Living Grace Christian School



Isabella Moreno
Academy of the Holy Cross



Rose Schellhase
Clarksburg High School



Heaven Smith
Watkin's Mill High School



Aleksander Solodkov
Northwest High School



Emily Staub
Academy of the Holy Cross



Mary Stoolmiller
St. John's Catholic Prep



Jason Zhao
Gonzaga High School



Aaron Zhu
Poolesville High School

New Stained-glass Windows Celebrate the Life of St. Martin of Tours

By Emily Moldiz

During Holy Week, sixteen brilliant new stained-glass windows were installed in St. Martin of Tours Church just in time for the centennial year. The much-anticipated windows were modeled after the 40 Life of St. Martin Stain Glass Windows in the Chartres Cathedral, in France.

Although most well-known for dividing his cloak to give half of it to a beggar, St. Martin is one of the most popular medieval saints, with many stories and miracles written by his lifetime friend, Sulpicious Severus. Each window depicts one of important event in the life of St. Martin.

Unfortunately, with public Masses being suspended until further notice, the parishioners are not able to enjoy the beautiful new windows. Father Dave Wells, Parish Administrator, has made videos in English and Spanish showcasing the new windows with a brief explanation of each one. These videos can be found at the St. Martin of Tours' YouTube channel and parish website, www.stmartinsweb.org

OPT

St. Martin's Adapts Well to Distance Learning

By Anne Gemunder

The morning of March 16 started like a typical day for Susan Yeates. She woke up her two children and helped get them ready for their school day. They soon settled in at their desks to start their day as did other students from St. Martin's School. It was a normal routine. Just not a normal setting. Instead of being inside their classrooms at our Gaithersburg school, they read their teachers' morning greetings and assignments from a family computer in the kitchen. This was the new normal of distance learning at St. Martin's in the wake of the global coronavirus outbreak.

Governor Hogan announced that all public schools in the State of Maryland would shift to remote learning starting on March 16. As a result of this order, Archbishop Gregory indicated that all Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Washington would also close.

Stephen Lamont, Principal of St. Martin's, said they began preparing for the possibility of distance learning several weeks earlier. Students practiced working with the online platforms they would be using. "Our teachers had plans in place and we had a few days to make last minute preparations." Students went home on March 12, with their backpacks



St. Martin's students work diligently from home with the virtual help from their teachers. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

full of textbooks, workbooks, and all their school supplies. Teachers began prepping remote-friendly lessons for the following weeks.

Technology Coordinator Logan Hsueh worked with teachers to familiarize themselves with Zoom conferencing and uploading coursework to class websites on Google Classroom – a platform for educators that some teachers have used throughout the year.

Mr. Lamont spent the weekend fielding emails regarding resources, assignment locations, instructions, contacts for technical issues, and forgotten passwords. By the end of the week, the emails had dwindled,

a sign the community was becoming comfortable with the digital tools.

In the first week of remote learning, teachers for younger grades shared videos of letter tracing and STEM projects. The Art, Music, and P.E. teachers put together assignments. Brooksley Jones, our school counselor, recorded books on YouTube, designed to help students and families acclimate to this new format for learning. On St. Patrick's Day, first grade teacher Susan Feudale suggested her class make a Leprechaun house. It was clear from the results that moms, dads, and siblings joined in on

the fun. The middle school teachers continued their teaching using online textbooks offering interactive features, videos, and assessments.

On the other side of the screen, the Yeates children are working away on their assignments. Each child spends time completing lessons as they would at school, except this time on a computer or tablet. For the most part, the kids have followed a schedule akin to a normal school day, stopping to take a break, get a snack, and especially go to recess. "There has been a good amount of work, and we have kept a really nice schedule. The teachers are doing an amazing job, and parents are doing their best navigating this new world," Mrs. Yeates said.

To keep Catholic traditions alive during remote learning, the teachers videotaped themselves reading the Stations of the Cross, which were then posted on the school's social media platforms. The parish priests live-stream daily Mass, in which families are encouraged to participate in with their children. Many school happenings and spring events have had to become virtual, such as birthday celebrations, morning prayers, and Grandparents' Day. In so many ways the community has embodied the popular phrase, "we are all in this together," Mr. Lamont explained.

OPT

St. Martin's Catholic School



Class of 2020

Brookewood

Adrianna Guiffo
Hillary Malik
Leanna Torrence

Clarksburg

Jackeline Avalos
Valeria Santiago
Katherin Molina Vanegas
Ariana Velasquez

Gaithersburg

Margaret Antonetti

Magruder

Natalie Cruz

Mount de Sales Academy

Athena Stith

Northwest

Austin Kallungal

Our Lady of Good Counsel

AnneCamie Augustin
Hilda Diaz-Juica
Brian Kuhn
Abigail Lau
Alessandra Marino
Victoria Moundongo-Frank
Adan Romo Reyes

Poolesville

Henry Lynch

Quince Orchard

Julian Bejarano

Seneca

Angel Jusu

St. John's College

Brisa Fleitas
Thea Javelosa

Watkins Mill

Pablo Muralles
Olivier Payen
Diego Ortiz

Undecided

Francheska Bazar



Principal: Mr. Stephen C. Lamont

Administrator: Rev. David G. Wells

115 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD 20877

www.smsmd.org

Phone: 301-990-2441



Pre-K student Evie K. conducted a delicious kitchen experiment while learning at home.



At home, 1st Grade student Steven H. continues to observe the growth of his plant that began as a seedling at school.



After reading the African folktale *Anansi the Spider*, second-grade student Gonzalo D. built this imaginative spider using materials he had at home.

Distance Learning is More Than Just Screens

By Ray Briscoe, Associate Head of School

Our distance learning plan addresses the full range of children's learning—academic, social-emotional, and physical—with meaningful, age-appropriate opportunities for learning, both on- and off-screen.

By now most of us have seen the familiar images of computer screens full of student and teacher faces thanks to video conferencing tools like Zoom. The on-screen aspect of distance learning seems to

be getting all of the attention. What about what happens off-screen? Let's take a look.

Hands-On Science and Cooking are two of the curricular activities enjoyed by our 4-year-old students. Last week, Evie K. combined the two and conducted her own kitchen experiment. Do chocolate chip cookies taste better cooked right away or after letting the dough set in the fridge for a few hours? Evie concluded they were both equally delicious.

At the beginning of March, Grade

1 students each planted a seed that sprouted into a plant. Fortunately, they were able to bring their plants home and have enjoyed observing them and recording the plants' growth each day just like a scientist.

Grade 2 has been busy reading African folktales like *Anansi the Spider*. After finishing this particular story, the students were tasked with creating a spider with materials they could find around the house. Look at how resourceful they were with this building task.

There is nothing more fun than

celebrating the completion of a novel study. Just before spring break, our 4th-grade students finished reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis. To celebrate, they all dressed like a character from the book for their morning meeting video conference.

Finally, Art Teacher Mrs. Taverner gave her older students a poetry and art challenge. She shared two paintings to inspire them, *Heat Wave* by Kadir Nelson and *Young Woman at a Window* by Salvador Dali. She asked the students to

choose one and write a poem in any style about the piece of art.

These are just a few of the ways our distance learning plan supports student growth and development off-screen. Want to know more? Follow us on Instagram (@thewoodsacademy), Facebook (@thewoodsacademy), and Twitter (School - @thewoodsacademy & Athletics - @woods_athletics) and search the hashtag #WoodsWorksOn to see our distance learning plan in action.

OPT

The Woods 10th Annual Instrumental Showcase Goes Virtual

"May my life be like a finely tuned instrument upon which the Master Musician creates a melody that brings peace to all who may hear." — Musician's Prayer

During the past few months, our performers have been carefully preparing their pieces. Even though they are not able to perform their music on The Woods Academy stage this year, we are delighted to share their performances with you

by video.

We hope you will take the time to watch our fabulous performers! Visit woodsacademy.org/the-arts/music/virtual-music-showcase.

Our Showcase includes performances on the piano, guitar, violin, cello, flute, and voice. It also includes a guest animal performer and a piece composed by one of our very own Woods Academy students.

Thank you to all of our performers for taking the time to video and share their beautiful music. Thank you to Music Teacher Sharon Pabon for directing, organizing, and inspiring the musicians.

During difficult times, music provides joy and comfort. Even while we are apart, let's keep making music and sharing it with each other!

OPT



Head of School Joe Powers shared his London Broil Breakfast Hash recipe for our virtual community cookbook.

Woods Cooks On

A challenge designed to keep our community connected while we stay at home.

Head of School Mr. Powers challenged our community to prepare and enjoy a favorite meal with family and share the recipe along with a photo with our Woods family.

This was inspired by Alumni Parent Chef José Andrés and his #RecipesForThePeople videos.

Enjoy these recipes for our people by visiting woodsacademy.org/community/woods-cooks-on.

Buen Provecho! Bon Appétit!

OPT

The Woods Academy

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Bethesda, MD 20817
301-365-3080

Head of School
Joseph E. Powers

OPT Editor
Jodie Shoemaker
Director of Marketing,
Communications, & Alumni
Relations
www.woodsacademy.org



The Virtual Music Showcase was directed by Music Teacher Sharon Pabon.

THE WOODS ACADEMY

Congratulates the Class of 2020



The Class of 2020 has been accepted to the following High Schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross • Bullis School • Connelly School of the Holy Child
Georgetown Preparatory School • Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
Gonzaga College High School • Landon School • Oakcrest School
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School • Phillips Academy Andover
St. Andrew's Episcopal School • St. Anselm's Abbey School
St. John's College High School • Sandy Spring Friends School
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

The Class of 2020 has been awarded over \$300,000 in merit scholarships.

COVID-19 Adjustments

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor with Art Lord, CTK parishioner

With cancellation of all “public” Masses in the Archdiocese March 14, Christ the King made the commitment to remain open on Saturdays from 3-6pm and on Sundays 8am-3pm for those wishing to pray in “private.” Additionally, at 2pm Sundays the Divine Mercy Chaplet is led by Fr. Steve Carter.

At first there was an invitation to participate in what is sometimes referred to as the priest’s “private Mass” in the little chapel within

the Religious Education Building but that ended after the first week (maybe a bit too popular?). The Church remains opened for Confession on Saturdays at 3pm, in addition to the private prayer and Adoration referenced above.

To keep up to date, there is a website for the parish but is not as current as the Facebook pages, one in English and a separate one in Spanish. It is there where the video broadcast of Sunday Masses can be found, as well as a weekly message from Fr. Steve Carter, our Parochial Administrator.

OPT

Corcoran Caterers, Holy Cross Hospital, and Christ the King

By Chris Tan, CTK parishioner

Corcoran Caterers has been a local Silver Spring company since 1984. At Christ the King the name is very familiar, as they have catered many functions here and for parishioners over the years. In light of the COVID-19 virus, they are doing prepared, family styled meals and meal kits for home delivery. They have suggested neighbors might “share” a delivery or do pickup. Menu kits have been updated weekly at www.corcorancaterers.com. Items come cold in disposable aluminum/plastic containers with heating instructions and a shelf life in the refrigerator of up to 4 days; or, frozen and reheated as needed. Cooking instructions included. The Pantry Items (large entrées) are four 6 oz portions. The “sides” are quart-sized to serve 4-6; there are also snack trays and a wide variety of “beverages” (read: cocktails, beer, wine, and non-alcohol). This is written from first-hand experience in the Tan

family household!

Corcoran is also asking that neighbors consider meal donations to those on the frontline. You can inquire about donating meals to those in need, as well as for all orders, by calling 301-588-9200, or email orders to: info@corcorancaterers.com. These donations for health care workers are to Holy Cross Hospital where Corcoran Caterers has been able to coordinate meal donations with the Hospital; on one Monday, during the pandemic, they were able to donate 400 individual dinners! Holy Cross said they had become “sandwiched-out” so Corcoran came up with some healthy protein driven alternatives. (Caterers’ note, they must charge sales tax because CC is not 501 (C) (3) organization but share with Holy Cross all the donors names so the hospital is able to send acknowledgement of the donation which can be tax-deductible). Bon Appetit! – while sharing with First Responders and/or your neighbors!

DEMOCRACY

Con’t from page 1

signatures for ballot petitions but social distancing makes it impossible. To provide some relief, the State Board of Elections has ruled that petition signatures may be collected electronically. This was especially good news for many

civic groups and parishioners who support the petition to require all nine Council members to be elected from a district where they live. The non-partisan Nine Districts for MoCo ballot committee faces a July deadline to collect 10,000 signatures. Registered voters are encouraged to consider signing the petition at www.ninedistrictsformoco.org. [See ad page 3]

OPT

Christ the King
2301 Colston Drive
Silver Spring, MD
301-495-2306
Fr. Stephen Carter,
Parochial Administrator
Katie Holland,
OPT Editor
kh7@georgetown.edu

**It pays to
advertise in
Our Parish
Times**



Clare Deckelman Roach's family, Notre Dame, Indiana

Thanking the Medical Providers

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

The Deckelmans are a “founding” family of Christ the King. All six of their daughters were baptised at Christ the King (and most married here) having been raised right up East West Highway from the Church, though now with their own families across the country. At the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, three of the “Deckelwomen” (as they have been named!), stood outside with signs of support for the US Naval Ship, USNHS Comfort.



Cara Deckelman (ER doc), Jon Mark (pediatrician) & family, Richmond, Va



Frank Deckelman (a Walter Reed American Red Cross volunteer) with daughter Carmel (a Baltimore Psychiatrist) and her children Allison and Jessie in front of the family home along the service drive of East-West Highway

Ride On Bus Service's reduced Essential Modified Service plan

Until further notice, passengers on Ride On buses are required to wear face coverings to board the bus. Ride On services continue to be temporarily free to all passengers. In addition, MCDOT has implemented a procedural change for riders. Passengers are now required to board at the rear door of the bus. Passengers can board through the front doors if a ramp is needed to accommodate a disability or stroller.

The Essential Service Plan applies seven days a week, with no differentiation between weekdays and weekends.

For the most up-to-date service information, riders should follow @



RideOnMCT on Twitter, visit Ride On MCT on Facebook, or go to

RideOnBus.com

OPT

A New Chapter in our Lives

By Bozenna Buda, ED

When the Archdiocese of Washington closed Catholic schools and cancelled public Masses because of the coronavirus pandemic, we began a new chapter in our lives.

Our Lady Queen of Poland Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych has buoyed us with his prayers and messages to us. In his Easter letter he noted that our homes can become domestic churches in which we pray together and can strengthen marriages and family bonds.

One of the rites that the Polish Diaspora community looks forward to participating in is the annual OLQP parish Blessing of the Easter Baskets on Holy Saturday. Alas, that would not happen in 2020.

Instead, Fr. Jerzy sent us instructions and Bible readings to use in blessing our own Easter baskets at home.

We could not be physically present this year for the Triduum, the Resurrection Mass, the Divine Mercy Mass, nor for the feast day of Our Lady Queen of Poland, the Patroness of our parish, on May 3rd.

We could not be together on Polish Diaspora Day on May 2.

We were left to tune into live-streaming Masses from many places to feel part of a community as we recited the prayer for Spiritual Communion.

Through the use of interactive technology, parish groups including the Polish Saturday School and Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP have mobilized their resources to continue their programs through the internet and the possibilities that it affords. Students have risen to the



Easter basket blessing on Holy Saturday 2019 with Pastor Rev. Frydrych



Celebrating Easter 2020 at home



challenge.

We cannot help recalling what we did at this time last year and wondering when, or even if, we will be able to resume the "regular pace" of our lives.

Yet the pandemic, as Fr. Frydrych wrote to us in his latest letter, has also caused us to reflect and ask

questions about our spiritual life. He goes on to say that, "The Church is the gift of Jesus Christ who died on the Cross ... and it is now up to us whether we accept this gift and how we respond to it individually and as a community."

From our Polish heritage, we have many wonderful and inspiring



OLQP parish just before the closing of the churches because of the pandemic



army overcame the much larger Soviet Russian forces and halted the spread of communism to Western Europe. Of course, this happened with divine help and many paintings of this event contain a picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa above the battlefield. We have many saints and martyrs. As our ancestors in Poland kept the faith since 966 A.D., so now it is our turn.

OPT

**Our Lady
Queen of Poland**
9700 Rosensteel Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

**Rev. Jerzy Frydrych,
S. Chr. Pastor**
301-589-1857

Bozenna Buda, OPT Editor
301-495-3377
bbudadc@gmail.com

Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood

If the stay-at-home order in the District has been lifted by then, the eight men listed below will be ordained as priests for the Archdiocese of Washington at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on June 20th at 10:00 am. If you can't make it to the ordination, the Mass and the Rite of Ordination will be livestreamed

on the Archdiocese's website: www.adw.com.

Patrick Saguros Agustin
Home Parish:
Saint Columba, Oxon Hill.

Nathanael Anderson
Home Parish:
St. Peter's on Capitol Hill.

James Glasgow
Home Parish:
St. Peter's Parish, Olney.

Jeremy W. Hammond
Local Home Parish:
St. Catherine Labouré, Wheaton.

Emanuel Pedro Daniel Lucero
Home Parish: Nuestra Señora de
Luján in Neuquén, Argentina

Local Home Parish: Our Lady
Queen of Peace, SE Washington

James Morrison
Home Parishes: St. Bernadette in
Silver Spring and St. John Neumann
in Gaithersburg.

Francisco Rodríguez
Home Parish:
St. Aloysius, Newark, NJ

Local Home Parish:
Our Lady of Sorrows, Takoma Park.

Deacon Stefan Yap
Home Parish: St. Bartholomew
Catholic Church, East Brunswick, NJ
Local Home Parishes: Holy
Redeemer in College Park and
Catholic Student Center at the
University of Maryland

OPT

Subscribe to the ADW Theology on Tap podcast

DC Theology on Tap is postponed until June. In the meantime, subscribe to the Theology on Tap podcast to listen to the best of the past Theology on Tap talks!

Contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry for more information about the Summer lineup: <https://adw.org/archdiocesan-offices/office-young-adult-ministry/>

OPT



Google Podcast



Spotify



Apple Podcast



Stitcher

2020 Annual Jubilarian Mass

Sunday, June 28, 2020

**Location: Basilica of the National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception**

The annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

If you would like to participate,

please call your parish office with your information before the May 22 deadline. Couples registered after the deadline will be accepted, but will not receive an invitation and their names will not appear in the Jubilarian program due to printing deadlines.

OPT



St. Francis Religious Education and Youth Ministries Make Leap from In-Person to Internet

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

When the Maryland governor and state schools superintendent announced on March 12 that all Maryland schools would close four days later, the resulting impacts meant that the Religious Education and Youth Group programs at St. Francis of Assisi Parish would also pause. But, while the in-person delivery of faith formation to youth has halted over the past eight weeks, the parish ministries have jumped from classroom to computer screen.

Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson and Youth Minister Sarah Seyed-Ali have adapted to this period of communal social distancing by staying connected to the parish's youth, their families, catechists and adult volunteers. Using video teleconferencing platforms, they have gathered in ways that meet families where they are, celebrate the preparations for sacraments and mark the passage of



St. Francis of Assisi Youth Minister Sarah Seyed-Ali poses with the game *What Would Jesus Do*, one of the tools with which she engages high-school aged teens during Zoom gatherings.

time.

Anderson said her initial strategy was to reach out to families and encourage at-home practices of prayer that would carry over until Sunday Mass and religious education classes resumed. When need

for a longer-term strategy became apparent, she pivoted, noting there have been silver linings in the current situation.

"While we have certainly experienced an interruption to the way we've been doing things, there are

opportunities as well: to engage more fully with the Gospel; to hold fast to devotions and prayers; and to appreciate in a new way the importance of the Eucharist and the Church community to our life of faith," Anderson said.

With an early priority placed on contacting catechists, Anderson has settled into a routine of e-mailing families each Saturday with a link to the church's online Sunday Mass, news and resources about upcoming prayer services and a list of grade-specific activities that families can do with their children. She began offering virtual meetings to eighth graders instead of classes, recognizing that those preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation would need focused attention.

Seyed-Ali took a similar tack with high school-aged youth, continuing her weekly Theology of the Body classes on the Zoom platform every Tuesday and meeting on Sundays with the teens for discus-

sions, games and faith sharing.

"In this time, it is important for the teens to be patient with themselves and with others," Seyed-Ali said. "It is also important to recognize that everyone is struggling."

Fr. John Dillon said he believes parents and students have been grateful for his staff's flexibility and creativity during the pandemic. He recalled one mother with several children in the Religious Education program commenting how much she appreciated receiving Anderson's weekly e-mail, because her children could do the suggested assignments right after the virtual Mass.

"Since this was just about the time that the children would be in Religious Education classes on a Sunday, it gave the feel of being close to a normal schedule," Fr. John said. "That mother recognized that establishing a routine was very important."

OPT

Parishioners Practice Faith in Time of Isolation by Leading with Their Hands and Hearts

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced Catholics around the world to turn inward in their faith practices, St. Francis parishioners have demonstrated their belief in Catholic social teaching with their shopping, sewing and check writing skills.

Parishioners, who already support the church's St. Martin's Food Pantry ministry and Haiti medical and school missions, found a second gear by increasing their donations to the food collection site as much as five- to six-fold during Lent and beyond. Support to populations directly impacted by the spread of the coronavirus has also risen.

Social Concerns Director Tony Bosnick attributes the outpouring of support to belief among many parishioners in helping those less fortunate than themselves.

"As Pope Francis has said, 'everything is related,'" Bosnick said. "The care for those in need is something that touches people's



St. Francis parishioners Marianne Moore and Rosemary Hudecheck and parish Maintenance Technician Kevin Alexander help organize parishioner donations to the St. Martin's Food Pantry on May 1.

hearts."

Food Pantry Co-Ministry Coordinators Carolyn Brauer and Christine Young decided in mid-March to move the pantry's collection bin from the church's Gathering Space to the porch of the Rectory, where people could access the bin without interacting with anyone. Donors began consistently filling the bin, necessitating the overflow to be moved to the Rectory's Youth Room.

Brauer estimated that 1,890 bags and boxes of food have been donated by parishioners since mid-March. She attributes the "remarkable" support of the Food Pantry to parishioners' belief in the Risen Lord.

"There have been many com-

ments by parishioners how different the Lenten season was and how this has been one, not of scattered, panicked division, but of solidarity and belief holding fast to Jesus' words to '...love one another as I have loved you,'" Brauer said.

Parishioner Dr. Anne Cardile likewise contacted the Social Concerns Ministry when, in her role as Unity Health Care's Medical Director for Health Care for the Homeless, she realized the need for sewn face masks to help protect the several thousand homeless men and women in shelters from contracting the coronavirus.

Several parishioners began sewing facemasks based off patterns the parish e-mailed them. The parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society also collaborated with the Parish Outreach Committee to donate 1,000 masks for \$700, a combination of Outreach funds and donations from the society and the parish.

Dr. Cardile said the masks have been delivered everyday to seven or eight shelters serving homeless people in Washington DC. She was certain her fellow parishioners would deliver, based on the lessons Fr. John Dillon has reinforced.

"...This crisis, which affects us all, but even more so the vulnerable in our communities, is a time for each of us to live out our Catholic social teaching – solidarity and preferential option for the poor," Dr. Cardile said. "When St. Teresa of Avila said, 'God has no hands but yours,' I think of all those men and women sewing for their neighbors in need."

OPT



Permanent Deacon Jim Datovech reads the Prayers of the Faithful during the Sunday online Mass on May 3, as Fr. John Dillon listens.

During Pandemic, Deacon Datovech Helps Orchestrate the Connectedness of His Church

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

In the first week after churches closed in the Archdiocese of Washington, Deacon Jim Datovech's thoughts centered on Matthew, his adult son with profound special needs: how would he react to not being able to attend Mass?

"If people go two months without having the connection to their pastor and their parish, will that connection to pastor and parish wither away?" Deacon Datovech said. "What can we do to maintain that connection?"

His idea during this time of the COVID -19 pandemic was, not only offering virtual Morning and Evening Prayer to parishioners but preserving a Mass for the people. But since Deacon Datovech knew little about how to livestream Masses, he

turned to his son-in-law, Mark Singleton, an instructional technology coordinator at the Maret School in Washington DC for help.

Approximately 400 devices logged on for the parish's first livestreamed Mass held on Sunday, March 22, in the Rectory's St. Clare Chapel. Since then, Fr. John Dillon has celebrated an online Mass each week, with at least 300 devices logging on to the live premiere and hundreds more accessing the recorded Mass after the fact. He and Deacon Datovech have since added an online Votive Mass during a Time of Pandemic on Wednesdays.

"It's all about keeping the spirit alive in the parish," Deacon Datovech said. "The Holy Spirit

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St. Michael's Crafts Ministry

By Jacquelyn Flowers

The St. Michael the Archangel Crafts Ministry, as a faith-based ministry, continues to make a difference to bring hope and support in our Parish and community during our global crisis.



The Crafts Ministry makes face masks to support essential workers in the community

Recently, one of our members suggested we make face masks. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone wear a cloth mask in situations where social distancing

is difficult (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies). Face masks can help reduce the spread of the virus from asymptomatic individuals who are infected. That potentially includes you and me! Essential workers are desperately in need of face masks.

There are several mask design options for anyone who can sew or has a sewing machine. There is even the "no-sew" face mask option.

Please join us in making at least one cloth face mask. You are invited to bring your face mask donations to St. Michael the Archangel's Rectory and leave them in the Crafts Ministry box. We will collect them until September 30 and distribute them to those who need them the most. We are all in this together! Thank you.

OPT



Fr. Peter Hopkins leads married couples in discussion at the Marriage Ministry Prayer Breakfast

St. Michael's Prayer Breakfast

By John Webster

On the morning of March 7, the St. Michael the Archangel Marriage Ministry hosted a Prayer Breakfast for Married & Engaged Couples at the parish. The couples started their morning by attending the 7:45 AM Mass in the main church and then convened downstairs in the Williamsburg Room for a prayerful reflection on "Responding to God's call to Holiness in Marriage" led by Fr. Peter Hopkins, Program Director,

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center. A hot breakfast was provided for the couples by the Parish's Marriage Ministry. The couples were very pleased with the event and found Fr. Hopkins to be a dynamic and engaging prayer leader. A lively discussion ensued following Fr. Hopkins' remarks, and all in attendance felt this was a very valuable part of the program. The couples left eager to participate in future events covering different marriage-related topics.

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The World Wide Choir welcomes members from all over the world and wants to spread the message of God's love to all parts of the world

St. Michael the Archangel Creates an Online Choir

Like all parishes in the Archdiocese, St. Michael the Archangel has had to adapt to the unique challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The question facing the parish was how best to connect with its parishioners and continue to spread God's message in a time with social distancing and a ban on large gatherings. Led by its pastor, Monsignor Eddie Tolentino, the parish decided to offer online Masses for Holy Week. A video team was quickly assembled, and Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and two Masses for Easter Sunday (in English and Spanish) were recorded, edited, and posted to the parish's new YouTube channel.

Because of the success of the Holy Week Masses, the parish continues to post online Mass each Sunday on YouTube at 10AM (English) and Noon (Spanish).

As part of the online Mass experience, Scot Hawkins, the Director of Music for the parish, began researching ways of creating an online choir which would allow members of the St. Michael's Liturgical Choir to sing as a choir while maintaining proper social distancing. The "World Wide Choir" premiered on the Sunday of Divine Mercy, singing the prelude and the closing hymn. Since that premier, several singers from the Archdiocese have asked to join.

When asked about the name of the choir, Hawkins says that the choir exists on the World Wide Web, welcomes members from all over the world, and wants to spread the message of God's love to all parts of the world. While nothing replaces the energy, joy, and community of an in-person church choir, Hawkins hopes this online choir gives the singers of the Archdiocese a chance to make music and sing their faith. To hear the World Wide Choir, log onto YouTube and search for "St. Michael the Archangel Silver Spring" or follow "World Wide Choir" on Instagram.

OPT

Delivering Meals to Those Most in Need

By Jason Giovannettone

St. Michael's Ministry for the Poor and the Vulnerable delivers meals to the homebound, elderly, and low-income individuals and families that have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. This effort began about 5 weeks ago when one of our members suggested that we do something to help those who are in desperate need for assistance. Our initial response was to contact several individuals, including Reemberto Rodriguez from Montgomery County, Reverend Michele from United Silver Spring Methodist Church (USSMC), Fr. Jacek from St. Camillus Catholic Church, and Fr. Callis from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, to find out if they had lists of homebound and other individuals in need. Many volunteers have come forward from these and other churches so that we now number at least 56 individuals from multiple faith communities working together to provide meals in the Silver Spring area.

Our ministry consists of three components: recipients, donors, and delivery. Recipients are typically referred by their faith communities. We also have one recipient referred by the County who is recovering from COVID-19. We welcome additional referrals of new recipients.

Because of the generosity of our volunteers, we have ample capacity and can take on additional families and individuals in need.

Donors initially consisted of Shepherd's Table and three downtown Silver Spring restaurants: The Society, Khyber Kitchen, and Mod Pizza. In anticipation that the persistence of the current situation will increase demand for Shepherd's Table and put the restaurants in more difficult financial situations, we began requesting volunteers to cook homemade meals for delivery. Due to the overwhelming response from USSMC, St. Michael's, St. Bernadette's Catholic Church and others, we have abundant capacity and have been able to take some burden off of the restaurants and Shepherd's Table. Marie Matthews

Continued on page 55

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Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
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Edwin Méndez,
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It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum Postponed

Announcing *Discover the Gift* Online Event, June 10-14

Join us for a small taste of GIVEN's signature event, the Catholic Women's Leadership Forum! Since we cannot hold our in-person event this year, we welcome you to our online event *Discover the Gift*, where we invite all women "to receive the gift they are; realize the gifts they've been given; and respond with the gift that only they can give."

The 2020 GIVEN Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum originally planned to take place Wednesday, June 10, through Sunday, June 14, at the Catholic University of America has been postponed due to the Corona virus. The annual GIVEN Forum is designed to help young adult Catholic women with a heart for mission and an aptitude for leadership identify their particular gifts and find practical pathways to put them in the service of the



Gospel.

The GIVEN Institute had planned to welcome 113 young adult women from 32 states and 4 international countries to the 2020 Forum as well as 56 religious sisters and lay mentors. Young adult Catholic women, ages 21-30, who are seeking leadership training, faith formation, and mentoring to better understand and pursue their particular mission and voca-

tion were invited to apply for the GIVEN Forum. As part of the application process, each GIVEN Forum applicant proposed an Action Plan – her unique initiative to activate her God-given gifts in the Church and in the world.

Due to the global pandemic, the GIVEN Institute is postponing the Forum to June 9-13, 2021 at the Catholic University of America. All women accepted into the 2020

cohort are invited to attend and applications for another cohort of approximately 100-150 additional young adult women will open in the fall of 2020. In lieu of the 2020 Forum, the GIVEN Institute announces an online event entitled *Discover the Gift* that will take place from June 10-14, 2020, free of charge. The event will be open to all women in the GIVEN Network as well as any woman across the globe. The days of *Discover the Gift* will be structured around the three-fold theme of helping the women attendees "receive the gift they are; realize the gifts they've been given; and respond with the gift that only they can give." Each day will feature keynote speakers, prayer opportunities, and reflection questions for discussion.

Rachel Harkins Ullmann, Executive Director of the

GIVEN Institute, stated, "While not being able together together in Washington, this unfolds an opportunity for wider engagement of the entire GIVEN Network to activate the gifts of women across the globe. Now more than ever, the dignity and vocation of women needs to be unleashed into the Church and the world, to protect the vulnerable, provide direction in a time of crisis, and mentor the next generation of female leaders." For more information about the event, visit: <https://giveninstitute.com/discover-the-gift/Contact>; Abby Scharbach, communications@giveninstitute.com or 202-681-4224

The GIVEN Institute ("GIVEN") is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to activating the gifts of young adult women for the Catholic Church and the world.

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NETWORK Lobby Releases Annual Catholic Social Justice Scorecard for Congress

Today NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice announced the release of its 2019 Catholic Social Justice Voting Record. This annual scorecard reflects how Members of Congress voted in accordance with Catholic Social Justice and evaluates if they worked to mend the gaps in income

and wealth inequality.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to create a NETWORK Congressional voting record for the Senate's work in 2019. While the House passed more than 400 bills, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell chose to bury almost all of this legislation. It is unprec-

edented to see such a dearth of substantive legislative activity in the Senate. We regret that the Senate did not cast enough votes on legislation this year to compile an adequate voting record.

Sister Simone Campbell, SSS, Executive Director of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice:

"The Democrat-led House has paved the way for the economic and social transformation that our nation so desperately needs. The House has passed bills that support employment rights, reduce drug prices, protect Dreamers, and secure our democracy. If passed into law, these bills will help create

a society that faithfully promotes justice and the dignity of all.

"NETWORK members across the country mobilized in support of the legislation we scored in our 2019 Catholic Social Justice Voting Record. All of these bills, no matter how much support they received, were buried in Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's Senate graveyard.

"The Senate is broken, and only a change in leadership can fix it. That's why NETWORK will mobilize our Catholic membership in 2020 to elect new leaders who support economic justice. We know the path forward. The only way to see it through is to vote."

In 2019, NETWORK Lobby prioritized the most important votes from the past year that fit with its 2020 policy vision to Mend the Gaps. NETWORK Lobby scored 10 votes in the House. We recommended 10 'Yes' votes on bills that support LGBTQ+ rights, reduce drug prices, protect Dreamers, and secure our democracy.

Last year, 4 state delegations received perfect Catholic Social Justice voting scores: Connecticut, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Every single House member from these states voted 100% of the time in accordance with NETWORK Lobby's Catholic Social Justice values.

There were also 3 states that had their entire delegations fail their Catholic Social Justice Scorecards, receiving scores below 70% in 2019. Every single member of the Arkansas, Nebraska, and West Virginia delegations consistently voted against the recommendation of the Catholic Sisters and activists of NETWORK Lobby.

The voting record and each member's score is online at www.networklobby.org/votingrecord-2019pdf

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Bill Hamm's Car Care Center

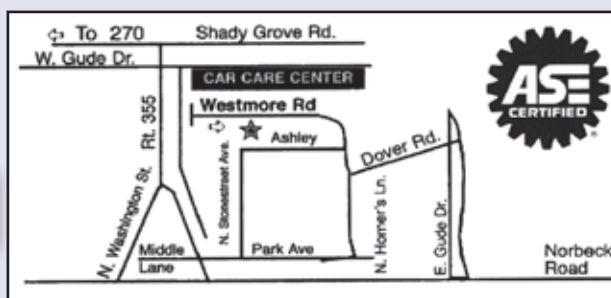


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Saint Peter's Community Finds Ways to Join Together, While Apart



Students join a daily video call to pray the rosary with their classmates



Students took time to honor their real-life superheroes



Students found creative ways to dress up as their favorite book characters



Students put on their school colors and showed off their Panther pride

Virtual Spirit Week

Following Easter break, Saint Peter's held a virtual spirit week, providing students a fun, engaging experience as they returned to distance learning. Each day had a theme and students were invited to share photos and videos. The week began with Superhero Day. Students were encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero, while sharing who their real-life superhero was. Many students shared stories of the doctors, nurses, police officers, teachers, parents and relatives who they admire. Additional days included Favorite Book Character Day, Celebrating

Earth Day, and Favorite Team Day. The week concluded with Panther Pride Day where students wore their school uniforms and shared what they love most about Saint Peter's. "Spirit Week was a great way to get back in gear after Spring Break," said Catherine Caruana. "My kids were excited to plan their outfits each day. They loved seeing all of their friends participating as well. It was a great way to feel connected to the community in these days of physical separation."

Classroom Traditions Continue Online

When classes switched to online

learning, many students began to miss some of their daily classroom traditions. Mrs. Bieberich, Saint Peter's third grade teacher, would lead her students in a decade of the rosary each day after lunch, so a group of her students decided to carry on the tradition from home. Each day at 12:30 p.m., the students, along with their siblings and parents, stop what they are doing and join a video call in which everyone prays a decade of the rosary together. Third grade student PJ Wallace said, "it's nice to pray with our friends even if we can't be in school."

Day of Prayer and Giving

Saint Peter's annual gala, the largest school fundraiser of the year, had been set to take place on April 25, 2020. With the event being postponed, the school community decided to find another way to bring people together on that date and hosted a Day of Prayer and Giving. Families signed up for fifteen-minute slots in which they would lead the community in prayers over a video call. Everyone in the community was invited to drop in and join the video call throughout the day. Faculty, staff, parents and students continuously prayed with

each other for the health and well-being of the Saint Peter's School family, the extended parish family, the community, and the country. "The power of prayer is invaluable," said Mrs. Cocozzella, Saint Peter's Principal. "Throughout our eight-hour prayer session, we had countless community members in and out all day, some even stayed the whole eight hours. It was beautiful and uplifting. We also exceeded our goal of raising \$30,000. I'm amazed at the generosity of our families, faculty and staff. These donations will help keep Saint Peter's the wonderful place that it is."

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Students Reflect on Their Experience During Distance Learning

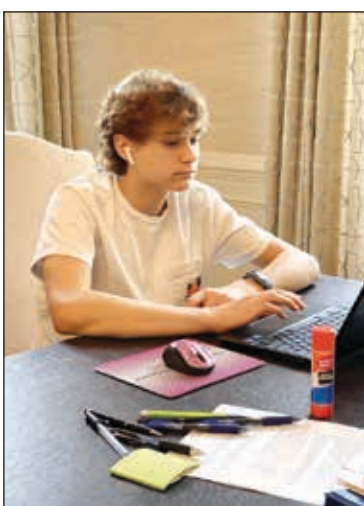
The following are excerpts from student essays

My experiences of distance learning have been filled with both joy and hardships. The new way of learning took some getting used to in the beginning. The teachers were great at answering any questions we did have, but the whole new way of learning was quite confusing at first. Luckily, after getting adjusted, distance learning has started to become easier to navigate and we are continuing to learn many new things, just as if we were in school. Our teachers are amazing at helping when we have any problems or questions and are always there when we have a question about an assignment.

Sadly, because of this distance learning, we have missed out on many fun activities. I am an eighth grader; therefore, the end of this year was going to be filled with fun activities such as playing in the student versus faculty basketball game and field day. All these things were going to bring such great memories, but even though we can no longer participate in them, we must be thankful for all the other memories that we were blessed to have during our eighth-grade year. I have had a very good distance learning experience, and even though I am very sad about the fact that we are not in school with our friends, I have



Rita Hauge, Eighth Grade



Matt Bowers, Seventh Grade



Gabby Georges, Eighth Grade

tried my best to stay positive and focus on all the blessings we have received. Distance learning has not been the ideal situation for the ending of our school year, but with God at our side and the amazing help of the wonderful schools in our area, we can make it filled with many fun and joyful memories.

—Rita Hauge, Eighth Grade

School during quarantine has not been that bad. I wake up at or before 8:00 each day. While I'm eating breakfast, I start on the homework for the day. I usually do my subjects in order of what my schedule would be like in school. It also hasn't been that lonely either. I usually do group FaceTime calls with my friends, or I communicate with them through Snapchat, Zoom, or texting. After I'm done with my work, I usually play video games. I'm usually playing NBA 2K 20 or I am watching YouTube. I'm very passionate about Rock n' Roll, so I sometimes grab my guitar and start "rocking out". I've also been watching a lot of movies. My personal favorites of what I've watched are *Ferris Buehler's Day Off*, *Rocky III*, and *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure*. There are also moments where I get bored. Usually I'll do a puzzle, discover a new type of music, or just think about the

world, but I never stay bored for long. In my opinion, homeschool hasn't been all that bad.

—Matt Bowers, Seventh Grade

Although my days are organized and scheduled, I noticed that I am starting to miss the small details during the school day that one can't possibly schedule. I miss sitting with my friends at lunch and laughing until our bellies hurt, winning during a Quizlet Live, or even just having fun, light-hearted conversations with my teachers. All these things don't feel the same through a screen. I also miss the big things. As an eighth grader, I was just reach-

Continued on page 55

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Staying True to the Mission in the Crisis of COVID-19

By Toby Harkleroad OFS, Principal

The Saint Francis International School community is made up of many hard working families. The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted many lives. Families are facing this illness and members of our community have died. Social distancing and the stay-at-home order have put many parents out of work and reduced hours for others. Many of our parents are on the front lines of this crisis as essential workers in healthcare and other settings.

All the while, our mode of education has radically changed and parents are now more involved in the distance learning process. Sometimes, parents are juggling working from home with caring for their children and guiding their home learning.

Already COVID-19 has affected many in our community, faculty and staff, parents and grandparents, and even students have suffered through this disease. Two families have lost parents ... fathers Ashenafi Tefera Mitaw and Stenelus Oniloude have left behind precious daughters. Our community has also lost grandparents and the parents of teachers to the coronavirus.

This has all put major strains on family finances. SFIS and our teachers have stood loyally with our parents and have been providing high quality distance education since March 16th, including ensuring that every student from first to eight grade has access to a computer at home. We have stayed true to this mission despite our financial uncertainty.

I am proud to say that our parents and our students feel supported and cared for by our faculty and staff in this difficult time. Our community is coming together to ensure that each child is emotionally well during this unprecedented situation and that they continue to learn and grow as much as possible in these new ways.

Families need support and SFIS has bills to pay. Please consider helping us to have the funds to be able to reduce the tuition payments of families in the most need. Help us ensure that children of immigrants and families facing economic hardship continue to have access to transformative Catholic education and the many blessings of life that our nurturing and care provides by contributing to our emergency fund at www.mightycause.com/covid19help.

Since March 16th, SFIS has served



At left, SFIS and the Franciscans serve thousands of meals in Langley Park each week.

Below, Third graders at SFIS participate in online learning.



At left, Fr. Dan Leary of St. Andrew in Silver Spring personally finds donated bread to support the mission at SFIS.



Above, SFIS mourns the loss of Ashenafi Tefera Mitaw who died of COVID-19.

At left, SFIS mourns the loss of Stenelus Oniloude who died of COVID-19.

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad,
Principal

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St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

over 26,000 free meals for children in need up and down the neighborhoods along New Hampshire Ave. It has been hard work by our nutrition program staff, our assistant teachers, and Franciscan partners. Most Tuesdays and Thursdays we have been in the heart of Langley Park helping those most in need

during this crisis. Recent reports indicate that the 20783 ZIP Code where Langley Park is located is the most devastated ZIP Code in the Washington metropolitan region. Poverty was already severe in this densely populated neighborhood before this crisis, the Washington Post reported that this situation is

“catastrophic.”

Saint Francis International School plans on continuing and even increasing the food we get to desperate families in Langley Park, but we need help to keep this up. Not only is SFIS supporting the 443 students enrolled in our school, who are themselves in need, but we

are going out into streets and the apartment complexes and bringing God's love and compassion to those children too! In many ways it is a situation where the poor are trying to take care of the poorest of the poor. You can help by donating at www.mightycause.com/covid-19food.



Father Kevin congratulates the children on receiving their First Penance.



Children during First Penance retell the parable of the Prodigal Son.

First Penance at St. Mary of Barnesville

The children on the path of preparation for their First Penance gathered with family to receive the sacrament. Children focused on the Parables of the

Good Shepherd and The Prodigal Son. The children prepared a dramatic presentation of The Prodigal Son during the reading of the Gospel. They created candles to burn brightly

on the altar once their sins had been forgiven. Father Kevin prepared a Feast of Pardon for the children and their families in the Pavilion to celebrate this beautiful sacrament.

The day provided a memorable focus on the forgiveness of God.

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Younger children leading the congregation in song



Students reading The Word

Prepare for the Suffering of Our Lord

St. Mary's Faith Community began their preparation for the death of Jesus on the first Sunday of Lent. Once a month, parish youth host a mass. For Lent, the eighth grade read the Word and the younger children led the congrega-

tion in song from the altar. From the choir loft, St. Mary's student cantor and musicians assisted. The Vocation Tree in the Sanctuary contained dozens of tags with names of young men on the path to priesthood.

The Pavilion was abuzz with activities for Lent which created an environment of faith and service.

The children were provided a variety of Lent and Easter crafts. The craft theme offered a spiritual reflection to assist the children on

their path through Lent. The children had a wonderful time during these activities. Donut Sunday coincided, and is always a special treat – the last sweet for those giving up sweets for Lent!

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Lenten/ Easter Crafts at St.Mary's



Older Americans Month

Every May, our nation observes Older Americans Month. The theme for 2020 is “Make Your Mark.”

This theme was selected to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day. Communities, organizations, and individuals of all ages are also making their marks. This year’s theme highlights the difference everyone can make – in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers, and to strengthen communities. We invite you to make your mark in May.

OAM 2020 Activity Ideas

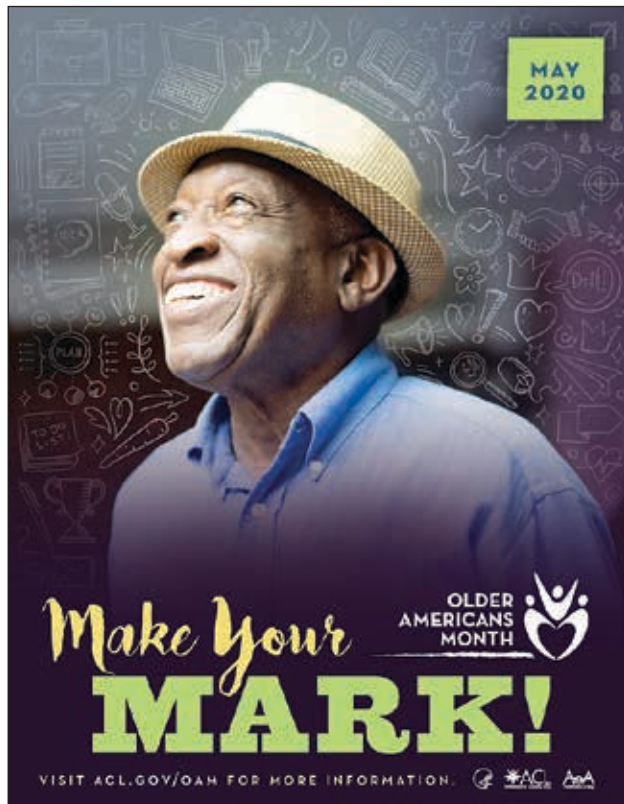
Share Your Stories

Stories build community and connect us even when we can’t be physically together. Recalling adventures with childhood friends, that family weekend at the beach, a teacher who helped guide your life, or how you learned you would become a grandparent—all of those stories connect you with your past and the people who have mattered along the way. They help people you love get to know you better and feel closer to you. Looking back at how we got through other tough times can help us manage this challenging time. Sharing what we love about our friends and family members helps them feel stronger and more connected.

Stories can be told over the phone, on the computer, over the backyard fence. They can be told in letters, in pictures, in headlines and photographs collected from newspapers. We don’t have to be together to share our stories and build each other up. We can make a mark on people’s lives with the stories we share.

Inspire Your Community

Encourage individuals to share stories with the people they live with, in writing, in pictures, or by phone or video call. Make the following ideas your own and promote them through social media, check-in phone calls, a flyer handed out



with home-delivered meals, or another way you’re connected to your community. If you really like one of the questions or ways to share, focus your efforts there. This kind of inspiration can be as broad or narrow as you’d like—customize for your community.

Jumpstart the memories

Think about the stories that make up your life. Which ones would you like to share? Here are some questions that might get you thinking:

- What would you like to tell your 22-year-old self?
- What do you think your 22-year-old-self would want to tell you?
- What are the best and worst pieces of advice you’ve received?
- What’s your hidden talent?
- What are you most proud of?
- Looking back, is there something you wish you had done that you did not?
- What do you most admire about your best friend?
- What do you wish the world knew about you?
- Was there a time when an older adult helped you feel strong in a tough time?
- What does it mean to be a caregiver? What did you learn from the experience?

Many ways to share

Whether you’re a family or a community-based organization, here are some ideas for sharing stories. These can be done once or many times. If you want to organize a story-sharing series, try to make it as easy as possible for people to participate. Remember that everyone has different interests, access to technology, and comfort levels. The best sharing activities are those where people feel encouraged and at ease.

- Use video chat technology to hold a storytelling party. Select a theme or question from the list, and each person gets five minutes to tell a story that relates to that theme.
- Interview a relative—record the call or take notes and write up the story they tell you.
- Draw a picture that answers one of the above questions or captures a favorite day or memory.
- Keep a journal of stories to share with friends or family when you can get together again.
- Write a letter to a friend or relative and tell them what you love about them.
- Use your phone or computer to record a story.
- Post a story on Facebook. If you can, include a photo. Respond to the comments.

Continued on page 55

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Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has launched the Beasts and Blooms Spring Reading Challenge. The challenge is open to kids and teens, up to 17 years of age.

Participants can read anything they choose – schoolbooks, ebooks, audiobooks, personal books – it all counts. For every hour of reading, up to eight hours, an online badge is earned. With the completion of

eight hours of reading, participants will receive a tote bag, while supplies last, once MCPL branches reopen. The challenge ends on May 31. To participate, register online at: <https://montgomerycountymd.beanstack.org/reader365>

“This is a great opportunity for teens and kids to have fun while reading, whether it’s for recreation or for an assignment,” said MCPL Director Anita Vassallo.

MCPL has many electronic reading resources available to anyone with a library card. Individuals who do not currently have a library card can sign up online for the recently launched Digital Library Card at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Library/services/registration.html. This gives cardholders immediate access to most online services and resources.

OPT

County to receive more than \$30 million from CARES Act

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has been designated to receive more than \$30 million in federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act to support Ride On bus operations during and after the COVID-19 health crisis.

The federal funding will help cover operating costs for Ride On to account for:

- Lost revenue from the elimination of fare collection since March 13 in order to limit personal interactions
- Implementing hazard pay for bus drivers in recognition of the critical work they perform
- Maintaining standby drivers on buses stationed strategically across the County who can be deployed to routes that need more coverage in order to maintain social distancing

tain social distancing

- Increased cleaning and safety measures to keep riders and bus operators safe

Through the provision of the CARES Act, the Federal government has acknowledged the extreme operational and financial burden that the pandemic is placing on the public transportation industry.

The legislation also recognizes the critical importance of maintaining transit services during the health crisis for essential workers and others who rely on public systems to access basic needs such as food and healthcare.

OPT

DATOVECH

Con't from page 48

has latched on. And people have responded.”

For this former IBMer and current medical device business owner, Deacon Datovech is used to getting things done, much of it behind the scenes. For the past 12 years, the Pittsburgh native has served the Archbishop of Washington by ministering to the parish he and his family have called home for 38 years.

Fr. John said Deacon Datovech is always available to help with whatever needs to be done in the parish. Besides orchestrating the virtual Mass and leading Morning and Evening Prayer, Deacon Datovech has also facilitated the movement of the parish’s facilities enhancement plan, which is progressing after a dozen years in development.

“Deacon Jim is a man of many talents,” Fr. John said. “He has a gift for organizing things and keeping them on track. He is faithful to the Church and what she teaches. He is clearly a man of prayer. He

is a good husband, good father and father-in-law, and devoted grandfather.”

In this time, he is also an arbiter of his parish’s experience of community.

“[The pandemic] has taught the church it’s not about the building – it’s about connection of us as human beings,” Deacon Datovech said. “That connection can grow stronger even without us physically interacting. The power of the Holy Spirit is more powerful than one-on-one physical interaction.”

OPT

MEALS

Con't from page 49

from USSMC has been especially successful in bringing in volunteers. As such, we have been delivering between 90 and 100 meals each day. In addition to meals, we have had several donations of bags of groceries, many of which have come from Jason Moore of St. Michael’s.

The final piece of the puzzle is delivery. Our volunteers pick up meals from Shepherd’s Table, area restaurants, and/or from an individual’s home to deliver them to any of our recipients. Fr. Jacek and

Alfredo Garcia from St. Camillus have regularly delivered food not only to up to 19 vulnerable individuals from St. Camillus, but also to an additional two large families in eastern Silver Spring on a regular basis.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time and necessary risk to ensure the meals get to their intended recipients. We encourage our volunteers to minimize entering apartment buildings and to leave meals at the front door if possible so as to minimize direct interactions. All of our volunteers enthusiastically don face masks and gloves when making deliveries.

OPT

OAM

Con't from page 54

- Pick a song that means a lot to you and sing it to someone. Tell the person why you chose it.
- Call a relative and tell them you have a story to tell. Set up a time that works for both of you so you can be relaxed and focused.
- Talk to your grandchildren

about your favorite activities as a child. Did you prefer to ride a bicycle, play team sports, or read a book while sitting in a tree?

- Read a favorite book, poem, or passage to loved one by video chat or phone. If by phone, describe the pictures as well as reading the words. Tell them why you chose that story.

OPT

ESSAYS

Con't from page 51

ing the part of my school year when all the large, exhilarating, school spirited events take place. I miss my eighth grade versus teacher basketball game, tech week for our annual spring musical, Confirmation, and Field Day. Learning through a screen has opened my eyes to see how we shouldn’t take the smallest things for granted, but it has also taught me how to be responsible

for my work and take control of my learning so I can do my best. I pray that when this is all over, people will see the beauty in life and how lucky we are to be alive. I also pray that kids my age will come out with more knowledge in how to do things for themselves, and with a new sense of responsibility. We can and will make it through this pandemic, we just need to believe in God and turn to him in times of need.

—Gabby Georges, Eighth Grade

OPT

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