



Parish Times

High School Open House
Pull-Out Section pages 20-21

AUGUST 2021

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Restoration and Renewal

Welcome back from summer and pandemic closures, modifications, and Zooms. I hope that your summer break provided ample opportunities for in-person fun, family, personal and spiritual restoration. Reopened churches and the resumption of parish activities are a deeply appreciated return to our



Chuck Short

Continued on page 18

Celebrating Our Schools and Parishes More than Ever

This is the time of year when we return from vacations and the slower pace of summer to more normal school and work schedules. I often write about this, trying to encourage all of us – especially our young people, schools and parishes – to get the “new year” off to a great start.



Fr. John Enzler

That is again my hope for us right now, even as we acknowledge that this year is different than last year, and last year was different than the year

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Put a Prayer in Your Pocket

I watched a lot of the Olympics this year. I loved the volleyball, the track and field events, swimming, and gymnastics. Oh, and how about that “artistic swimming display! I was not so addicted, however, that I was willing to watch the women run 26 miles in the marathon - that is, until I encountered Molly Seidel. Molly



Patricia McGann

Continued on page 18

Rebuilding a church in Haiti

St. Francis of Assisi Parish helps Conversion of St. Paul rise from the rubble



Haitian construction crews prepare to lay the foundation for the new church at Conversion of the St. Paul's Parish in Léon, Haiti, toward the end of 2020. Despite an earthquake that struck the Caribbean island on August 14, the parish's pastor reports that the nearly completed church is still standing.

By Daniel F. Cardile

After Hurricane Matthew made landfall on Haiti's southern peninsula on October 4, 2016, the storm destroyed several homes and the picturesque Church of the Conversion of St. Paul, which sat high atop a hill in the center of town in Léon, Haiti. The Haiti Committee at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood had spearheaded an effort to rebuild its sister parish's church, and despite a massive earthquake that struck the Caribbean island on August 14, the nearly completed church

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Support the efforts of
Catholic Relief Services
in Haiti at www.crs.org



Left to Right: Fr. Peter Sweeney, Fr. Kevin Kennedy, Fr. Joseph Pierce, Msgr. Edward Filardi
Photo from St. Paul archives

Parish Celebrates Fr. Sweeney's 60th Anniversary

Fr. Sweeney hit his 60th anniversary of ordination this year, having served a quarter of that time in Damascus. In May, the Jubilarians of the archdiocese met at St. Mary's Church in Landover Hills for a joint celebration, and the four priests who served as pastor at St. Paul got together. The smiling Irishman and his successors include:

Fr. Peter Sweeney, 60 years a priest, pastor at St. Paul 1990-2004

Fr. Kevin Kennedy, 25 years a priest, pastor 2004-2008

Fr. Joseph Pierce, 29 years a priest, pastor 2008-2020

Msgr. Edward O'Filardi, 27 years a priest, pastor 2020-present

After he left St. Paul, Fr. Sweeney served at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Leisure World, the retirement community

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Rich Dumais Joins Don Bosco as Interim President

Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School and Corporate Work Study Program is pleased to announce the appointment of Rich Dumais, our current Board Chair, as Interim President, effective July 1.

Rich brings extensive business and education leadership expertise. Prior to Don Bosco, Rich was the Chief Operating Officer at the Washington Jesuit Academy in Northeast DC. In 2015, Rich was a Partner with Brown Advisory, where he had been a Strategic Advisor since 1996 and managed the Washington Office. Before joining Brown, Rich practiced law with Piper & Marbury and Stewart, Plant & Blumenthal in Baltimore, where he concentrated in estate and charitable planning and trust administration.

Rich graduated with honors from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1986 and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland College Park in 1981. He now lives in Kensington with his wife, Nicole, and has three grown children and seven grandchildren.

We are excited that he has agreed to serve in this capacity as we continue implementing our transition plan to find a permanent

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FLEA MARKET

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Stone Ridge Community Mourns the Passing of Pat Cleary: A Pillar of Strength

Pat Cleary, 96, wife of the late Timothy F. Cleary, passed away peacefully on August 17, 2021, at her home in Stone Harbor, New Jersey, surrounded by loved ones. For 50 years, Mrs. Cleary was the welcoming face of Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart. Sitting at her command center of the reception desk in Hamilton House from 1969-2019, she welcomed visitors, directed daily foot traffic, and kept the phones in order.



Pat Cleary

Continued on page 17

Well-Read Mom Invites Women to Friendship Through Literature

By Amy Sapenoff Hamm

As children across the county prepare to return to school, area women are also preparing to hit the books. Local chapters of a national women's group, the Well-Read Mom, are launching their 2021-2022 book list in the coming weeks.

Each year, the Well-Read Mom proposes monthly meetings in small groups to discuss classic works of literature related to a particular theme. This year's theme is the Year of the Family and includes such titles as *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry and *Kristin Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset.

The group was initially founded in Minnesota as a place for women to gather and have conversations



Members of Well-Read Mom from across the country follow the Cross on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help



Margaret McCarthy of St. Bernadette's with other Well-Read Mom pilgrims at a Carmelite monastery in Denmark, Wisconsin

about life that go deeper than nap-time tips and diaper recommendations. By doing so, it also proposes a friendship. This friendship now extends to over 5,000 members in nearly every state. Local member Suzanne Tanzi of Holy Redeemer remarks, "Well-Read Mom is not just a reading group. It is a sisterly companionship whose fruitful impact goes deeper than the books we discuss by questioning our daily life experiences and broadening our views on reality."

Madeleine Wicker of St. Elizabeth's found that her Well-Read Mom group provided an important place for fellowship, a deep need that emerged in a particular way during the pandemic.

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Stone Ridge Athletes Represent Team USA in Tokyo

It's historic and momentous for a school to see their alums grace the national stage in sports, let alone the world stage. Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart was blessed this summer to cheer for two such alumnae and Olympians, Phoebe Bacon '20 and Katie Ledecy '15, who swam for Team USA in the Tokyo 2020 Summer Games.

"What a thrill it has been to watch Katie and Phoebe compete," says Head of School Catherine Ronan Karrels '86 of the alumnae's performances. "Stone Ridge is incredibly proud of these alumnae athletes, not only for what they accomplish in the sport of



Stone Ridge alumna and fellow Olympians Phoebe Bacon '20 and Katie Ledecy '15

swimming but for the values and character they represent."

The duo first met at Little Flower School in Bethesda, when Phoebe was paired with Katie as her school buddy. Since then, they have been in the same swimming circles, both swimming for Nation's Capital Swim Club and Stone Ridge.

For her Olympic debut appearance, Phoebe Bacon '20 swam the 200-meter backstroke. She had an impressive showing, finishing 5th in the finals, behind her teammate Rhyen White, 23 milliseconds shy of medalling. Phoebe holds the 2020 NCAA title in the 200-meter backstroke and is entering her sophomore year at

the University of Wisconsin.

Katie Ledecy '15 entered the Olympic arena during the 2012 Summer Games in London at 15-years-old, the youngest member of Team USA. As a three-time Olympian, Katie has collected ten medals, including seven gold and three silver. She holds numerous world records, including in the 1500-meter freestyle, which was added to the Olympics for the women for the first time this year. Last year, Katie celebrated her graduation from Stanford University during the Olympic swim trials in Omaha. She earned her degree in Psychology.

The Stone Ridge community followed Phoebe and Katie throughout their time in Tokyo, beginning

with a Pep Rally held in mid-July with over 250 people in attendance. Community members also had watch parties nationwide, posting photos on social media to show the swimmers their support. Athletic Director Andrew Maguire shares, "For the US Women's Olympic Swim Team, I cannot think of better role models for future US Swimmers. Katie and Phoebe have taken their humble and faith-based roots with them to this Olympic stage, and it has proven to serve them well." Stone Ridge hopes to welcome Phoebe and Katie back to campus soon and looks forward to supporting their future Olympic endeavors.

Learn more at www.stoneridge-school.org/athletics/olympic-gators

OPT

Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County

School closings hurt low-income students the most

By Larry Couch

When schools close because of the pandemic, students from the poorest neighborhoods are the ones who are hurt the most. This is the finding of a study coauthored by Yale economist Fabrizio Zilibotti. This issue affects us in Montgomery County. (To read the studies, see the end of this article for links.)

Since our beginning in 2005, the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County has advocated for public policy issues impacting the lives of the poor

and vulnerable in the County. As we do this, we look at the impact through the lens of Catholic social teaching (CST).

Central to our concern are the principles of CST which call us to care for others. These are the principles which promote the "life and dignity of the human person," the common good, and solidarity with our brothers and sisters. This is a clear and simple biblical message, central to who we should be as Catholics. For further background on CST, search the web for "USCCB Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching."

Some findings that challenge us. According to the Zilibotti study mentioned above, children living in the poorest 20 percent of neighborhoods will experience the most negative and long-lasting effects of school closure. Even if followed by three years of normal schooling, these negative effects will cost ninth graders in the poorest communities a 25 percent decrease in their educational earning potential after they leave school.

Meanwhile the pandemic-relat-

Continued on page 22

Opinion

Roe/Doe Must Go But So Must Abortion

By John Naughton

In October the Supreme Court will hear a Mississippi law which bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. This is a direct conflict with the existing 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions which decriminalized abortion through all 40 weeks of pregnancy. Prior to those decisions states had the power to enact laws restricting abortion and they did. Since 1973 several pro-abortion states have passed laws without abortion restrictions anticipating Roe/Doe could be overturned.

The Court's acceptance of the Mississippi challenge has led many pro-life organizations to file legal briefs petitioning the Court to overturn their 1973 decisions. Overturning those decisions will free states to enact laws restricting abortion. But it will also free states to pass laws permitting abortion.

Prior to 1973 it was well known that life begins at conception.

In 1871 the American Medical

Association said it is a "scientific fact that human life didn't begin at quickening, but rather at conception."

In 1933, Dr. Alan Guttmacher, President of Planned Parenthood, said, "This all seems so simple and evident that it is difficult to picture a time when it wasn't part of the common knowledge." (Life in the Making. The Story of Human Procreation, 1933)

The author of the Supreme Court Roe decision Justice Blackmun said, "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins." And "... the judiciary, at this point in the development of man's knowledge, is not in a position to speculate as to the answer." He also said, "If this suggestion of personhood is established, the appellant's case, of course, collapses."

Blackmun certainly did have the duty to accept the science of the time that life begins at conception and if there were any doubt to presume life begins at conception. To do otherwise would be terribly

inhumane as it would say killing of the preborn (human persons) was legal and acceptable.

Since 1973 there have been many technological advances and findings further confirming the humanity of the preborn. The most well-known is the sonogram which pictures the baby for all to see.

In 1979 former abortionist Bernard Nathanson, who killed over 60,000 preborn infants and lobbied the Supreme Court for the Roe/Doe decisions but later became pro-life, said, "Modern technologies have convinced us beyond question the unborn child is another human being, another person, another member of the human community, indistinguishable from any of us." Nathanson produced The Silent Scream video showing how the preborn tries to escape from the instruments of death and appears to scream.

In 1993 Professor Peter Singer of Princeton University, who advocated optional parental infanticide up

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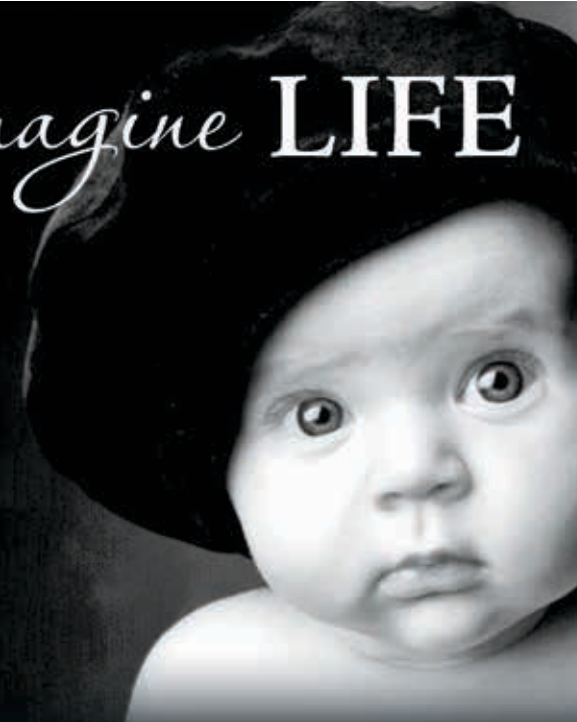
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Students sharpen their vocabulary skills during Mercy's Summer Spectrum

Mercy's Summer Spectrum was a Big Success

This year's Summer Spectrum program was bigger than ever, with campers enjoying in-person educational opportunities such as Math and Reading Enrichment, Study Skills, and Language Arts. In addition to enhancing math and reading skills, students could participate in an "Around the World" class learning about different cultures, or spend time creating masterpieces during art sessions such as Pirate Island and Animal Kingdom.

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Mercy students learn how to "DIY" during this creative Summer Spectrum art class

Mercy Welcomes New Staff Members!

Marissa Debrot, Second-Grade Teacher

Miss Debrot is a graduate of The Catholic University of America. She spent four years at St. John the Evangelist School in Silver Spring, first teaching third grade and then first grade.

Mary Katherine Green, Writing Support Teacher, Grades Four-Eight

Mary Katherine Green is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy School and daughter of Mrs. Christine Green! Ms. Green is certified in elementary education and has five years of teaching experience.

Jason Knecht, PE Teacher and CYO Director

Mr. Knecht has a master's degree in education, eleven years of teaching experience, and is a certified Athletic Director. He served as the President of the DC Public Charter School Interscholastic Coaching Division for three years. A physical education program he initiated was replicated in many of the DC Charter Schools.

Meg Kummer, Language Arts Teacher, Grades Seven and Eight

Mrs. Kummer, who has her master's degree and certification, brings

13 years of teaching experience, 11 of which were at Stone Ridge as the Middle School Language Arts teacher.

Trevor McKernie, Resource Teacher

Trevor is relocating from North Carolina, where he earned both a bachelor's degree in history as well as a bachelor's degree in science education. He has also served as an assistant coach for softball and volleyball at the middle school and high school levels. Trevor has experience with children with disabilities and will be working in our resource department.

Mrs. Alli Richardson, PreK 4 Teacher

Mrs. Richardson has nine years experience teaching in Catholic schools, several at the PreK 4 level. She has a master's degree in reading and is a certified early childhood educator.

Maureen Rossi, Resource Teacher

Mrs. Rossi is a seasoned resource specialist, having worked at other area Catholic schools before joining Our Lady of Mercy. She has spent her entire career in Catholic schools, considering it a vocation. She is a certified middle school math teacher and has considerable

experience with including students with intellectual disabilities and special training in reading instruction for children with dyslexia.

Marquerite "Maddie" Weldon, Pre K 4 Assistant

Ms. Weldon earned her BA in music in 2020. She will be an assistant in PreK 4 and will also be helping with music classes. Ms. Weldon's mother taught geometry at Mercy several years ago.

Amanda Williams, School Nurse Mrs. Williams is a former Navy nurse and OR nurse who comes to us with five years experience as the school nurse for Mary of Nazareth. She is passionate about student safety and has a calm and warm manner that we know our students will appreciate. Mrs. Williams' three children will also be joining our school.

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

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Potomac, MD

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Our Lady of Mercy School
D Engel, Principal
301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676



Fifth-graders Grace Love and Clara Aschenbach take home medals at national track and field meets this summer.

Mercy Fifth Graders Medal at National Track and Field Meets

A big Mercy "Roar-Out" goes to fifth-graders Clara Aschenbach and Grace Love! Clara finished second in the 1500 meter race at the USATF Junior Olympics in Jacksonville, Florida. Her time of 5:17.60 was the second fastest time by any 9/10 year old girl in the country this year!

Clara's friend and Mercy classmate, Grace Love, is a National Champion! Grace won the AAU Junior Olympics Track & Field Championships in the 1500-meter race with a time of 5:14! Grace also placed fourth in the 800 meters with a time of 2:34.

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Fr. Bill Ryan baptizes a young woman at Christmas time at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Togo

Following Christ's Method: from Kensington to Togo

How do you cultivate a missionary spirit? According to Fr. Bill Ryan, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Parish in Togo, sister parish of Holy Redeemer, the key to follow Christ's method.

"Jesus would work a miracle before preaching. When He cured the sick or restored sight to the blind, the people would be more open and eager to hear what He has to say. You see this strategy at work in the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. After meeting the crowd's material needs, Jesus proposes something deeper and more important, the Bread of Life discourse and the promise of eternal life".

Fr. Ryan notes that this is the reason the parish mission includes schools and development projects, such as agricultural programs and building wells. By building relationships through addressing the physical needs of the people, he is then able to propose fellowship, faith, and sacramental life.

In the past year, this method has borne much fruit. Fr. Ryan describes welcoming many children to the Church this past Christmas. "They were 79 candidates altogether -- 47 for baptism and first

Communion, along with another 32, already baptized, for first Communion. We have adult baptisms scheduled for some future visits to different villages, but these 79 are all students who came to the mission for the special Christmas Mass. Almost all are children of poor farmers, from Atchanvé and from nine of our other villages where their catechists helped prepare them."

Holy Redeemer has played an important part of his work and mission. Long before departing as a missionary for Africa, Fr. Ryan was a parishioner at Holy Redeemer.

Continued on page 19

Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue
Kensington, MD

Rev. Mark Hughes

Pastor

301-942-2333

Holy Redeemer School

Mr. Thomas Corrigan,

Principal

301-942-3701



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Our Lady of Lourdes School Celebrates 80 Years

August 25, 1941: “on that happy day, the sisters of St. Francis came down from Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania to open Our Lady of Lourdes Parochial School in the fifteenth year of the parish life.” So reads a retrospect written on the sixteenth anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. This August marks eighty years since that “happy day” and eighty years of happy days for the children, families, and teachers of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was established in 1926, and its first pastor was Father James J. O'Connor. The original building and land in downtown Bethesda



Above: The Dedication of Our Lady of Lourdes School, 1941

At left: Sisters of St. Francis who taught at OLOL at the statue dedication in 2015



were purchased from the Chinese Embassy. As the congregation grew, more land and an additional building were purchased. In the spring of 1940, plans for the building now housing Our Lady of Lourdes School were begun in earnest, and it was completed in January 1941. The original building contained eight classrooms, a kindergarten, a library, and an auditorium that

was used as the church for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

On September 5, 1941, 235 students enrolled in the first registration of the school. Tuition was \$25 per child. The principal, Sister Emma, and the other sisters of St. Francis lived in the convent adjacent to the school building. Today, a beautiful statue honoring these sisters stands outside of the school's

front doors.

Father Elmer T. Fisher, the third pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, directed the planning and construction of a new wing onto the school and renovations to the church in 1950. In 1955, enrollment in the school was up to a staggering 1,052 students.

Today, the enrollment and tuition numbers are certainly different from the 1940s and 50s. The students of Our Lady of Lourdes school learn in the original classrooms, all of which have been regularly updated and renovated over the years. The class sizes are small and the children have plenty of room to spread out in their large, airy spaces. The teachers today are all lay men and women. While much looks different, the spirit of Our Lady of Lourdes is surely unchanged. Our Lady of Lourdes continues to be a school whose motto is faith, excellence, and service, and whose open doors have welcomed countless children from across the Washington, D.C. area. At its heart, Our Lady of Lourdes is more than just a school; it is a home and family for each of the young men and women who have walked through its halls over the last eight decades.

This will certainly be a year-long celebration for the Our Lady of Lourdes community as its members celebrate the history of the school and look with hope and confidence toward a bright future.

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New Faces Welcomed to OLOL Faculty

Our Lady of Lourdes School has three new faculty members joining the ranks in this upcoming 2021-2022 school year, Madie Kilner, Anna Parker, and Margaret Capizzi.

Madie Kilner is joining the staff as a teaching assistant and she is full of enthusiasm and excitement about her new role. She graduated from The Catholic University of America in 2020. Madie shared that she is “looking forward to being a part of such an authentically Catholic, joy-filled community. Lourdes is truly a family, where I know I will learn a lot, and be challenged to operate at my best!” Anna Parker is the new music teacher, a



Ms. Margaret Capizzi, OLOL alum, joins the Middle School faculty

job that takes on the wearing of many different hats throughout the year. The music teacher not only teaches music classes during the school week but also leads the choir for weekly school Mass and the student body during school-wide community events held during the year.

Margaret Capizzi is the new 6th Grade Homeroom teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes school. She will be teaching 6th Grade History and 6-8 ELA classes. Ms. Capizzi, while a new faculty member, is not a new face here at Lourdes.

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Summer Scholars Stop the Slide

This summer at Our Lady of Lourdes was full of new and exciting activities! This August, three Lourdes teachers were able to bring students together for a great

new academic and play-based camp called Summer Scholars. Kindergarten, first, and second grade teachers Ms. Rachel Norton, Ms. Kristin Addison, and Ms. Chelsey Hipp created Summer Scholars in order for students to participate in project-based learning, STEM, play, read alouds and small group activities in both language arts and math. Campers engaged in teacher-led and student-led small group activities throughout the day. The youngest campers had the opportunity to be exposed to new information and routines,

Continued on page 36

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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Gold Award Project Helps Boost Girls' Confidence

By Anne Cooksey, Parishioner

My name is Annie Cooksey and I am a part of Girl Scout Troop 274, which meets at St. Martin's School. I am a rising senior at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School and I have just earned my Gold Award. My project title was, "Be Confident: Building Confidence for Middle School Girls".

I chose confidence for middle school girls as my focus because that is usually the age where self-confidence is formed as girls start becoming more aware of their bodies and surroundings as they change. Building confidence is very important at this age because they are able to learn healthy mindsets that can help them through the next couple of years and hopefully prevent a habit of self-criticism. I think it is also important to focus on self-worth, as middle school can be a rough, judgmental environment.

I conducted a series of four workshops over Zoom, with each session focusing

on a different topic of confidence: what self-confidence means, public speaking, body image, and how to create a safe environment for others to be confident. One of my favorite moments from the workshop was when the girls made small posters covered in positive attributes about themselves. Another favorite moment was during a compliment activity where the girls got in small groups to complement each other.

I hope the participants of these workshops were able to learn some things about confidence and were able to grow in how they see themselves and others. I hope that by conducting these workshops I was able to inspire the girls to love themselves, work towards their goals with confidence, and challenge them to break societal beauty standards. Completing the Gold Award definitely helped me with my own confidence through research for the workshops and through having to present to many young, talented girls.

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Bishop Dorsonville celebrates the installation of Rev. David Wells as Pastor of St. Martin's. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

St. Martin's Parish News and Notes

Presentation on Eucharistic Adoration – In preparation for the re-opening of the Adoration Chapel, Seminarians Stephen and Pedro led English and Spanish language discussions in June about the meaning of Eucharistic Adoration for parishioners. The English language presentation was recorded and is now available on St. Martin's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/c/StMartinofToursGaithersburgMD/videos>. Parishioners interested in committing to weekly adoration can sign up at www.stmartinsweb.org.

Arrival of Fr. Patrick Agustin – In July, Fr. Patrick Agustin arrived at St. Martin's as its newest Parochial Vicar. He joins Fr. Francisco Rodriguez, Parochial Vicar, and Fr. David Wells, Pastor.

Installation of Rev. David Wells – Although Fr. Dave was officially installed as St. Martin's Pastor last spring, the pandemic

prevented the celebration of his installation until recently. On August 8, Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville celebrated mass and the installation of Fr. Dave with parishioners and members of the Wells family. A reception followed in the school gymnasium and cafeteria.

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Catherine Cooksey, Parish Editor
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www.smsmd.org



Campers at St. Martin's School Summer Camp enjoyed a creative and engaging summer of activities, including making their own Olympic torches. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

WELL-READ

Con't from page 2

Speaking of an especially provocative discussion last spring of *In This House of Brede*, by Rumer Godden, she recalls how the story, "deeply resonated with all of us. In comparison to cloistered nuns, all of our lives seem to be downright frenetic, as moms with young children or single in a big city. Perhaps the pandemic has made all of us follow, just a little, character Philippa Talbot's path. In our radically individualized society, we have discovered that we need each other, need community."

Beyond the guided monthly book discussions, the Well-Read Mom also organizes an annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. The Shrine is the site of the only approved Marian apparition in the

United States. Margaret McCarthy of St. Bernadette's participated in this year's pilgrimage. She reflects that in her experience the Well-Read Mom seeks, "to awaken the deepest desires in the hearts of women, by gathering them together with great authors whose own hearts were so awakened. That the *Well-Read Mom* proposes a pilgrimage is a testament to the depth of its purpose: To put women on a common path to walk together towards and with God. I just came home from the pilgrimage. For three short days, and 38 long miles I walked with women from all over the country, each one carrying her 'intentions' to Our Lady. Walking in silence, we came to know each other, and ourselves, most deeply, as the women we actually are, with hearts full of desire for God, for us, those dearest to us, and for the whole world."

Visit wellreadmom.com to find information about joining an existing group or to start your own.

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Holy Cross Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

We are delighted that Holy Cross parishioner, Teresa Swick, will be our new school counselor. Mrs. Swick attended St. Jude's Elementary School and Oakcrest School prior to graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a BA in psychology and a minor in theology. She is currently working towards a masters in Marriage and Family Studies from the University of Navarre. Over the years, Mrs. Swick has held a variety of positions within the Archdiocese of Washington, including Administrative Assistant for the USCCB's Secretariat of Catholic Education, Campus Minister for George Mason University's Catholic Campus Ministry, Program Director for the Youth Leadership Foundation, and Visitor Services Specialist for the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.

"I look forward to contributing, in some small way, to the health and happiness of the Holy Cross family

through my role as Holy Cross Elementary School's Guidance Counselor. I can't wait to get to know the students, to accompany them, and to help them navigate some of life's ups and downs," she shared.

Parishioner Toni Rose, whose daughter is a First Grade student at Holy Cross, will join the staff as the Kitchen Manager to coordinate the hot lunch program; she will also lend support as a teaching assistant in the Pre-Kindergarten classrooms. Mrs. Rose holds a dual BA from George Washington University and Mount Vernon College. Mrs. Rose has been in the restaurant and hospitality business for thirty years, performing every position from dishwasher to manager with a positive attitude. "It has made me extremely proficient in multitasking!" she admitted. A quote attributed to Confucius, is her life motto: "Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall."

Our Pre-K 4 students will welcome Mary Simmonds as their new classroom aide. Ms. Simmonds attended Mary of Nazareth in Darnestown, Maryland, and graduated from Holy Child before studying English and Creative Writing at Marist College in New York. While at Marist, Ms. Simmonds volunteered as a classroom aide to promote literacy. "I love to read and am passionate about children's literature," Ms. Simmonds explained. "Stories are the most powerful

influences to the way we think about ourselves and the world. Her educational philosophy is inspired by a quote from *The Phantom Tollbooth*: "You must never feel badly about making mistakes . . . as long as you take the trouble to learn from them. For you often learn more by being wrong for the right reasons than you do by being right for the wrong reasons."

Kara Lerche will be the new teaching assistant in Third Grade. Ms. Lerche graduated from Florida Southern College with a BS in Athletic Training with minors in Exercise Science and Psychology. "I am very excited to start this new journey at Holy Cross School, and am looking forward to this upcoming school year. As Proverbs 22:6 says, 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.'"

Clare Hogan, a 2008 and 2012 alumni of Holy Cross School and the Academy of the Holy Cross, respectively, joins the faculty as a Writing teacher for Grades 3 through 5. Miss Hogan graduated with a Masters in Fine Arts in Poetry from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan in 2018, where she subsequently received a year-long Zell post graduate fellowship in creative writing. While there, she worked as an editorial assistant for the Michigan Quarterly and supervised three different literary reading series. Her work has received an Academy of American

Continued on page 38



Led by three altar servers holding the Cross, Father Robert lifted the monstrance as Holy Cross parishioners followed in our annual Corpus Christi procession.

Corpus Christi at Holy Cross

Holy Cross Church celebrated Corpus Christi Sunday with a lovely procession after the 9:30 am Mass on June 6. The procession was attended by many faithful parishioners walking from the front of the church towards Strathmore Avenue and back to Mary's Garden. Sacred music inspired the reverent decorum as the pastor, Father Robert, proudly lifted the monstrance with the Holy Eucharist, the body and blood of Christ – the source and summit of our Catholic Faith. Corpus Christi marked the first time a call for altar servers was made since the beginning of the pandemic and provided an opportunity for the children who just received their First Communion to process in their special outfits while giving honor to the Blessed Sacrament.

OPT



The Corpus Christi procession culminated at Mary's Garden with a prayer service led by Father Robert.

Holy Cross Parish
4900 Strathmore Avenue, Garrett Park, MD
Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor
301-942-1020
Holy Cross School
Lisa Maio Kane, Principal
301-949-0053
Lurana Hogan, Parish Editor
l.hogan@hcross.org

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Sunday
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4900 Strathmore Avenue • Garrett Park, MD 20896
www.hcross.org • 301-949-1699

Pastor: Rev. Robert Buchmeier • Principal: Lisa M. Kane

Celebrating the Eucharist at Brighton Gardens and Beyond

For the first time since February 2020 when the lockdowns began, Holy Cross Church Ministry to the Sick and Homebound resumed celebrating Mass at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living facility on July 17. Father Perkins celebrated Mass attended by Catholic residents and some of their family members, care givers, and

other residents who gathered in the facility's living area. Father Perkins was assisted at Mass by Holy Cross volunteers Rita Forbes, Margaret Zbigniewich, Dick Schreitmueller and Charlotte King. Dick Schreitmueller led the singing. Masses are celebrated monthly at Brighton Gardens.

Continued on page 35

Celebrating 30 Years of Priestly Ordination

Holy Cross Church celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Reverend Robert Buchmeier on the Feast of Corpus Christi, two days before the official anniversary on June 8th. Parishioners safely gathered after the 9:30am and 12:00 noon Mass to greet their beloved pastor and thank him for his service. Two large photo collages were made by parishioner, Joyce Mulcahy, to commemorate the occa-



Father Robert reminisces with Holy Cross parishioners at the celebration of his 30th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination.

Continued on page 38

More Holy Cross News on Page 9



Several middle school students, along with one younger sibling, pause during a summer bike ride around the neighborhood to show their school spirit

Holy Cross Summer Kindness Initiative

During the school year, Principal Lisa Kane always concludes afternoon prayers with the phrase, “When you can be anything in this world . . .” to which the entire student body can be heard in unison adding “. . . always be kind.” In addition to the Kindness Tree that graces our hallway, this is yet another way that Holy Cross School sustains a culture of kindness and compassion.

Our focus on kindness is year-round. Before school ended in June 2021, each family and faculty member received a large laminated school logo emblazoned with the words “Always Be Kind!” Everyone was encouraged to share photos of their summer adventures with the logo, a la Flat Stanley to be displayed on the school’s social media accounts.

Christine Zalewski, Director of Development and Admissions explained, “Social media plays an important role in keeping our families connected and helps to showcase our extraordinary, joy-filled com-



Holy Cross spirit and kindness stretched all the way to Portugal, where three students enjoy a day at the beach.



A Holy Cross first grade student shows his school spirit at a beach in North Carolina.

munity. It was great fun to see a variety of photos of students and faculty sharing their love for Holy Cross along with the kindness message. We enjoyed sharing everything from a group of Middle School students taking their Holy Cross logo on a bike ride in Kensington, to students meeting up on the shores of Portugal.”

Participants in the summer *Always Be Kind!* initiative will be entered into a random drawing for a spirit wear item of their choice. The raffle will be held at the beginning of the school year. Principal Kane reflected by stating, “We are so proud of the culture of kindness at Holy Cross School and appreciate that families engaged in this fun summer endeavor. Our collective work supports the message of kindness and helps to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for each member of the Holy Cross family.”

OPT

Mother Daughter Duo

Saint Bernadette School is pleased to welcome Ms. Megan Calice to the hive! Ms. Calice will be joining the Saint Bernadette School community as the new Middle School Science teacher this fall. Ms. Calice has served as an Emergency Room Nurse in Howard County for many years and will now be joining the Saint Bernadette School staff alongside her mother, Mrs. Shannon Calice, second grade teacher.

“Our school is a real family affair for all. Beyond all the student siblings, we have several school parents on staff, and now we have three mother-daughter teams on staff as well,” commented principal Ted Ewanciw. “The family is our best source of faith and strength, so I’m excited to keep this trend going!”



Megan Calice joins mother Shannon Calice for a summer vacation to Florida before joining forces at Saint Bernadette School this year!

OPT

Support the efforts of
Catholic Relief Services
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St. Bernadette Parish
70 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD

**Rev. Msgr. K.
Bartholomew Smith**
Pastor
301-593-0357

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

Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor
301-593-5611

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Transfer Student Finds Faith amidst Pandemic

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt lives globally, people have turned to religious groups, family, friends, and other social networks for support. A recent study by the Pew Research Center found that nearly three-in-ten Americans (28%) report stronger personal faith because of the pandemic. While every journey in faith is unique, what drives us is the same deep, enduring love for Jesus Christ and His Church.

Sixth grade transfer student Bennett's journey reached its high point early this summer when he was baptized in front of family, friends, and teachers at St.



Bennett, left, prepares for baptism and entrance into the Catholic faith alongside his classmates with a shared moment of prayer.

made me think about the teachings of my religion", which he openly shared with his friend. Encountering classmates of sincere faith helped Bennett begin to process his own questions about the role of faith and religion in his life. Joe says, "When I first heard him say in class that he was thinking about getting baptized, we talked about it after and I encouraged him to do it. It's always nice to hear your friends support you when you are making a big decision. I hope I can continue to encourage him as a newly baptized Catholic."

Looking on lovingly from the pews sat several of Bennett's teachers, including Mrs. Rebaudengo, St. Bartholomew's middle school religion teacher and a 2020 Archdiocese of Washington Golden Apple Teacher of the Year. When asked how it feels as a religion teacher to witness a young man's journey into the faith, her answer is simple: "all glory to God!"

"Mrs. Rebaudengo is right... it is God's work. To be a part of this blessed event-- a student choosing to get baptized under his own volition-- is a genuine reaffirmation that our Catholic school teachers need

Continued on page 38

St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout
Pastor
301-229-7933

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

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
202-512-8226

Bartholomew Church in Bethesda.

Standing proudly beside Bennett was his classmate Joe who also transferred to St. Bartholomew School from Montgomery County Public Schools in the fall of 2020. Religion as a core academic subject was new to both students. For Joe there was already a strong connection to the parish as a "cradle Catholic", however having daily opportunities to engage with his own faith encouraged him to live it more deeply than before. "It

St Bart's Saturday Morning Prayer Group

St Bart's Saturday Morning Prayer Group assembled 20 school backpacks and 15 personal care kits for Catholic Charities on a Saturday in July. Everyone was happy to contribute to the success of children heading back to school. Backpacks included Spanish/English dictionaries, binders, notebooks and pens. Personal Kits included towels, deodorant, tooth brushes and paste.



St Bart's Annual School Supply Donations for Sacred Heart School

What started as an eighth-grader's confirmation project is now an annual event. St Bart's held its annual School Supply Drive for Sacred Heart School in Washington DC for the fifth year. Twenty individual backpacks were filled

according to the school supply list at the school for that grade level. Extra supplies were donated as well such as binders, notebooks, scissors, and more. With the extra funds raised, cleaning supplies were sent to the school such as paper towels, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer and Lysol spray. We wish the children at Sacred Heart School best of luck this year.



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St. Elizabeth School and Parish News



Gold Medal Reading!

The fun never stopped this summer as kids participated in our Second Grade Reading Camp! These young minds were so busy having fun, they didn't even realize how much they were learning. Each camper received a gold medal for their Olympian efforts!

St. Elizabeth Parish

917 Montrose Road
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



Congratulations to the Saint Elizabeth School Class of 2021!

Above: We are incredibly proud of our newest group of alumni. This class demonstrated perseverance and steadfast determination to finish strong in an uncertain year. These attributes will no doubt serve them well as they set their sights on graduating from the top high schools in the country. Carry on St. Elizabeth graduates – you are St. E's Strong!

Mrs. Penny and Mrs. Cocozzella

At right: We are excited to welcome our new Vice Principal, Mrs. Kristen Cocozzella, back to our family! Mrs. Cocozzella is a proud alumna and also began her teaching career at St. Elizabeth. We are happy to have her with us again as she joins our Principal, Mrs. Penny, another proud school alumna! They are both getting ready for a great 2021-2022 school year!



More St. Elizabeth News on Page 39

See us in Action!

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Brookwood
SCHOOL

St. Jane DeChantal High School Youth Group Growing Each Year

Carrying on the Tradition of Teen Faith Formation

By Debbie Okim and Collin Okim

With God's grace, St. Jane DeChantal's High School Youth Group was able to continue during the 2020-2021 school year. Despite the trying times and all the restrictions, the program moved onward and did the best they could to ensure the community's high school youth had the venue to share their faith and laughter with each other.

The High School Youth Group (HSYG) has significant meaning to St. Jane DeChantal parish. Youth groups or teen clubs as it was known in the 1950's existed in every parish and St. Jane DeChantal parish teen club came to full bloom in the 1980's with the col-

Continued on page 35



Teens during High School Youth Group use their time together with service projects before Christmas to make cards for our elderly parishioners and neighbors

St Jane DeChantal School Welcomes New Teachers and the Return to Traditions

STEM and Service will highlight this school year's return to normalcy

By Catherine Tomsbeck

The start of a new school year is always exciting but this year it is the return to normalcy for which the St. Jane de Chantal school community is grateful. Mrs. Hamilton will welcome students back on August 31 to begin the 2021-22 school year.

The school also welcomes some new teachers; Ms. Steadman in First Grade, Ms. Edwards in Third Grade, Ms. Corkery in Sixth Grade – Language Arts, Mr. Morris in Seventh / Eighth Grade – Math Mathematics, Ms. Dunne in Eighth Grade – Language Arts, and Ms. Seed for Art. A few of the new teachers are familiar faces as Mr. Morris, Ms. Edwards, and Ms. Steadman are De Chantal graduates and their return continues a tradition of alumni faculty members.

The DeChantal school STEM Lab opens on August 31 when Ms. Ramsayer-Burch welcomes students. Throughout the school year, students will experience collaborative exploration with new equipment in a refurbished classroom. The STEM curriculum integrates science, engineering, math, and technology offering grade appropriate lessons for their kindergarten through 8th grade students.

The return to a normal school schedule also allows students and teachers at De Chantal to fully participate in their Disciples in Service Program throughout the school year. Annually, students work with 13 various non-profit community and religious groups to implement Jesus' call to serve others. While they were able to keep a few programs active last year, our student leaders will reactivate all 13 programs in the 2021-22 school year.

OPT

Troop 461 Eagle Scouts Construct New Outdoor Chapel

DeChantal Parishioners Receive a Beautiful Service Gift from their Eagle Scouts

This past spring, three Scouts from Troop 461 completed their Eagle Scout Projects constructing an outdoor chapel at St. Jane de Chantal Parish. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouts BSA, and in order to achieve it, a candidate must lead a service project to benefit their community after advancing through all the prior ranks and completing a wide variety of requirements. Over 115 Scouts from Troop 461 have reached this rank in the last 58 years. Troop 461 remains very active, with over 60 Scouts and activities such as weekly meetings, monthly campouts, summer camp and high adventure bases.

The three Scouts working on the outdoor chapel each had a separate Eagle Project that together formed the finished project. Collin Okim's project focused on altar hardscaping. He led preparing the ground-work and laying pavers for the sanctuary. Matt Uhl, with the next project, worked on the sanctuary area. His project included laying pavers for the walkway and building the altar and lectern. Gabriel LaCount's project, the final of the three, concentrated on the seating area. That included building and

Continued on page 32



Scouts helped the Eagle Scouts construct the new outdoor chapel

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Pastor

301-530-1550

St. Jane de Chantal School

Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton

301-530-1221

Michelle D'Amour Flynn

OPT Editor

St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude and Pet Food Distribution

Food distribution is on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Pantry is located at 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville

St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude has been operating since May 2020 and continues to serve, on average, 200 families per week. Donations of non-perishable items can be left on the table in the breezeway (between the parking lot and the school/church) on Saturdays and Sundays or after 3:30 p.m. on school days. Much needed items include boxes of cereal, canned

items (soups, vegetables, tomatoes, and fruit), boxes of pasta, and sauce in plastic jars.

In addition, baby diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6) and baby wipes are always needed. Monetary donations can be given through "Faith Direct" or you can click on the Donate button on the Shrine of St. Jude webpage at www.shrinestjude.org (search for St. Stephen's Pantry) where you can make a one-time gift. We will also accept cash and check donations as well as gift cards to grocery stores. Follow us at www.facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry.

For furry family members: The Montgomery County Partners for Animal Well-being (MCPAW.org) and the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center (MCASAC) have teamed up to provide county pet owners with pet food, which is distributed Saturday mornings from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. adjacent to the St. Stephen Food Pantry distribution (back parking lot). Pet food or gift cards can also be donated at that time or by calling 240-462-5000 or 301-437-6189. Monetary donations are accepted online at MCPAW.org and are tax-deductible.

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

**Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD,
Pastor**
301-946-8200

**St. Jude Regional
Catholic School**
Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal
301-946-7888

**Maureen Martin,
OPT Editor**
MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs)

Connect with SJRCs: www.StJudeRockville.org; www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd; Instagram: [stjuderockville](https://www.instagram.com/stjuderockville); Twitter: [@StJudeRCS](https://twitter.com/StJudeRCS)

Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli Named Interim Principal

St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) is excited to announce that Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli has accepted the position of Interim Principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Since 2000, Mrs. Donatelli has held a number of teaching positions at SJRCs as well as serving as vice principal for the past 11 years. Under Mrs. Donatelli's leadership, SJRCs looks forward another strong academic and spirit-filled year.

Mrs. Katharine Balog Named Interim Assistant Principal

SJRCs also announces Katharine Balog as Interim Assistant Principal for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Balog, who has been teaching at St. Jude for 11 years (9 years in fourth grade) and incorporating her creativity into her daily lessons, will continue to teach 4th grade. As an added bonus, Mrs. Balog and her husband, Adam, are very excited to enroll their 3-year-old son in the preK3 program this year. She considers SJRCs a second home and cannot wait to share her love for St. Jude with her son. Mrs. Balog is excited to join the administration and continue to serve the community she adores.

Welcome/Welcome Back to SJRCs Staff and Teachers!

■ Ms. Karen Murphy returns as SJRCs' Resource Director. Ms.



Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, Interim Principal, SJRCs



Mrs. Katharine Balog, Interim Assistant Principal, SJRCs

Murphy, who was the resource director a few years ago at SJRCs and then relocated to Florida, returned to the area last year and was at St. Raphael. Welcome back to SJRCs, Mrs. Murphy!

■ Mrs. Amy Rueth joins SJRCs this year and will be teaching 2nd grade. Along with Mrs. Rueth, SJRCs welcomes her four children who will attend the school—Maureen in PreK 4, Max in 1st grade, Josh in 3rd grade, and Lydia in 5th grade. Welcome to SJRCs, Mrs. Rueth and family!

■ Mrs. Tiffany Brown, who had a beautiful baby girl in April, is back and will be teaching 1st grade. Welcome back, Mrs. Brown!

■ Mrs. Michelle Ardillo is returning to SJRCs after taking a year off from teaching due to increased risks for COVID-19. Mrs. Ardillo is thrilled to return to her home parish school to teach middle school Religion for the 2021-2022 school year. Previously, Mrs. Ardillo served as youth minister for the Shrine of St. Jude from 2004-2007 and taught religious education for more than eight years. Welcome back, Mrs. Ardillo!

■ And, lastly, Odyssey of the Mind (OM™), an international program, is returning on Fridays with Mrs. Teresa Sutherland. This fun and educational program teaches students how to develop and use their natural creativity to become problem solvers. Welcome back, OM™ and Mrs. Sutherland!

SJRCs Has Limited Openings!

Looking for a wonderful, spirit-filled school? St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) has limited openings in Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 6th, and 7th grades. Contact the SJRCs front office at 301-946-7888 or email Ellen.Donnely@stjuderockville.org.

OPT



St. Jude Regional Catholic School is so excited to welcome back our wonderful families. We wish everyone a holy, happy and healthy school year.

301-946-7888

<https://www.stjuderockville.org/>



St. Jude Regional Catholic School is dedicated to the development of the whole child within a Catholic community of faith and academic excellence.

Shrine of St. Jude Gardens Are in Bloom

Did you know that there are 20 gardens on the grounds of the Shrine of St. Jude? Everyone is invited to walk the St. Jude campus and enjoy the splendor of the gardens, especially since the annuals are at their peak. While the perennials are mostly from the Easter decorations each year, this year's annuals are the gift from the Sodality of Our Lady of the Wayside. Many thanks to Tom Roach, Carol Jones, Geraldine Mack, and Elvira

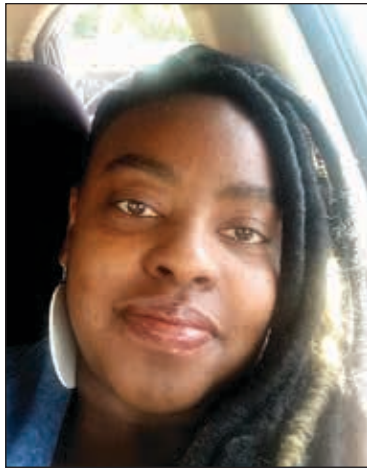
Lobo for planting the gardens as well as continuing to water, weed, and feed them each week. Pictured at top right is the Mary Jordan Garden, located near the Thaddeus Room outside entrance, and pictured on the right is the Madigan Hall Garden, located near the front driveway of the church and school.



Welcome New Woods Academy Faculty & Staff!



Caitlin Chalke
Director of Marketing
& Communications



Capri Coleman
2nd Grade Teacher



Matt D'Ercole
Long Term Substitute Teacher



Collen Kish
5th & 6th Grade Language Arts Teacher



Catherine Lawson
Montessori I Lead Teacher



Jocelyn MacDonald
French Teacher



Billy McLaughlin
Extended Care Teacher



Caitlin McMahon
US Associate Teacher



Kelly Nalls
Learning Support & Curriculum
Specialist



Kayleigh Stapleton
Extended Care Teacher



Important Skills that Determine Success in School

When they meet their incoming students, kindergarten and first-grade teachers everywhere are looking for school readiness, not necessarily specific reading, writing, or mathematical skills. Many readiness skills are life skills! Expectations are age-appropriate.

Are you wondering if your child is ready for school? Here are some of the most important skills for five and six-year-olds to be developing as they prepare to begin their formal schooling:

Cognitive flexibility—the ability to shift from one idea or solution to another based on incoming feedback from peers or teachers or a change of plans.

Persistence—the ability to sustain effort long enough to complete an activity or task.

Focus—ability to manage a “just right” focus, curbing impulsivity as necessary, to complete a task.

Self-monitor—the ability to ask, “How am I doing?” mid-task, then adjusting focus and

Continued on page 36

The Woods Academy

6801 Greentree Road
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



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and be that well.”

-St. Francis de Sales



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Welcome Father Glasgow!

Hello! My name is Fr. James Glasgow and I am very happy to begin my priestly ministry at St. Mary's Parish! Thanks be to God! I grew up just around the corner in Olney and attended St. Peter's Parish. I was ordained a priest on June 20, 2020 and have spent the last academic year finishing post-graduate studies in Rome.

Before living at the American Seminary in Rome (2016-2020), I studied at our archdiocesan seminary, St. John Paul II Seminary (2014-2016), where I attended the Catholic University of America. I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to continue my studies for one year after ordination, yet I am even more excited about the prospect of serving at St. Mary's! I look forward to getting to know you all.

May God bless you and may Our Lady keep you close to her Heart!



Fr. James Glasgow joined St. Mary's this summer as their new Parochial Vicar

OPT

St. Mary's Parish

520 Veirs Mill Road Rockville, MD

Msgr. Robert Amey, Pastor
301-424-5550

St. Mary's School

Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal
301-762-4179

Mrs. Debby Eisel, Parish Editor
301-762-4179

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

before that. We have made significant progress in vaccine development and distribution, but COVID-19 continues to impact how our schools and business operate.

Some schools were never able to hold in-person learning last year and did everything remotely.

Others opened for at least partial in-person instruction, and still others managed to be in-person most or all of the year. We never expect the school experience to vary so widely, and it creates stress for all involved.

I salute those who did all they could last year under very difficult circumstances — administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students. Everybody made sacrifices to continue educating and forming our young people while also considering the health of the community.

I am more familiar with our Catholic schools, and the ones I know best all seem to have more students enrolled this year. I think many families see the blessings of smaller classes, greater flexibility, and teachers and administrators who do their work with such great passion and joy.

At Catholic Charities, I often talk about how we have both a job and a ministry. A job lets you earn a salary to live on. But for those who see themselves as doing a larger work — on behalf of students, the parish and the Church — it becomes a ministry as well. When it is your ministry, you bring greater passion to how you

act, prepare and go about developing the gift that is our children.

From my time as a student through nearly 50 years in the priesthood, I have seen over and over how Catholic school teachers exhibit that passion. Their work is their ministry as they respond to God's call.

Many teachers in Catholic schools earn lower salaries than they would in public schools. Very few Catholic schools have the resources to match the public schools. And yet, teachers and administrators work tirelessly in Catholic schools for years and even decades. They find joy and fulfillment in their work and in being part of a community that strives to make a real difference for students, families and, ultimately, our collective future.

Through the years, I have talked with countless people who told me how much their child was helped by the goodness, care and strength of their teachers. I heard this again recently when I learned of one young person who graduated from high school in large part thanks to the teachers' dedication, commitment and love for the student.

As we come back to the parish and school this fall, let us pray that we will indeed be "back" as much as possible to where teachers can see their students in person and help them become all they are called to be.

Even amid reports of spreading COVID-19 variants, I remain optimistic and excited for the coming year and the possibilities it brings. I am excited for educators and hope they will be able to live their ministry more fully. I am excited for the energy that students bring to every school and parish. And I am excited for the parents, who often become more involved with their faith and their parish as they help with their children's education.

I think of one family whose first child is in kindergarten and how the mother has become much more active in the Church and her faith through sharing with other moms. I love to see the Lord work through the community, beyond priests, deacons, or sisters preaching. In community, parents watch their children grow together, support one another on the journey, and know that they have an important role in God's kingdom here on Earth.

Let us celebrate the gifts of school, parish and community, and let us especially honor and thank all who work so hard to make them all that they are, especially under current circumstances. Our schools continue their important work. Our families become more faithful. And the whole parish rises to greater joy, participation and faith.

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St Raphael School's Opening Season is in Full Swing

By Gabriela Herrera Gugiu

At SRS, coming together as one school and participating in Morning Prayer is an integral part of our daily routine. During the upcoming school year, we plan to reinstate this converted tradition in-person and in our church. This is one of the many things reinstated in the upcoming 2021-2022 school year. The fall plan also includes a five-day in person school week, class Mass, and enrichment classes including PE and Music offered to our students.

We also kick off the new school year by welcoming Deacon Richard Meyer. Deacon Meyer has been a parishioner at St. Raphael's since 2004 and an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Mater Dei Council, and St. Raphael's Respect for Life Committee. The community wished a fond farewell to Deacon Jorge Gatica during Sunday mass on August first as he transfers to St. Martin in Gaithersburg after seventeen years.

The SRS 2021-2022 theme is "Peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of all those things



The SRS 2021-2022 theme is "Peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart." – Unknown Author

and still be calm in your heart". – Unknown Author

With this year's theme in mind and as we look back at last year's accomplishments, SRS community would like to acknowledge and thank Roger Pardo, a parent at St. Raphael School. Mr. Pardo worked tirelessly throughout the summer of 2020 and throughout the school year of 2020-2021 to ensure that

our students and staff had the tools they needed to make remote learning as smooth as possible. From bringing the students at home into the classroom via WebEx, revamping our phone system to work more efficiently and fielding questions day and night from our staff with any technology issue, Roger was amazing in sharing his time and talents with St. Raphael School.

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We acknowledge the tireless work of Roger Pardo, a dedicated parent at St. Raphael School, who ensured that our students and staff had the tools they needed for remote learning.

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

CLEARY

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"Our hearts unite as we pray for Mrs. Cleary and for her family," said Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, head of school. Pat was the heart and soul of the community, greeting five decades of Stone Ridge students and community members and making everyone feel that they had arrived at their home away from home.

Pat was a lifelong devout Catholic. Her faith, as described in her obituary, was "central and foundational" to who she was. Pat was born on August 30, 1924 and spent most of her life in New York until she moved to Bethesda, Maryland with her husband, Tim. Once Pat became involved with the Stone Ridge, her family joined too. Her husband,

Tim, was president of the Stone Ridge Father's Club; her three daughters, Maureen Cleary '70, Gail Cleary '77, and Eileen Cleary '81, along with two granddaughters, Madeline Jordan '05, and Patricia Richey '08, are alumnae.

Pat's memory will live on in the new Student Life Center, at the heart of campus at Stone Ridge. With the opening of the Mater Center this month, the school paid tribute to Pat by naming the front desk in her honor. "She will be forever remembered at Stone Ridge," Catherine said.

Learn more about the space and Mrs. Cleary's legacy, featured in Stone Ridge's Spring/Summer 2021 magazine. All are welcome to leave thoughts and memories of Pat for the family on the Stone Ridge website.

OPT



Upcoming Events

13th Annual St. Raphael Golf Classic

Registration is open! Please join us for the 13th Annual Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic on Friday, October 1, 2021 at Bretton Woods. As we continue to fulfill one of Fr. Bill's last works in progress prior to his passing, we hope we can count on your support by playing golf, volunteering to help with the event, and/or committing to a sponsorship.

SRS Open House 2022-2023

St. Raphael School will hold an open house for prospective families on October 18 at 9:30am. For more information visit <https://straphaelschoolmd.org/>



OPEN HOUSES

UPPER SCHOOL (Grades 9-12) • Sunday, October 17, 2021
MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5-8) • Tuesday, November 16, 2021
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St. John the Evangelist Prepares for Back to School

Our theme for the upcoming school year is from Revelation 21:5, "Behold, I make all things new." It's a new year, of course, and we have a new principal, a number of new teachers, and over 50 new families at St. John the Evangelist School. We can't wait to see how God moves through our community in the months ahead!

Everyone is back in person and we are hoping it can stay that way. Of course, we are prepared to adapt as needed based on the changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of variants. Our hope is to bring back as many of our traditions as possible, with layers of protection to keep everyone healthy and safe.

St. John the Evangelist School



Ms. Caitlin Keeton joins the St. John the Evangelist community as their new principal

has a long history of inspiring hearts and minds, and this year will be no different in that regard. Let's go, Eagles! Time to soar!

OPT

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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
bradfordm2@comcast.net



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SHORT

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centers of prayer and collective worship. During the dark night of the pandemic, we've recognized that parish life should not be taken for granted. We'll reflect on this in a moment.

First, let's celebrate activities of the past summer which demonstrate notable examples for parish summer life. Many parishes have summer youth programs. Often these are valued Bible camps lasting a week or two. Two Rockville parishes, St Patrick's and St Raphael's, partnered to provide an expanded seven-week summer camp program which uniquely integrated multiple community and youth needs within a Catholic environment. Two hundred children from the community spent five days a week with fifty paid and volunteer staff, learning, playing, and worshiping in the modern parish facilities at St Patrick's. The camp, **Rockville Catholic Summer Camp (RCSP)**, was the inspiration of the youth ministers of the two parishes, Mike and Annie McHugh. They had plenty of time to think and plan since they are also spouses!

Some summer camps excel in physical exercise; some in spiritual growth; some stress social development. Most camps focus on programs for young campers. The RCSP camp put it all together with daily exercise, spirituality, learning, socialization woven around fun for children 4-11 years. Especially inspiring was the camp's emphasis on holistic development of the staff. In a genuine way, RCSP was camp for them as well! Their guided experiences promoted leadership for each of them. The staff, which evolved into an effective team, had regular spiritual and social events with camp leaders making it much more enhancing than ordinary summer employment or service experiences typically offer. Casey, a counselor from the Heights School, said, "RCSP is undoubtedly God's will,

radiating hope for the next generation." Congratulations to the youth ministers and St Patrick's and St Raphael's for devising this model Catholic summer camp. Other parishes may want to consider adding a camp or using their model to strengthen an existing camp.

This summer the Connolly School of the Holy Child engaged in the **Crossing Paths** project. The project is a partnership among **Catholic Charities, Empowering the Ages, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps and Montgomery County** which establishes and supports intergenerational relationships including local schools and parishes with local senior citizens living independently or in group settings such as **Victory Housing**. Throughout the summer, students maintained **mutually beneficial relationships** with older people. The objective of the project is to foster intergenerational understanding and relationships to help address instances of isolation and loneliness among older adults and teens. Data show that both populations are experiencing more isolation often accompanied by depression. After training for the partners by a local non-profit agency specializing in intergenerational activities, Empowering the Ages, participants engage in mutually rewarding relationships. Ongoing support is provided by volunteers from the Ignatian Volunteer Corps including a spiritual component for the students. Other local Catholic schools have started their own Crossing Paths projects. Crossing Paths would be a great project for local parishes as part of a renewal effort. If interested, contact Deacon Jim Nalls at Catholic Charities, james.nalls@cc-dc.org.

Thank you to all the parishes that were active this summer in serving their parish and community. Community needs are not determined by the calendar and don't take the summer off. We're grateful you didn't either!

Returning to the subject of parish life, I offer for reflection some thoughts regarding the renewal and

restoration of post-pandemic parish life. We are grateful for the huge efforts parish leadership and staff undertook to keep us safe during the pandemic. With most local residents vaccinated, Church doors are open. Yet parishioners have been slow to return. This, together with years of diminishing church attendance, will likely have negative impacts on parish life for years to come unless creative steps are taken by parish leaders to encourage and welcome Catholics back to their spiritual homes. **Clergy and lay leadership in each parish may wish to spend significant time in the months ahead in prayer and actions which promote the renewal and restoration of active and responsive Catholic communities.**

The work of renewing and restoring strong parishes must be inclusive, transparent, and formed around certain agreed upon principles. Establishing these principles creates the foundation for restoring successful parishes. Perhaps some of the pre-pandemic parish principles were already showing atrophy only to be exacerbated by months of parish idleness. Christ summons us to evangelize...not only throughout the world, but locally within our own parish community.

A good starting point for each of us might be from the perspective of St Ignatius's Spiritual Exercises' model. In prayer sit with Jesus on the lakeside in Galilee. Listen as He speaks to us and His apostles about His vision for His church and the Kingdom of God on Earth. Reflecting on our parish life today, ask, "Is this what Jesus had in mind?"

In future columns this year, I invite you to join in reflecting on the answer to Jesus as well as what each of us can do individually and together as a parish to form refreshed and simplified responses to Jesus.

OPT

God Bless!

Chuck Short, cshort5@verizon.net
Kindness Today

PRAYER

Con't from page 1

was one of four or five runners in the lead group at about mile 18 of the marathon. According to the announcers, she had no business being in that group. This was her third marathon, ever. She's not long and lean like most marathon runners, and she is not from Kenya, Cameroon, or Ethiopia. She's a rookie from Wisconsin, for Heaven's sake!

Watching the four women who remained closely packed in those final miles I was mesmerized - by their determination and their stamina. There was Molly Seidel, falling back into fourth place with-out about 5 miles left. It looked like the dream was over for Molly, and the announcers began the post-mortem comments, assuming that she would soon be left far behind. That's when Molly Seidel reached into her pocket and took out her

prayer. Soon, she was right back in the lead group. Molly ran alongside the two Kenyan women who shared ice packs and water, and she kept pushing herself as she prayed to Saint Jude.

She told reporters that her mom says the prayer "all the time", and that her mom texted it to her. Molly's mom gave her the gift of a prayer in her pocket, a prayer that helped Molly soldier on through the agonizing last five miles of the marathon and win a bronze medal for the United States. Molly's future looks incredibly bright, but there is no doubt that she will need to pull that prayer out of her pocket again, more than once.

Do you have a pocket prayer that you pull out when things get tough? I do. I love *The Memorare*. I have needed that prayer more times than I can count. It has provided me with hope and comfort when I thought there was none to be found. If you don't have a prayer in your pocket, I would suggest that now is a good

time to find one. After you've used it a few times, and you've got it down, teach it to your children. They will thank you one day.

O Holy St Jude!

*Apostle and Martyr,
great in virtue and rich
in miracles,
near kinsman of Jesus Christ,
faithful intercessor for all
who invoke you,
special patron in time of need;
to you I have recourse from
the depth of my heart,
and humbly beg you,
to whom God has given
such great power,
to come to my assistance;
help me now in my urgent need
and grant my earnest petition.
I will never forget thy graces and
favors you obtain for me
and I will do my utmost to spread
devotion to you.
Amen*

OPT

Democrats for Life Witnesses outside NARAL Anniversary Party

Several members of Montgomery County and Prince George's County Catholic parishes joined Democrats for Life of Maryland to provide a pro-life counter-presence outside of NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's 40th Anniversary Party at Zinnia beer and wine garden (former location of Mrs. K's Tollhouse) in Silver Spring on June 26th. Several Maryland gubernatorial candidates either attended the NARAL event or had their campaigns featured there. Democrats for Life members stood out front, at the big intersection of Colesville Road and Dale Drive, holding a Democrats for



Members of Montgomery County and Prince George's County Catholic parishes joined Democrats for Life of Maryland to provide a pro-life counter-presence at the corner Colesville Road and Dale Drive in Silver Spring during the NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland's 40th Anniversary Party at nearby Zinnia Wine and Beer Garden.

Life of America banner, Pro-Life for the Whole Life Signs, and long photo scrolls featuring large views of a 20-week developing baby in the womb.

Democrats for Life of Maryland noted in a post on their Facebook page following that event that they had plenty of reasons to provide a pro-life presence that day, citing escalating Medicaid abortion stats in Maryland (which more than doubled between 2010 and 2019); severe injuries to 2 women at the late-term abortion facility in Bethesda during May 2020; and an overly close relationship between NARAL and many Maryland poli-

ticians. Kathy Kelly, director of Democrats for Life of Maryland, noted in the post that the supportive honks, waves, thumbs ups, and words from passers-by for the Democrats for Life presence (which outnumbered any negative comments that came their way) are a reminder that our politicians should not be so tied in with NARAL. She noted that Maryland politicians have both Democratic and Republican constituents who are pro-life, and that it is time for more balance in these politicians' views in regard to abortion.

OPT

TOGO

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He grew up just a few blocks from the parish and attended elementary school there. After being ordained a priest in 1980, he celebrated his first mass with the community at Holy Redeemer. Now, that same community helps to sustain his work in a very concrete way. According to Fr. Ryan, "Fr. Mark Hughes has been a good friend and very supportive. He's made a trip over the mission to experience it first-hand and to help get parishioners involved".

Last fall, volunteers from Holy Redeemer packed containers full of donated supplies. "The teachers, students, and members of the community in Kensington really came through to equip the students in the mission's various schools!", Fr. Ryan commented.

In addition to school supplies, medical items, and canned goods, the containers also shipped bronze statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego, both recently installed at the parish church. The image of Mary packed in together with material items hearkens back to the missionary approach of Fr. Ryan. Evangelization can begin with confronting the immediate needs of a person, but eventually you must point to Him and speak of His love- just as Our Lady does.

For more information and to donate to Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church, visit www.togo-missionparish.org

OPT

PRESIDENT

Con't from page 1

president. In the interim Charles Abell, will be stepping in as Acting Board Chair.

Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School is a Catholic college-preparatory school for young men and women from the Washington, DC area who have the need and the motivation to help earn their own tuition money through an innovative Corporate Work Study program.

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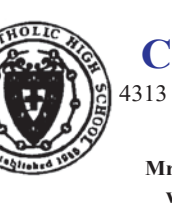
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High School Open House Dates — Class of 2026

 Archbishop Carroll Larry Savoy '93, President Elana Gilmore, Principal Judith Condezo, Director of Admissions admissions@achsc.org 202-529-0900 ext 135 4300 Harewood Road, NE Washington, DC 20017	CO-ED Highly competitive athletic programs: Football, Basketball, Cross-Country, Track & Field, Soccer, Volleyball, Lacrosse, Baseball and Softball WCAC	SPECIALIZED Educational Programs Jim Vance Media Program Project Lead the Way STEM/Engineering Fine Arts	OPEN HOUSE Sunday October 24 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Freshman Early Decision Appl. Deadline DEC 11, 2021 Financial Aid Application Deadline DEC 2021	Admission Notification FEB 2022 Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2022
	LIONS Green & Gold Freshman Class Size: 125 • Tuition: \$15,232 • PRO DEO ET PATRIA • www.achsc.org				


 the Avalon School R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President and Head of School Kevin J. Davenport Head of School Istvan Teleki Director of Admission 11811 Claridge Road, Wheaton, MD 20902 301-963-8022 • www.avalonschools.org	Boys Grades K-12 Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Soccer Competitive Athletics Program	Small Classes • Personal Attention • Content-Oriented Curriculum • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Latin • Spanish • Advanced Mathematics Program • Full Religion Program • Actors Guild • Poetry • Journalism • Dress Code • Interscholastic Sports	Open House Sunday, November 7 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Steps to Admission: • Application • Shadow Visit • Teacher Recommendation • Transcript • Family Interview	Application Deadline Rolling Admission Notification of Admission Rolling Admission
	Avg. Class Size: 15 • Kinder Half Day \$4,465 • K-2 Lower \$8,925 • 3-5 Elementary \$13,500 • 6-8 Middle \$14,995 • 9-12 Upper \$17,350				For information: Istvan Teleki @ 301-963-8022

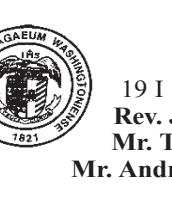
 Brookewood School R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President and Head of School Helen Williams Director of Admission 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD 301-949-7997 • www.brookewood.org	Girls Grades K-12 Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Volleyball Bengals Blue & White	College Prep • Personal Attention • Personal Attention • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Actors Guild • Diverse Student Body • Fine Arts • Engaging Religion Curriculum	Open House Brookewood's Open House is Saturday, October 30 from 1-3 p.m.	Steps to Admission: Shadow Visit Application Transcript Recommendation Family Interview	Freshman application deadline Feb. 1, 2022 Admission Notification Feb. 18, 2022
	Average Class Size: 14 • Tuition: Grades K-2 \$8,925 Grades 3-5 \$13,500 Grades 6-8 \$14,995 Grades 9-12 \$17,350 • For more information: Helen Williams 301-949-7997				Rolling Admission for all other grades Financial aid deadline of Jan. 30, 2022


 DeMatha Catholic High School 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781 Fr. James Day, O.S.T., President Dr. Daniel McMahon, Principal Mr. Patrick Gouldon, Admissions Director www.dematha.org • 240-764-2210	Boys Wide range of co-curricular activities including 15 competitive interscholastic sports teams, and numerous clubs and organizations moderated by faculty. Stags Red, White & Blue	Curriculum College Prep, Honors, Advanced Placement level courses to meet needs of a diverse student body.	Open House Sunday, Nov. 7 10:30 a.m.	Entrance Exam: Archdiocesan HSPT required	Freshman Application Deadline December 15 Financial Aid Application Deadline December 15
	Freshman Class Size: 215 • Tuition: \$19,750 • Application / Financial Aid: Admissions Office 240-764-2211				Freshman Notification of Admission Feb. 2022 Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2022

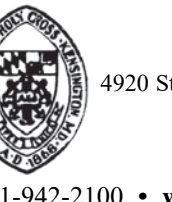
 Elizabeth Seton High School Dr. Lisa Grillo '89 Interim President Melissa Davey Landini '99 Dean of Admissions 5715 Emerson Street Bladensburg, MD 20710 301-864-4532 • www.setonhs.org	Girls Our athletic program fields 23 teams in 12 interscholastic sports. We offer over 30 clubs for extra-curricular participation. Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Roadrunners Scarlet, Gold, and White	Pre-Career Programs Engineering & Design Law, Health Science / Pharmacy, Hospitality & Tourism, Broadcast Journalism AP & Honors Courses Scholars Program Small classes and personal attention	Open House Sunday, November 7	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan test results required. Schedule a student visit at setonhs.org/visit	Application Deadline December 9 Archdiocesan Financial Aid Application Required
	Total Enrollment 587 Students • Tuition \$16,750				Notification of Admission February 17 Registration March 11

 Georgetown Preparatory School Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson, Head of School Leonor Ponzio, Principal Janet Donnelly Keller, Director of Admissions 202.337.3350 • www.visi.org 1524 Thirty-fifth Street NW Washington, DC 20007	Girls 9-12 A Catholic High School in the Salesian Tradition Educating Women of Faith, Vision, and Purpose Since 1799 • Small Class Sizes • 100% College Acceptance • Bridge Program at Georgetown • AP & Honors • Extensive Service Program • ISL Champion Athletics • Dynamic Performing and Fine Arts • Strong STEAM Focus • More than 50 Clubs Cubs • Gold, White & Green	OPEN HOUSE Saturday Oct. 16, 2021	Learn more about the admissions process at www.visi.org	Freshman Application Deadline Dec. 3, 2021 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 3, 2022	Freshman Notification of Admission End of February Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2022
	Freshman Class Size: 126 • Tuition: \$32,600 • Financial Aid: Janet Keller @ 202.337.3350 ext. 2241				

 Georgetown Preparatory School 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852 www.gprep.org 301-493-1215 Rev. James R. Van Dyke, S.J., President John Glennon Jr., Headmaster Brett Graham '92, Admissions Director	Boys 15 Interscholastic Sports Over 20 Clubs and Organizations Hoyas Blue & Gray	College Placement: Virginia Notre Dame Yale Georgetown Wake Forest Michigan	Open House Georgetown Prep will host its Open House on campus, Oct. 17, 12-3 pm. Look for more information on the School's website www.gprep.org.	Admissions Process: Please visit www.gprep.org to set up your admissions account. Also, be sure to set up your Hoyas-for-a-Day visit.	Application Deadline Jan. 7, 2022 Supplemental & Aid Deadline Jan. 21, 2022
	Tuition: Day: \$39,385 Boarding: \$63,800 • Forming Men of Competence, Conscience, Courage & Compassion; Men of Faith, Men for Others since 1789				Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 11, 2022


 Gonzaga College High School 19 I St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 Rev. Joseph E. Lingam, S.J., President Mr. Thomas K. Every II, Headmaster Mr. Andrew C. Battaille, Dean of Admissions 202-336-7101	Boys 7 Freshman, 16 Junior Varsity, and 17 Varsity Sports Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Eagles Purple & White	Special Programs Comprehensive advanced placement, band, choral arts, internet applications, earth systems science laboratory.	Open House Sunday November 21 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan test results are required.	Application Deadline December 14 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 14, 2022
	Freshman Class Size: 245 • The Catholic, Jesuit school located in the heart of our nation's capital city. • Tuition: \$24,950				Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 14, 2022

 OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL <i>A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School</i> 17301 Old Vic Boulevard Olney, MD 20832 Paul G. Barker Ed. D., President Thomas Campbell '93, Principal Maria Nichols '04, Director of Admissions Admissions@olgchs.org www.olgchs.org	COED Offering a comprehensive college prep curriculum including the IB Program, AP and Honors courses, the STEM Program, and the Ryken Program.	Home of the Falcons Extensive co-curricular activities, 54 sport teams, Performing Arts, Speech & Debate and over 55 cultural and academic clubs. Member of the W.C.A.C.	Open House Sunday October 17, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Prospective Parent Information Night Tuesday Sept. 21, 2021 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Freshman Application Deadline Dec. 3, 2021 Freshman Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Dec. 3, 2021
	Freshman Notification of Admission Feb. 17, 2022 Freshman Registration Friday, March 11, 2022			Tuition \$26,700	

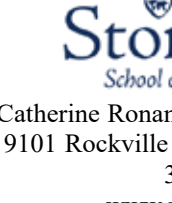
 The Academy of the Holy Cross 4920 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, MD 20895 Kathleen Prebble, President John Sullivan, Principal Barbara Murray, Admissions Admissions@theholycross.org 301-942-2100 • www.academyoftheholycross.org	Girls Extensive Performing and Visual Arts Over 30 clubs and activities 17 Varsity Teams Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tartans • Lavender & White	Special Programs Sancta Crux and Madeleva Scholars Program Project Lead the Way Engineering Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Senior Project Internship	Open House Sunday, November 7	Scholarships Available Visual Arts Performing Arts STEM	Application Deadline Dec. 10, 2021 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 10, 2022
	Freshman Class Size: 100 • Tuition: \$27,800 • Financial Aid: 301-942-2100				Notification of Admission February 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 11, 2022

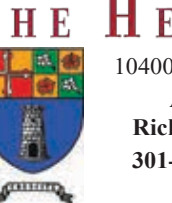
 SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP Will Knotek, Head of School Mary Catherine James Director of Enrollment 3989 Buckeystown Pike Buckeystown, MD 21717 E-mail: MJJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org • 301-662-4210	Special Programs Frederick County's Only Comprehensive Private High School • Founded in 1829 • Comprehensive College Prep Curriculum • Guaranteed College Admission & Scholarship Program • AP & Honors Courses • Mount St. Mary's Dual Enrollment • AOPA STEM Program • 19 Athletic Teams • Over 20 Clubs • Collegiate Counseling • Seton Learning Differences Program	OPEN HOUSE Sunday November 7 1:00-3:00PM	Full Reopen Fall 2021 Schedule your Private Tour and Shadow Visit	HSPT or Institutional Testing Required Priority Application Deadline December 17	Financial Aid & Scholarship Deadline December 17 Notification of Admission February 17
	VIKINGS Green, Gold & White School Size: 289 • Tuition: \$17,775 • Financial Aid: MJJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org • www.saintjohnsprep.org				

 ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI HIGH SCHOOL 113 ST. MARY'S PLACE, LAUREL, MD 20707 301-725-3228 Ext. 2202 • www.pallottihs.org	Coed Over 25 varsity athletic teams; Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)—Men; Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM)—Women Panthers Blue & White	Grades 9-12 College Prep Curriculum Honors & AP Courses 96% College Placement Accelerated & Computer Science Programs Visual & Performing Arts Program Learning Center	Open House Sunday, Nov. 7 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Visit the web site for 2022-2023 application!	Admissions Application Deadline Dec. 10, 2021
	Freshman Class Size: 215 • Tuition: \$19,750 • Application / Financial Aid: Admissions Office 240-764-2211			400 Students 1:11 Teacher Student Ratio	Financial Aid Application Deadline Jan. 4, 2022

 ST. ANSELM'S ABBEY SCHOOL 4501 SOUTH DAKOTA AVE, NE WASHINGTON, DC 20017	Dr. Jim Powers Headmaster 202-269-2350 Mr. Patrick Granfield, '99 Director of Admissions 202-269-2379 admissions@saintanselms.org www.saintanselms.org	Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling, Tennis, Baseball, Track, Lacrosse, Golf, Fencing Potomac Valley Athletic Conference Panthers	Special Programs Challenging academic program for students of above average ability in grades 6-12	Open House Sunday November 7 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Benedictine School	Entrance Exam September 25 October 16 November 20 December 18 January 15 February 12 Exam also offered by appointment
	Freshman Class Size: 39 • Tuition: \$30,700 Middle; \$31,700 Upper • Financial Aid: Mr. Mark Commins mcommins@saintanselms.org				Application Deadline Rolling Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Feb. 1, 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 14, 2022

 ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL Est. 1851 Mr. Jeffrey W. Mancabelli, President Mr. Christopher J. Themistos, Principal Mrs. Susan Hinton, Director of Admissions 202-363-2316 • www.stjohnschs.org 2607 Military Road, NW, Chevy Chase, DC 20015	COED 24 AP Courses 16 Honors Courses 29 Varsity Teams 50+ Clubs and Activities 1:1 iPad Program Cadets Scarlet & Grey	Special Programs Scholars Program Benilde Program Cadet Corps (optional) Entrepreneurial Center for Innovation & Social Impact Center for Performance & Leadership Visual & Performing Arts Wing	Open House OPEN HOUSE October 24, 2021	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan HSPT results are required.	Application Deadline Dec. 3, 2021 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 31, 2022
	Tuition: \$22,100				Notification of Admission Late Feb. 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 12, 2022

 Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, Head of School 9101 Rockville Pike • Bethesda, MD 20814 301-657-4322 www.stoneridgeschool.org	Girls Grades 1-12 (Coed PS-K) Basketball, crew, cross country, equestrian, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, squash, swimming/diving, tennis, track & field and volleyball The Gators Blue & Gold	Special Programs Honors/AP Courses 1:1 Laptop Social Action Network Exchange STEAM Certificate	Open House Upper School Sunday October 17, 2021	PLEASE VISIT www.stoneridgeschool.org to learn more about our admission process	Decision Notification Feb. 25, 2022
	Freshman Class Size: 93 • Tuition: \$39,900 • Financial Aid Available				Application Deadline Dec. 3, 2021 Financial Aid Deadline Jan. 15, 2022 Contract Due Date March 11, 2022

 THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL 10400 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854 Alvaro J. de Vicente, Headmaster Richard S. Moss, Director of Admissions 301-765-2093 • admissions@heights.edu www.heights.edu	Boys 3-12 The Heights forms "men fully alive" through a rigorous curriculum implemented with a highly personal approach to education and character. Cavaliers Red & White	Challenging liberal arts; innovative science and math; small classes; individual mentorship; WCAC Athletics; extensive extracurriculars; rich sacramental life.	Admissions Fall Open House: November 7, 2021 Contact us anytime at 301-765-2093 or visit heights.edu/process	Upper School Applicants Admissions Deadline Dec. 17, 2021 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Dec. 17, 2021	Admissions/FA Notification Late February Enrollment Deadline March 11, 2022
	Freshman Class Size: 65 • Financial Aid: Phil McGovern (CF0) 301-365-4300				



The new community space has new landscaping, pavers, and entrance to Our Lady's Chapel.

Strengthening Community

In December of 2019, an anonymous donor gifted \$100,000 toward a beautiful community space and courtyard at Mary of Nazareth School. This new space was completed in August and will present numerous opportunities for our students, staff, and families to come together to learn, socialize and grow in our Catholic faith.

This new space provides direct access to Our Lady's Chapel which will allow our community members to more readily engage in their faith through prayer, reflection, Adoration, and recitation of the Rosary while on campus. During school hours,

the courtyard will serve as an outdoor classroom and flexible workspace and the newly landscaped garden with indigenous flowers will attract natural wildlife for observation and data collection in STREAM classes. On weekends and after school, extracurricular clubs/activities can make use of the courtyard and it will serve as an outdoor alternative for parent meetings, school events and socialization.

Mary of Nazareth is excited to have a new outdoor space to share with our community so we can come together so much time apart!

OPT

New Year, New Faces!

Mrs. Jane Rice is joining the MoN staff to teach middle school math and fourth grade religion. She has two children, one of which is the computer teacher at Mary of Nazareth, and feels teaching has been in her blood since she was born! Her mother was teaching fourth grade when she was born and her father named her after his fourth grade teacher, Sr. Jane Frances de Chantal. Mrs. Rice grew up in Champaign, Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois with a Master's degree in Elementary Education. After graduating she taught for seven years before becoming a mom and perpetual volunteer. Mrs. Rice ran book fairs, science fairs and the cultural arts program at her children's elementary school as well as serving as the PTA president for seven years and working as a substitute teacher. She also served as a leader of prayer for Children's Liturgy of the Word for 25 years at St. Rose of Lima Parish and taught the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children (RCIC) classes for several years. Mrs. Rice is looking forward to teaching her favorite two subjects, math and religion, this year at Mary of Nazareth. Another fun fact: her favorite actor is without a doubt, the incomparable Cary Grant!

Yoceline Connor will be joining the third grade team this year. She has a degree from University

Anáhuac Mexico in Education and taught in an Elementary School for two years in kindergarten and first grade. Mrs. Connor loves aerial dancing, reading, and traveling, but teaching has been her passion for as long as she can remember. This is her first year teaching in the United States and she is very excited to be a part of Mary of Nazareth's community.

Erika Hernandez attended Catholic Elementary school at St. Jane De Chantal from K-8th grade and Our Lady of Good Counsel for high school. She has always loved the community/family feel created in Catholic schools, and many of the friends she made during her years spent attending Catholic school are still her closest friends today. She actually met her husband in high school at Our Lady of Good Counsel! The friends and community members in a Catholic school setting become like extended family, and that is something Mrs. Hernandez is excited to return to. She is thrilled to be able to share this experience with her son who will also be attending first grade at Mary of Nazareth this year. She loves to paint, read, and go running and hiking with her friends and family. She loves animals and her family currently has several rescue cats and dogs that we adore (and spoil!). Mrs. Hernandez graduated from University of Maryland,

College Park and graduated with a BA in Elementary Education. She is also working towards her Master's degree in special education. Mrs. Hernandez has 15 years of teaching experience and taught 2nd grade for MCPS, kindergarten at St. Jane De Chantal, kindergarten at Potomac Glen Day school and she is excited to join the kindergarten team at Mary of Nazareth this year!

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

Con't from page 3

ed school closures are having no significantly detrimental impacts on students in the most affluent communities. Wealthy parents have more time and resources to support virtual schooling. The study concludes that the pandemic is widening educational inequality and that the learning gaps will continue.

What contributed most to the educational inequality was peer effects. While students in wealthy communities could still interact with similarly advantaged peers, students from poor communities lost the benefit of interacting with children from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

The authors of the study surmise that if peer effects were not influenced by the pandemic, it would reduce the change in educational inequality across richer and poorer neighborhoods during the pandemic by 60 percent.

Responding to the crisis in Montgomery County

The J&A Council has reflected on this issue with members of the Black and Brown Coalition for Educational Equity and Excellence (see: www.bandbcoalition.org). That group has proposed five "asks" to achieve equity for underserved Black, Brown, and low-income children.

1. Effective and diverse teachers.

In MCPS Black and Brown students, particularly from low-income families, spend more time with novice teachers than do their peers. We are asking for more equitable assignments of experienced and diverse teachers both between and within schools.

2. Effective and diverse leaders. Lower-income elementary and middle schools are much more likely to have novice principals. Effective leaders are a result of skills, experience, and resources. The coalition is asking that more experienced and diverse principals in high-needs schools get the support they need.

3. Rigorous coursework. In MCPS, far fewer Black and Brown students are enrolled in the most challenging courses, despite meeting the objective criteria. When advanced coursework opportunities are extended to Black and Brown students, and when teachers receive training and resources, these students thrive alongside their peers. The coalition is asking that all students be engaged in and supported to succeed in academically rigorous courses.

4. Accelerated learning opportunities. All students, but particularly Black, Brown, and low-income students whose communities have been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, must have access to effective accelerated learning opportunities that can reverse learning loss and redress pre-existing opportunity gaps

widened by the crisis.

5. Proactive family engagement. Black, Brown, low-income students and their families need regular, proactive culturally and linguistically appropriate engagement to: (1) overcome environmental barriers that impede student success and (2) to elevate the voices of these most impacted communities that have previously been marginalized.

In our endorsement of these five "asks" the J&A Council is inspired by the words attributed to Cardinal James Hickey, long-time archbishop of Washington: "We do this not because they are Catholic, but because we are Catholic." CST inspires us to care for those in need around us.

To read the studies referred to at the beginning of this article, see: www.nber.org/papers/w28264. Also: <https://news.yale.edu/2021/01/05/covid-school-closures-most-harm-students-poorest-neighborhoods>

Join us for our next Justice & Advocacy Council virtual meeting on Wednesday, August 25, 7:00pm. For more information and to receive a link for the meeting, please get in touch with Larry Couch at lawrencelcouch1@gmail.com. Thank you.

Larry Couch is a long-time member of the J&A Council and is currently serving as co-chair. He is a member of St. Elizabeth parish in Rockville.

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Ambassador Luis Fernando Suazo Will Attend Charity Golf Benefit

The St. Paul Medical Clinic was opened in 2000 to serve those in need. Since then, it has attracted the attention of men and women of good will who also care about the people of Honduras, including church leaders and government officials. The parish is pleased to announce that the Ambassador of Honduras, Luis Fernando Suazo, will join us for the golf tournament. He has served as ambassador since September 2020. He is married and is the proud father of two children. Photo courtesy of Embassy of Honduras

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Peculiar but Wonderful Game

Golf is a strange game, rather Quaker. Pentecostals and baseball fans: when the Spirit moves you, Lord, you got to move, which means singing and clapping and dancing. But Quakers and golfers: when the Spirit moves you, Lord, you got to be silent. Listen to a sweet little swish-tok. At a baseball game, you can see swallows swoop by, but no one pays attention. Golfers: they get giggly about “birdies.” Honest, “birdies.” And

there’s no failure. Swing and miss: strike one. (No, stroke one. Strike, stroke, stricken.) Swing and miss again a couple times more, wiff, wiff: stee-rike three, but you’re not out. Just keep right at it: strike four, five, six. Then you swing and hit the little bugger, and they just keep right on counting: you’ve stricken seven. And then the competition is half-hidden. What’s the score? 82. 82 to what? And then there’s this thing about making failures feel

good. How’d you do? 68. For most red-blooded Americans, 68 is a D+, but with golfers everyone applauds (quietly). But if your score is 140, which sure looks like A++ with some serious extra credit, you don’t pound your chest and holler. No way: you lay low or make modest jokes about it.

Anyway, we’re going to play. Come on out!

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Covid Shifts Honduras Benefit Event from Gala to Golf

For 21 years, St. Paul Catholic Church has supported a medical clinic and other social services in El Rosario, near Tegucigalpa, in Honduras. A large portion of the funding has come from an annual Gala – with food, prizes, auction, speechifying, awards and other hoopla. Laughter shakes the moolah loose. But the pandemic made large indoor events risky, and this year, we’ve been driven outside – to play golf.

There will be a Honduras benefit golf tournament on September 13, 9 am to 5 pm, at Bretton Woods Golf Course in Germantown. It’s \$150 for one golfer plus breakfast and lunch and the awards reception. Sponsorships available for modest megabucks (up to \$5,000 for a title sponsorship), including that you can sponsor a hole for \$125. (But hurry! Sponsorships are getting snatched up fast!) More info is available on the stpauldamsacus.org website.

The St. Paul Clinic in Honduras

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch destroyed the only public hospital in the community of El Rosario, Honduras. Joanny Medrano, who grew up in Honduras, was living in Damascus at that time; and she asked for help from her Church

family. Beginning then and continuing for over two decades, St. Paul Catholic Church has operated year-round, offering medical care for thousands of families in and around eight impoverished communities.

Initially, St. Paul parishioners were its sole source of financial support; now, four other parishes are co-sponsors, including St. Peter of Olney, Maryland; St. Pius X of Bowie, Maryland; Church of the Annunciation of Washington, DC; and Our Lady of Grace of Silver Spring, Maryland.

All proceeds of the charity golf benefit will support the St. Paul Clinic in Honduras. This includes operating expenses, medicines, and salaries. The clinic staff includes one full time doctor, two part time doctors, one dentist, one admin-

Continued on page 36

St. Paul Catholic Church
9250E Damascus Road
Damascus, Md.

Msgr. Edward Filardi
Pastor
301- 253-2027

John Cavanaugh-O’Keefe
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A Holy Hour was offered in honor of Fr. Nicholas Morrison's ordination to the priesthood. The Morrison family from left to right: Thomas, Anna Marie, Fr. Jamie, Grace, Fr. Nicholas, Eric, Sophia, and Danny.

Parish "Sons" Ordained

By Mary Beth de Ribeaux, St. John Paul the Great Vocations Society of St. John Neumann Church

June was a joyful month for St. John Neumann parish! We celebrated two-parish "sons" being ordained on the same day, June 19, at the National Shrine: Nicholas Morrison was ordained a priest, and Peter Mlynarczyk was ordained a transitional deacon.

As a transitional deacon, Peter Mlynarczyk is now in his final year of preparations for ordination to the priesthood. His ordination to the diaconate now allows him to give a homily (among other functions), and he came to his home parish to deliver his first homily (well received!) and serve as the deacon for Mass on the day after ordination. At the end of Mass, our pastor, Msgr. Robert Panke presented the new deacon with a gift on behalf of the parish, the *Book of Blessings*, which contains in its nearly 900 pages all the Roman Rite blessings for the Universal Church as well as proper blessings for the United States. After Mass, parishioners greeted and congratulated Deacon Peter at a reception held in his honor.

A week later, Fr. Nicholas Morrison came to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving here at the parish where he grew up and received much prayer support while in the seminary. He wore a beautiful Marian chasuble that he had received as a gift from the parish. After Mass, an outdoor lunch reception was held in his honor and a



Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk was celebrated at St. John Neumann parish after he was ordained a transitional deacon at the National Shrine in D.C.

long line of parishioners formed in front of the grotto to wait patiently for the opportunity to receive that special "first blessing" from the newly ordained priest. Fr. Nicholas radiated joy the entire day. For the summer, he is serving as parochial vicar, pro tem, at St. John Francis Regis Parish in Hollywood, Maryland, then he returns for additional study in Rome.

As a parish, we continue to pray for our additional sons and daughters in formation for the priesthood and religious life and look forward to more celebrations in the future.

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Fr. Stefan Yap gathered for a Mass to pray for the legal protection of the innocent unborn, for spiritual healing for mothers and fathers of aborted children, and for conversions of abortionists.

Pro-Life Movement of the Holy Spirit

By Larissa York

"We are not all called necessarily to do big, grand things and gestures in life, but humbling yourself to just pray can have so much more power than leading a movement." - Michelle Iannacone

Earlier this year, Msgr. Panke invited Michelle Iannacone to become the Respect Life Coordinator for St. John Neumann

Catholic Parish's new ministry. Despite no prior pro-life experience, Michelle gave her *fiat* when God called her to promote a culture of life in the community from the moment of conception to the end of life.

Her mission started when the Holy Spirit prompted her to watch the movie *Unplanned* (2019). Michelle agreed and felt called to pray outside an abortion facil-

ity. She was nervous about praying alone and sought someone to go with her. Within the parish, Michelle was able to find a group of twelve unwavering prayer warriors who pray outside an abortion facility every Saturday morning from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Michelle has come to have a deeper understanding of what it means to be the hands and feet of

Continued on page 27



Michelle Iannacone holds 40 Days of Life sign and prays with others for God to end abortion.

Seminarian brings message, story of Polish saints to local parish

By Rodney Harris

Parishioners of Saint John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland had the opportunity to learn about two popular Catholic Saints from Poland: St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Faustina Kowalska.

The talks were held in June and July by Maximillian Korzan, a Pre-Theology student at Saint John Paul II Seminary in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Korzan grew up in a Polish-speaking home in Montgomery County, Maryland.

"The Saints, in general, are just a wonderful gift to the church," Korzan said at the beginning of his June 30 talk. "They were human--they were just like us."

Korzan began his talk on St. Maximilian Kolbe with a prayer and then spoke about the life of the Saint. Kolbe died in 1941 at Auschwitz concentration camp. He gave up his life to save a father and husband who was sent to die at the camp.



Maximillian Korzan, a summer seminarian at St. John Neumann parish and Pre-Theology student at Saint John Paul II Seminary in the Archdiocese of Washington

Korzan said that while "we look at such heroic saints with immense awe but, at the same time, there is a certainly some distance," there is a

way to relate to saints. He recommended a consecration to Mary and to pray.

One week later, on July 7, Korzan returned to St. John Neumann Church to speak about St. Faustina Kowalska, from her early life in central Poland to her move to Warsaw, and her time in the convent.

St. Faustina Kowalska is widely known as the "Secretary of Divine Mercy" after receiving apparitions from Jesus who told her to paint the Divine Mercy image and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Kowalska wanted to become a nun, but her family resisted. Once she was able to go to Warsaw, she was rejected multiple times before finally being accepted. Korzan said, "God often chooses these seemingly weak and most frail individuals to suffer and bear the burdens of his mission's greatest works."

Kowalska died at 33 years old, the same age as Jesus when he was

Continued on page 32

St. John Neumann Parish
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A Vacation Bible Camp teen volunteer reads a Bible story to campers during the program, which took place July 19-23 on the St. Francis of Assisi parish grounds in Derwood.

Successfully executed Vacation Bible Camp represents sign of hope amid COVID-19 pandemic

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

More than two years after they had last gathered to sing beside one another, mimic one another's dance moves and immerse themselves in the annual Vacation Bible Camp experience, 93 teens and elementary-aged children returned to the St. Francis of Assisi parish grounds July 19-23 to form their faith among their peers and watchful adults.

With a theme of "Treasured: Discovering You're Priceless to God," this Vacation Bible Camp drew from many decades of fulfilled camp experiences and last summer's at-home, virtual session to create the 2021 model: a faith formation experience that built in COVID-19 safety protocols required by Montgomery County and the archdiocese, relied on its teen leaders for the energy and retained the joyful vibe that is characteristic of the five-day summer program.

Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson said

the biggest change in this year's program was that 40 teen volunteers were required to do much more of the instruction than in past years. Instead of leading several large-group gatherings inside the Parish Center to mark the beginning and end of each day, groups of five teen volunteers shepherded their own group of six to seven children through their daily schedule, moving between indoor and outdoor designated spaces. While one to two adults supervised each group, the teen volunteers led activities, including reading Bible stories, helping to create art, and connecting Bible points with group games and snacks.

"The teen volunteers learned that each person has an important role to play and that they need to bring their own energy and enthusiasm to all of our VBC activities," Anderson said.

"I think this also shows the biggest challenge, as we usually rely upon the large group assem-

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During Pandemic, Collaboration among County St. Vincent de Paul Conferences Rises along with Aid Requests

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

For members of the six St. Vincent de Paul Society conferences based in Montgomery County parishes, a gift of their ministry is to acquire holiness. Yet in the 17 months since the COVID-19 pandemic began, conference presidents have also witnessed increased collaboration among the parochial ministries, leading to an uptick in the numbers of people befriended and helped.

The conferences are part of the National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which has nearly 100,000 active members nationwide. In their ministry, Vincentians strive to grow spiritually through person-to-person service to their neighbors in need.

The service of the society's members differs from that of nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable constituencies, because Vincentians seek to both deepen their spirituality and serve the poor. Prayer with and for the people they serve constitutes a central tenet of the Vincentian way, as does making friends with the people who seek out their aid.

Anthony Bosnick, president of the Montgomery County St. Vincent de Paul Council, said the Society's Rule, or guiding principle, always envisioned for conferences to collaborate. But, as the numbers of conferences in the county doubled, leaders responded by beginning to



St. Francis of Assisi parishioner Terry Davis, who occasionally helps the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society conference, offers guidance on developing a budget to a county resident. Especially during the pandemic, the county's six St. Vincent de Paul Society conferences have worked together to address increased needs. The six conferences are associated with the following parishes: St. John Neumann (Montgomery Village), St. Martin of Tours (Gaithersburg), St. Raphael (Rockville), St. Francis of Assisi (Derwood), Mother Seton (Germantown) and St. Paul (Damascus).

meet quarterly. This proved fortuitous with the onset of the pandemic, as more people sought help and individuals requested larger amounts of financial assistance.

"Some of the needs we have received can go into the thousands of dollars," said Bosnick, coordinator of the conference at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. "None of us can meet those needs, so the home conference does the home visit and asks the other conferences if they can help. Generally, this way, the

need is met."

When people call a church parish for help, these requests often go to the St. Vincent de Paul conference, which operates on donations from its members and parishioners. Before the pandemic, a conference's leaders would often direct those individuals to pursue assistance with a governmental entity first and return if that help was insufficient, said Ann Barbagallo, conference president at St. Paul Catholic Church in Damascus.

However, during the pandemic, county offices were closed, with individuals directed to call 311. Many other county services were either shuttered or out of funds and service agencies were overwhelmed with the volume of requests.

"By the time some needy individuals or families came to us, they owed a substantial amount of money, and they were desperate," Barbagallo

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St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Fr. Ted Hegnauer, second from right, parish staff and St. Francis of Assisi parishioners pose in front of the church on May 7, after finishing the unloading of plants and flowers that were sold at the parish's annual Plant Sale on Mother's Day weekend, May 7-9. The fundraiser was successful, with proceeds partly funding the relocation of the parish's Mary Garden and Grotto on the northwest side of the church.



Installation of Knights of Columbus St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 officers at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring. Trustee Richard Z. Okreglak, District Warden Michael Watson, Warden Robert Dowlut, Grand Knight Franklin Morton, Chaplain Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., Maryland State Council Community Activities Director William R. Newbrough, Trustee David Birely, District Deputy David C. Czarnecki.

OLQP Knights of Columbus Install 2021-2022 Officers

By Bozenna Buda, ED

Individually and collectively, members of the Knights of Columbus St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 have been very helpful at Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximillian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland. Especially during these challenging times, they have taken the lead in many necessary matters. They have coordinated and participated in parish events. Some of their services to the parish include ushering at Holy Mass, sanitizing pews after each Holy Mass, and providing the honor guard for commemorative Holy Masses.

On August 1, 2021, after the noon Mass at Our Lady Queen of

Poland Parish celebrated by Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, the Knights of Columbus St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 held the ceremonial official installation of the officers for the 2021-2022 year. The ceremony was presided by the District Deputy and attended by the District Warden. Also present was the Maryland State Council Community Activities Director.

The new officers are:
Chaplain – Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S. Chr.

Grand Knight – Franklin Morton
Deputy Grand Knight – Stefan Witczek

Chancellor – Frederick Stachura
Warden – Robert Dowlut
Recorder – Andrew Michaels
Treasurer – Janusz Bilinski
Advocate – Terrell Roberts
Trustee – David Birely
Trustee – Jacek Marczynski
Trustee – Richard Okreglak
Inside Guard – John Armstrong
Lecturer – Tomasz Kolodziej
Financial Secretary – Tomasz Kolodziej

We congratulate the newly installed officers and ask God's blessing for them as they begin their new terms.

OPT



P02- Chaplain Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, Grand Knight Franklin Morton and District Deputy David C. Czarnecki during the K of C St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 Installation Ceremony at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish.

Scenes from OLQP Parish Life



The First Communion class stands with OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., in front of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximillian Kolbe church, Silver Spring, shortly after receiving their first Holy Communion on May 22, 2021.



The Corpus Christi "Boze Cialo" feastday procession to the four outdoor altars outside the church occurred on June 6, 2021, in Silver Spring. The Knights of Columbus St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 held the canopy as OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych carried the Blessed Sacrament to each of the four altars. Organist Janusz Bilinski led the singing. Several parish groups took part in decorating the individual altars and in the procession, including the First Communion children and the Living Rosary Society, as well as Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Scouting Organization ZHP, Polish American Congress Washington Metro Area Division.



K of C St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 Deputy GK Stefan Witczak, accompanied by several children from this year's First Holy Communion class, carried the OLQP banner of the two patron saints of the parish, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Poland, on one side and St. Maximillian Kolbe on the other, during the "Boze Cialo" procession on June 6, 2021, at Our Lady Queen of Poland, Silver Spring.

The commemorative Holy Mass on August 1, 2021, was requested by the Polish American Congress Washington Metropolitan Area Division (PACWMAD) and celebrated by OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych to remember and honor those who fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. Some survivors are still-living OLQP parishioners while some others are buried in the cemetery adjoining the church. The honor guard included representatives Col. Pawel Marzeda and LTC Karol Budniak from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland; GK Franklin Morton, Trustee David Birely, and Trustee Jacek Marczynski of the OLQP Knights of Columbus St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634; Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak of the Polish Legion of American Veterans; SK Richard Z. Okreglak, PhD.; Bozenna Buda of the Polish Scouting Organization ZHP; and representatives from PACWMAD. Photo by M. Rogoyski



OLQP parishioners gathered around the Relic of St. Maximillian Kolbe, also known as the Martyred Saint of Auschwitz, who was murdered there in the German Concentration Camp in World War II. The Holy Mass on August 15, 2021, which was requested by the Polish American Congress Washington Metro Area Division (PACWMAD) and celebrated by OLQP Pastor Fr. Frydrych, commemorated several important events in August including the feast day of St. Maximillian Kolbe and the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary. It was also a remembrance and prayer for those who fought in the 1920 Battle of Warsaw (known as the "Miracle on the Vistula") and saved Europe from being overrun by Communism by defeating the Bolshevik Army. Some OLQP parishioners have family members who fought in the Battle of Warsaw.



Resurrection and the Riderwood Community Support of 4 Local Elementary Schools



Supplies and backpacks waiting to be opened and sorted.



Above: Resurrection Parish Council and parishioners opening and sorting
Below: Volunteers loading up cars to deliver backpacks



Moving backpacks to the cars

By Kathy Ford

With the Blessing of Father John Barry, Pastor, and under the direction of the Resurrection Parish Council, Resurrection parishioners and residents of the Riderwood Retirement Community donated \$2,850 (between June 9 and July 7), to provide four area schools with backpacks filled with supplies for the coming 2021-2022 school year.

Burtonsville, Calverton, Fairland and Greencastle Elementary Schools each received 90 backpacks, 360 in total. Each backpack was filled with: a spiral notebook, 3qty 2-pocket organizer folders, 1qty zip top canvas pencil case, 15qty #2 pencils, 5qty ballpoint

ink pens, 1 pack of 25 crayons, 1 pencil sharpener, a 12-inch ruler, 1 5-inch blunt tip scissor, 2qty highlighters, 2qty glue sticks, 3qty pink erasers, 1 dry erase board with a marker, and 1 composition notebook.

The items were purchased and shipped to the Rev. Robert Keffer Parish Life Center (PLC) where members of the Parish Council and several parishioners gathered to sort and fill the 360 backpacks. On August 12, several Resurrection Youth (with their parents) and Parish Council members met at the PLC to deliver the backpacks. It took about 14 people a total of five hours to make the deliveries.

OPT



Church of the Resurrection Parish
3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD
Rev. John M. Barry,
Pastor
301-288-4662

MOPS Comes to Resurrection

By Kathy Ford

All for Love. Those are the first words you will see when you visit the web site of the Burtonsville MOPS. Mothers of Preschoolers, also known as MOPS will be starting on Wednesday, September 8, at Resurrection. Since 1973, MOPS has supported moms and over their last 45 years, they have partnered with churches and organizations in more than 68 countries and now have a home at Resurrection.

The Burtonsville MOPS will meet on Wednesday mornings twice a month from 9:30am to 11:30am and invite anyone who is pregnant or has a child in kindergarten or younger. The Burtonsville MOPS is led by Co-Coordinators Rachel DeBacker and Katie Samsock (a lifetime Resurrection parishioner) with a team of volunteers. At every meeting, moms enjoy a chance to socialize, relax and learn in an informal setting.

At most meetings, a speaker will address a topic related

to motherhood or family life. Following the speaker, there will be time for discussion and socializing. There are also craft activities, service events that benefit the community and other events outside the MOPS meetings that help deepen relationships with each other and with Christ. During the same time, volunteers care for the children in a setting called MOPS Kids; a fun and nurturing program. For more information; visit www.burtonsvillmops.com or email at burtonsvillmops@gmail.com.

OPT

PRO LIFE

Con't from page 24

Christ and continues praying faithfully with many from SJN and other local parishes. Michelle shared that she is simply saying yes to God and relying entirely on Him to provide the resources and the means to do His will.

Michelle wants others to join in praying for God to close Earl McCleod's Rockville abortion facility, Potomac Family Planning Center at Jackson Place. She has partnered with 40 Days for Life,

an international campaign to end abortion through prayer, fasting, outreach, and peaceful presence around abortion facilities. The 24-hour vigil is from September 22nd to October 31st.

Michelle invites every believer to sign up, pray, and let God do the rest. The campaign's success depends on the faithful loving presence of people. 40 Days for Life is interdenominational and not political; it is about the sanctity of life and the power of prayer.

A Kickoff Rally will be held on September 19th, see the provided website for details. Come for prayer,

worship, an opportunity to meet other prayer warriors, and learn more about the 40 Days for Life Rockville Campaign. September 21st at 7:30-9 p.m., SJN's Respect Life Ministry will host "Pray for Life: Holy Hour & Rosary" and talk.

Please come to the Kickoff Rally, Pray for Life: Holy Hour & Rosary event, and participate in the campaign.

Find more information at www.40daysforlife.com/en/rockvilleoremailPrayForLifeRockville@protonmail.com.

OPT



FLEA MARKET

**Saturday
September 18, 2021**

**Church of the Resurrection
Parish Parking Lot
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Burtonsville, MD 20866**

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Market Time: 7:00 am - 1:00 pm
Spaces are \$20.00 (per space)
\$5.00 per Table
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Spadoni Takes Helm at Saint Peter

By Erin Pant

Mr. Vincent Spadoni, a familiar face in the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed principal of Saint Peter School in Olney.

"It's one of the greatest honors of my career to be called to lead this community," said Spadoni. "As long as I've been in the Archdiocese, Saint Peter School has had such an outstanding reputation for its community, its connection to the parish, and its strong academic program. I look forward to building on the legacy that was here, while bringing some of my own energy and excitement to the school."

Spadoni has served in administrative roles in the Archdiocese of Washington for more than 20



Newly appointed principal Mr. Vincent Spadoni looks forward to the 2021-2022 school year

years. Most recently, he served as the President of the Consortium of Catholic Academies in Washington, D.C. where he was responsible for the oversight of all operations, from finance and facilities to academics and development for four urban Catholic schools. Prior to that, Spadoni served as principal of Saint Ambrose School in Cheverly and Saint Elizabeth School in Rockville. In 2012, he was named the Distinguished Principal of the Year for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Mr. Spadoni describes his transition to Saint Peter as incredibly warm and one of the smoothest of his career.

"I've had all of these connections to Saint Peter over the years, so I didn't feel like a stranger coming

in," said Spadoni. "I'm coming into a very strong, solid school in every way, and I credit my predecessors, Mrs. Liz Whelan and Mrs. Kristen Cocozzella for that. Mrs. Cocozzella made this transition incredibly positive and helpful."

Saint Peter is experiencing a period of growth, with enrollment up 11% and several grades expanding into two classes for the 2021-2022 school year.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know our students, our teachers, and our families, and seeing how best I can serve our community," said Spadoni. "My hope for the coming school year is that our community will experience a new sense of normalcy, and a renewed excitement and enthusiasm for Saint Peter."

OPT

Welcome Father Santiago Martin

Saint Peter's Parish welcomes new parochial vicar, Father Santiago Martin. Born in Segovia, Spain, Father Martin worked for two years as a primary school physical education teacher before moving to the Washington D.C. area in 2005 to begin his seminary formation.

Father Martin went through ten years of formation at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Washington D.C. and received academic formation at The Catholic University of America. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2015 and has served at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Germantown, and Saint Bartholomew in Bethesda.



Saint Peter Parish welcomes new parochial vicar, Father Santiago Martin

"When I arrived at Saint Peter's and saw the setting of the area, I was glad because I like the countryside. Silence and nature provide an opportunity to contemplate and pray more deeply," said Father Martin. "I have felt very welcomed by all of the parishioners. Since I was a primary school teacher in Spain, I particularly look forward to the ministry in the school, as well as the youth group. Every new assignment is a new opportunity for growth and experience."

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Saint Peter's Youth Ministry explored the issue of hunger through activities, games, teachings, and field trips during a week-long summer camp.

Edge Camp feeds the Hungry

By Elisha Mae Gabriel,
Sherwood High School '24

Hunger has been and is a prevailing issue and topic. Learning about this topic and contributing to organizations that help to end hunger is crucial to end this issue. During Saint Peter Youth Ministry's one week Edge Camp this summer, our youth learned about why there is hunger in the world (environmental, political, social). Edge Camp is an annual week-long day camp for middle schoolers to learn about an aspect of Catholic Social Teaching. Issues tackled each year include hunger, drinking water, homelessness or the elderly.

Run by high school students, each day had a variety of activities, such as games, teachings, sharing, and field trips. Campers listened and reflected on what each counselor presented from Scripture, relating to the theme of the camp. Games were used to help the campers become familiar with



one another and strengthen their bond as friends, while strengthening their bond with Jesus.

The mornings were spent learning about the issue of hunger, and why as Catholics, we need to care. The campers researched ways in which hunger can be resolved. Campers were divided into small groups, and researched, designed, and presented to the rest of the campers, the information the group felt most important to know about an organization fighting to end hunger. This year, we pledged and contributed four-hundred sandwiches for SOME (So Others May Eat) during this camp. At the end of the week, the campers wrote a letter to their organization on why they chose to support them and included a donation to their organization.

Edge Camp is so much fun and is memorable for the campers as they learn about being more like Jesus and important issues in the world.

OPT

FACULTY

Con't from page 6

She is an alumnus of OLOL (Class of 2011), and a former A Long Summer Counselor for many years. Needless to say, Ms. Capizzi is being welcomed back with great fanfare.

For the past two years, Ms. Capizzi taught 6-8 ELA at Little Flower Catholic School in Mobile, Alabama through the University of Notre Dame's ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) program. She

recently graduated and received her M.Ed. She hopes to continue her book club with Little Flower at OLOL, so she can have students connect with others through reading and discussion. She attributes her desire to teach to excellent middle school, high school, college teachers, and her parents.

The community of Our Lady of Lourdes is certainly looking forward to the upcoming school year with all new and veteran faculty members.

OPT

St. Peter's Parish

2900 Sandy Spring Road
Olney, MD

Rev. Thomas Kalita,
Pastor

301-924-3774
stpetersolney.org

St. Peter's School
Mrs. Kristen Cocozzella
Principal

301-774-9112
stpetersschoololney.org

146th Annual Chicken Dinner

Parishioners welcomed guests from all over the state to our Annual Chicken Dinner. Each year those interested in a beautiful drive in the country with a destination for a homecooked meal, head to St. Mary's. Families upon their arrival share stories of generations of their families coming for this spectacular event. Many first timers marvel at the bounty of the meal and wonderful fellowship.

The sit-down dinner is served family style. Due to safety concerns a large tent was erected. Guests were able to order Take Out and enjoy their meal at a picnic table or under the tent. The menu includes barbecued chicken, potatoes, applesauce, green beans, coleslaw, and rolls. The event sold over 700 dinners this year! Once finished, those who still had room, purchased dessert at the Baked Goods stand.

The venue also boasts a Country Store with fresh vegetables and canned jams, Craft Stand, White Elephant Sale, games and most importantly Jousting, which is the state sport of Maryland. Riders wait for the call to "Charge", and head to spear the golden ring.

The weather, food, and satisfied guests made for an outstanding event.

OPT



Above: The highlight of the dinner is always to see the many jousters who come to compete.



Above: Chicken Flickers season and prepare racks of chicken for cooking.



At left: The annual prepping of the coleslaw occurs the day before the Annual Chicken Dinner. Eager hands blend just the right ingredients!



At left: Outside seating under the tent and at picnic tables was provided for hungry guests. All food was prepared to go this year.



At right: The outdoor Pavilion was dedicated by Fr. Kevin, to an outstanding couple, Harriet and Ron Magaha, for over 50 years of dedicated service to the parish. The plaque was received by their children Robin LaMarr, Rinnie Magaha, and Holly Henderson.



Father Kevin, Deacon Dave, Cardinal Gregory, Fr. Charles Cortinovus, and Monsignor Macfarlane celebrate Mass with the faith community of St. Mary's Parish.

Saint Mary's Vacation Bible School

Our Pavilion was transformed into a Tropical Island. Our 2021 VBS "Island Adventures" took us from the Fiery Furnace to the adventures of Paul and Barnabas.

Our classes were small this year, but we had fun singing led by our wonderful staff and our nine volunteer teens. They provided added volume and excitement to our program and music. We had the beautiful grounds and Prayer Garden to add God's beauty to our program.

Our closing performance was topped off by Fr. Kevin's Hot Dog picnic, cooked by our Knights of Columbus Council 6901.

OPT



The children performed songs for their parents at the closing. They all enjoyed receiving their VBS shirt and having a Hot Dog Picnic.

Surrounded by family and friends Joe and Brenda Murtha renewed their vows for their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They have been dedicated and active members of the parish for many years.



Program Director Brenda Murtha greeted each group to Vacation Bible School at the Island Palm Trees.



Teacher Michelle FitzGerald leads her groups through Bible related crafts.

St. Mary's Parish

18230 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, MD 20838

Rev. Kevin O'Reilly,
Pastor

(301) 972-8660

www.stmaryonline.com

Healthy Aging Month 2021

September is Healthy Aging Month, a nationwide observance dedicated to empowering older adults by promoting the positive features of aging.

During Healthy Aging Month, organizations raise awareness about how adults 45 and older can live healthier, happier lives. In addition, many groups host educational events where older adults can learn to improve their physical, mental, social, and financial health.

As we age, it's easy to focus on the negative aspects of growing old. Our vision deteriorates, joint pain occurs more frequently, and things don't taste the same as they used to.

However, there are just as many (if not more) good things that come with age, such as perspective, confidence, and of course, grandkids.

Technology and changing mindsets toward aging make growing old easier than ever before. Not only that, but if you develop healthy habits now, you'll set yourself up for many years of graceful aging.

Finding Purpose During Healthy Aging Month

Realizing your purpose is an essential building block to your overall quality of life. That's why Carol Worthington, Healthy Aging Month founder and editor-in-chief of Healthy Aging Magazine, encourages older adults to get out of their comfort zone during Healthy Aging Month.

"Use September as the motiva-



tion to take stock of where you've been, what you really would like to do if money was no object. And try it! Who says you have to do something related to what you studied in school? Who says you can't become an entrepreneur, start your own home business later in life, test your physical prowess, or do something wildly different from anything you've done before? Only that person you see in the mirror!"

So ask yourself,

- What motivates you to get out of bed in the morning?
- Which activity or aspect of your day do you most anticipate?
- How do you work toward personal growth?

Your golden years will shine the brightest when you find your purpose and improve your wellbeing.

Healthy aging means more time and energy for what you love.

Staying Positive during Healthy Aging Month

Making healthy choices and adopting a positive mindset will do more than improve your longevity; it will also make life better for you and the people around you.

Of course, looking on the bright side isn't always the easiest thing to do. For example, depression, chronic pain, or financial difficulties can make it harder to overcome negative thoughts.

While these situations are valid, they mean that it's even more important to develop a positive mindset. So if you struggle with depression or another mental health issue, it would be best to see a professional who can help you manage negative thought patterns and emotions.

Stay Positive

Optimistic people find the silver

lining in adverse situations. They also look for the best in themselves and others.

A growing number of studies (such as the Nun Study) have found strong connections between positive thinking and longevity. It can also make it easier to manage stressful interactions and events.

If you struggle with negative thoughts, try to "re-train" yourself by replacing them with positive ones. For example, if you find yourself complaining about something, switch the conversation to something more positive or stop complaining altogether.

Recognize That Age Is Just a Number

Healthy Aging Month is all about seeing the positives in aging. You're never too old for anything.

So take your age for what it is – a number. It doesn't stop you from being who you are, who you want to be, or who you could be.

Find something that gives you a reason to get out of bed each day. If that means rediscovering your passion or finding a completely new one, then do it!

Take Charge of Your Health

Older adults are entitled to numerous healthcare benefits that younger people are not, such as screenings or tests.

Being proactive will lay the foundation for years of better physical and mental health. So during Healthy Aging Month, find out what benefits your health insurance covers and plan to take advantage of them.

Try New Things

Similarly, don't let your age stop you from trying new things (within reason, of course!). Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Experiment with new hobbies

- Learn a new skill or language
- Enroll in a local or online class
- Participate (or start) a book club or walking group

Incorporating new activities into your routine will give you something to look forward to and keep you from doing the same things every day.

Build a Support System

Mental health is one of the core aspects of healthy aging, and a positive support system can greatly boost your mental wellbeing. Surround yourself with friends and loved ones that fill you with joy, rather than bring you down.

Healthy Aging Symposium

On September 8 and 9, the Office of Disease Prevention (ODPHP) and Trust for America's Health (TFAH) will conduct the 2021 Healthy Aging Symposium.

During this free online event, "national researchers, state and local health officials, and policymakers" from around the country will share their insights about "the latest science, best practices, and innovative interventions to improve older Americans' health and well-being."

This event is an excellent opportunity for caregivers and other healthcare professionals to connect and learn. If you are interested, visit the registration page: <https://health.gov/news/202106/register-2021-healthy-aging-symposium>

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Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine Available To Residents with Compromised Immune Systems

Residents with compromised immune systems are now able to receive a third additional dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines at locations throughout Montgomery County, including local pharmacies, doctors' offices and County-operated clinics. Guidance shared by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last week recommends that people with a range of conditions, such as organ transplant or stem cell recipients, people with untreated or advance HIV infection, people currently receiving cancer treatment, people who are taking medications that weaken the immune system, and others. Visit the CDC's website for a complete list of conditions. People should talk to their health care provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is not currently authorized for third doses.

On Aug. 18, public health and medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) outlined its plan for COVID-19 booster shots, pending FDA approval and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. According to the plan, booster shots for

those who are not immunocompromised would be given eight months after an individual is fully vaccinated (after the second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine). This means that frontline health care workers and first responders would be among the first to receive a booster dose. The booster will provide longer-lasting protection against COVID-19. For most of the public, the eight-month period will occur later in the fall.

Visit the County's COVID-19 vaccine page for more information on locations offering the third dose. For those who are not immunocompromised, refer to your immunization card to determine when you will be eligible.

If you are not yet vaccinated, find free vaccination clinics at www.GoVAXMoCo.com. If you feel sick or think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, get tested. Find free testing clinics at www.MoCoCOVIDtesting.org.

For the latest COVID-19 updates, visit the County's COVID-19 website and follow Montgomery County on Facebook @ MontgomeryCountyInfo and Twitter @ MontgomeryCoMD

OPT

Consuming a diet with more fish fats, less vegetable oil can reduce migraine headaches

Frequency, intensity of monthly migraines declined among those on higher fish oil diet

A diet higher in fatty fish helped frequent migraine sufferers reduce their monthly number of headaches and intensity of pain compared to participants on a diet higher in vegetable-based fats and oils, according to a study released June 30. The findings by a team of researchers from the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA); and the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill were published in The BMJ.

Migraine, a neurological disease, ranks among the most common causes of chronic pain, lost work time, and lowered quality of life. More than 4 million people worldwide have chronic migraine (at least 15 migraine days per month) and more than 90% of sufferers are unable to work or function normally during an attack, which can last anywhere from four hours to three days. Women between the ages of 18 and 44 are especially prone



to migraines, and an estimated 18% of all American women are affected. Current medications for migraine usually offer only partial relief and can have negative side effects including sedation, and the possibility of dependence or addiction.

"This research found intriguing evidence that dietary changes have potential for improving a very debilitating chronic pain condition such as migraine without the related downsides of often prescribed medications," said Luigi Ferrucci, M.D., Ph.D., scientific director of NIA.

This study of 182 adults with frequent migraines expanded on

the team's previous work on the impact of linoleic acid and chronic pain. Linoleic acid is a polyunsaturated fatty acid commonly derived in the American diet from corn, soybean, and other similar oils, as well as some nuts and seeds. The team's previous smaller studies explored if linoleic acid inflamed migraine-related pain processing tissues and pathways in the trigeminal nerve, the largest and most complex of the body's 12 cranial nerves. They found that a diet lower in linoleic acid and higher in levels of omega-3 fatty acids (like those found in fish and shellfish) could soothe this pain pathway inflammation.

In a 16-week dietary intervention, participants were randomly assigned to one of three healthy diet plans. Participants all received meal kits that included fish, vegetables, hummus, salads, and breakfast items. One group received meals that had high levels of fatty fish or oils

Continued on page 33



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis announced the Church-wide celebration in January

Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory celebrated

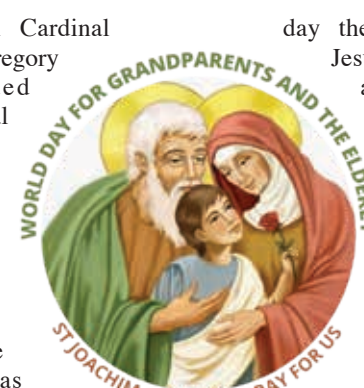
the first annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly with Mass on July 25 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. The celebration was in response to Pope Francis' institution of the day, to be held each year on the 4th Sunday of July, around the feast

day the grandparents of Jesus, Saint Joachim and Saint Anne.

As part of the day, Pope Francis granted a plenary indulgence to grandparents, the elderly, and Catholics who participate in a solemn celebration and who spend time,

in -person or virtually,

Continued on page 32



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Deacon Jerry at Mass with Fr. Lou Faust

Mother Seton Parish19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer**
Pastor

301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado
OPT Editor

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

Prayers and Blessings for Deacon Jerry Andrews

Deacon Jerry has been a great blessing for Mother Seton Parish this summer. We were able to share his ordination in June and benefit from his diaconal ministry through his preaching, celebrating baptisms, teaching, visiting the homebound, his "Soccer and Scripture" with our youth, training the altar servers. He is a deeply prayerful and holy man with a heart for Jesus. We are certain he will be a useful instrument for Christ. He has one year more at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary before being ordained to the priesthood next summer. We send our prayers with him.

OPT

HAITI

Con't from page 1

still stands.

After the first natural disaster nearly five years ago, the Haiti Committee at St. Francis of Assisi -- which has been twinned with St. Paul's since the 1980s -- set to work trying to help its sister parish. The committee initially focused on helping with the most basic needs: food, water, medical care, and shelter. St. Francis arranged for a dump truck of food to be delivered to the town, and as well as several truckloads of roofing materials to rebuild houses. The regular week-long medical clinics continued too.

St. Francis also began the process of raising money to help rebuild St. Paul's church. The Haiti Committee

wrote grant proposals. The youth at St. Francis devoted two years of proceeds from its Hoops for Haiti basketball fundraiser to generate funds. Individual parishioners at St. Francis made contributions. The Alternative Christmas Tree program raised money. And of course, we prayed.

In 2019, working in conjunction with the parish priest in Léon and community leaders, the planning began in earnest. St. Francis collaborated with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Proximité Catholique Avec Haiti Son Englis, a French nonprofit organization that helps rebuild churches, to obtain additional revenue and secure construction logistics for the project. All told, the reconstructed church cost \$14.59 million Haitian Gourdes or close to \$150,000 US dollars.

The planning continued throughout 2020 despite government instability, weather delays and a global pandemic. Finally, at the end of 2020, physical reconstruction of the church began. The rubble was hauled away, a new foundation laid, and new walls erected. At the time of this writing, despite the massive difficulties posed by the current political turmoil in Haiti, everything has been completed except for the roof. In the wake of the August 14 earthquake, St. Paul's pastor Pere Jeanot shared that, "the construction of the church is very firm."

To learn more about how you can make a direct difference in Haiti, contact the chairman of the St. Francis Haiti Committee Dan Cardile at dancardile@yahoo.com.

OPT

EAGLE SCOUTS

Con't from page 13

installing 16 benches, and spreading gravel, along with placing edging for the ground cover. To complete all three projects, dozens of volunteers spent hundreds of hours working together on the chapel. The intent of the chapel is to provide an outdoor worship and gathering space for the St. Jane De Chantal community. Planning for future Eagle Projects is already underway to expand and enhance the chapel and surrounding area.

The planning process began last fall, when the Scouts met with Reverend Samuel Giese to envision the outdoor chapel area. After subsequent planning and meetings, they presented the projects to the Parish Council at the November



The new chapel construction was finished in June with more plans to add to its beauty

meeting. From there, the Scouts focused on figuring out the finer details of their projects, such as choosing and purchasing materials, figuring out logistics, and planning for the project workdays. Work on the area took place from April

through June and is now complete except a few details. The scouts were incredibly thankful for everyone who made this project possible, especially Father Giese, and also all of the volunteers who helped along the way.

OPT

WORLD DAY

Con't from page 31

with an elderly person on the day. A plenary indulgence, a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins, is granted under the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the pope's intentions.

As part of this year's celebration, each parish in the archdiocese was invited to dedicate one Mass on Sunday, July 25, to honor grandparents and the elderly.

In a video message for the day, Cardinal Gregory said the theme of this year's celebration, "I am with you always," from the Gospel of Matthew (28:20), expresses the closeness of Jesus to the elderly.

"Grandparents and the elderly are pillars in our families and in our Church," he said. "To highlight the importance of grandparents, Pope Francis has chosen to give them a well-deserved moment in our liturgical calendar."

The livestream of the event may be viewed at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PIEdor86TQ

OPT

VBC

Con't from page 25

bly, music group and Thursday evening music program to drive the energy of VBC," she said. "Without the large group assembly and usual decorations, the volunteers really needed to be fully present and engaged at all times to compensate for the missing elements."

Margaret Rudmann, who had two campers and two teen volunteers participating, said the latter preferred the in-person VBC experience to virtual, because they could connect and interact with the campers more.

"My 13 year old said that one of her favorite moments this summer was a spontaneous, unprompted conversation she ended up having with two of her campers during snack time. They discovered that they shared a lot of the same inter-

ests, and they had a lot of fun just talking," Rudmann said. "My 15 year old commented that she liked being able to interact with the kids when doing the Bible activity and being able to engage them with the material 'on their level.'"

Katie Giganti, a parent whose children were also teen volunteers and campers, said the offering of an in-person option -- along with the virtual option chosen by approximately 10 campers this year -- was a needed modality for both her children and herself.

"...The in-person option is so important from the standpoint of dramatically increased engagement for the kids, creating normalcy for all which I think we are all craving, and it simply allows for more interaction between the campers and adults/volunteers, which allows for modeling and more natural conversations....," Giganti said.

OPT



Maximillian Korzan had the opportunity to present two popular Catholic Saints from Poland: St. Faustina Kowalska and St. Maximilian Kolbe to parishioners of St. John Neumann Catholic church.

KORZAN

Con't from page 24

crucified. After her death, Korzan said, her diary and the Divine Mercy devotion were sent around the world. Pope Saint John Paul II, another Polish saint, embraced the devotion and canonized Faustina Kowalska in 2000.

Korzan said, "we now have a humble friend and very powerful intercessor who lived her own life so selflessly, who suffered and endured so much internal torment for us and all sinners."

Finally, Korzan encouraged all of those present to go to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in

Washington, D.C.

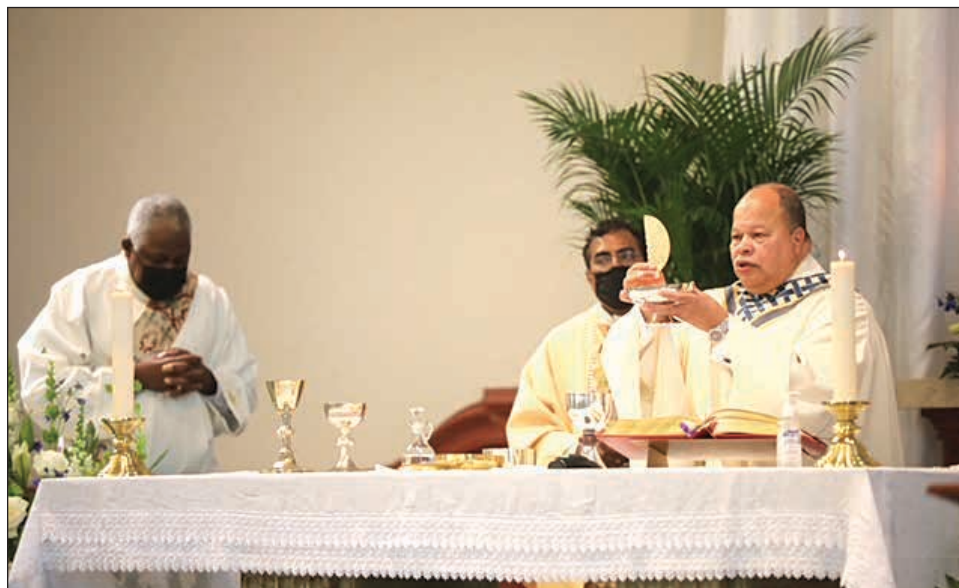
Msgr. Rob Panke, Pastor of St. John Neumann Catholic Church, hopes to continue these summer talks with each new summer seminarian at the parish to give the seminarian the opportunity to share his love for Jesus and for the church to receive something in the summer months.

OPT

**Support the efforts of
Catholic Relief Services
in Haiti at www.crs.org**



St. Michael the Archangel Hosts 18th Annual Asian and Pacific Island Marian Pilgrimage



Msgr. Eddie Tolentino celebrating Mass



Members of the Knights of Columbus Council 15084 at the Annual Asian and Pacific Island Marian Pilgrimage

By Rosemarie Ong

The 18th annual Asia and Pacific Island Marian pilgrimage brought together many Asian and Pacific Island Catholic communities to the St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring, Maryland on May 1st of this year. Traditionally held at the Basilica of the National Shrine with pilgrims from across the country celebrating their heritage and Marian devotions, this year's event was scaled back due to the ongoing pandemic.

The Filipino American parish ministry of St. Michael the Archangel Church, led by its president, Tony Calaro, extended full support to the pilgrimage which opened with a procession of the statue of Our Lady of Sheshan, a celebrated title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated by Chinese Roman Catholics. The Marian statue was escorted by Filipino members of the Knights of Columbus – Tony Calaro, Carl Abella, Catalino Freolo, Noddie Barrion, Mario Canlas, Raymond Bituin, and Jason Huh of St. Paul Ching Korean Catholic Church – who also served as ushers during the Mass. Beautiful statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary depicted as patroness of several Asian countries as well as statues of the two Filipino saints, San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod, were displayed in front



Guests celebrating the Annual Asian and Pacific Island Marian Pilgrimage: Thea Balbago, Purita Balmaceda, Rening Sosing, Denia Calaro, Tony Calaro, Roberto Sosing, Msgr. Mariano Balbago, Jr., Ching Cabangon, Marylou Jackson.

of the church's sanctuary.

The program started with a welcome by Aylene Mafnas and Sister

Myrna Tordillo of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, representing the U.S. Conference

of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity. Sr. Tordillo highlighted the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines and the heroic examples of the two previously mentioned Filipino saints. In the pilgrimage program, an essay written by Dr. Rosemarie Ong of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington expressed the hope "that the historic celebration of 500 Years of Christianity may foster a renewed commitment and enthusiasm among the Filipino people to continue gratefully to live out and share this precious gift of faith wherever they may be in the world."

The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, the pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church and concelebrated by Msgr. Mariano Balbago and Fr. Chris Arockkijaraj. In his homily, Msgr. Tolentino, who noted that his grandfather was an immigrant from the Philippines, reminded the pilgrims that each home should be a place of prayer and that Mary can be a mother in each home, a place where people should make Jesus present and families can help build a new and better world.

Before the Mass, the rosary was recited in different languages, including Indonesian, Indian Tamil, Korean, Vietnamese, and Samoan. The music for the Mass

was played by Alice Kan of the Guzhang Ensemble on the Chinese zither, organist Dr. Scot Hawkins, music director of St. Michael the Archangel Church, and soloist/cantor, Que-Thanh Le.

The Marian pilgrimage was organized by the Asian and Pacific Island Catholic Network in collaboration with the Asian and Pacific Island Affairs section of the USCCB's Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, with the support of the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Cultural Diversity and Outreach and the Office of Multicultural Ministries in the Diocese of Arlington.

OPT

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Cindy Méndez,
OPT Editor

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MIGRAINE

Con't from page 31

from fatty fish and lowered linoleic acid. A second group received meals that had high levels of fatty fish and higher linoleic acid. The third group received meals with high linoleic acid and lower levels of fatty fish to mimic average U.S. intakes. Meal plans were designed by Beth MacIntosh, M.P.H., of

UNC Healthcare's Department of Nutrition and Food Services.

During the intervention period, participants monitored their number of migraine days, duration, and intensity, along with how their headaches affected their abilities to function at work, school, and in their social lives, and how often they needed to take pain medications. When the study began, participants averaged more than 16 headache days per month, more than five hours of migraine pain

per headache day, and had baseline scores showing a severe impact on quality of life despite using multiple headache medications.

The diet lower in vegetable oil and higher in fatty fish produced between 30% and 40% reductions in total headache hours per day, severe headache hours per day, and overall headache days per month compared to the control group. Blood samples from this group of participants also had lower levels of pain-related lipids. Despite the

reduction in headache frequency and pain, these same participants reported only minor improvements in migraine-related overall quality of life compared to other groups in the study.

"Changes in diet could offer some relief for the millions of Americans who suffer from migraine pain," said Ramsden. "It's further evidence that the foods we eat can influence pain pathways."

The researchers noted that these findings serve as validation that

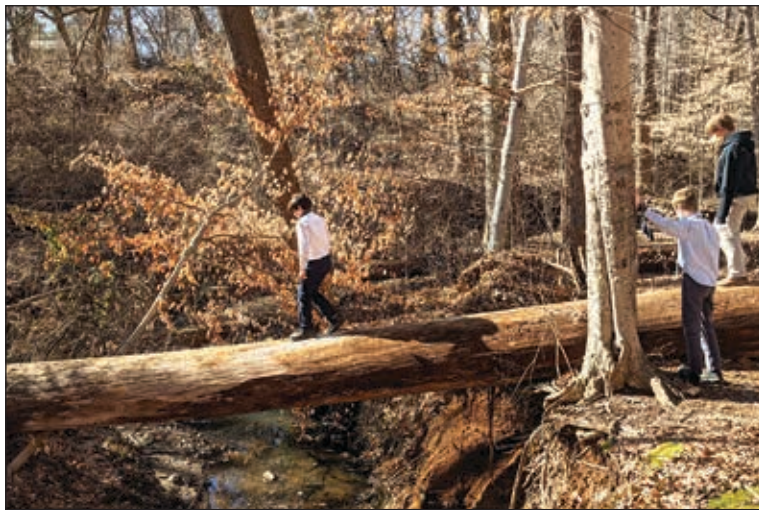
diet-based interventions increasing omega-3 fats while reducing linoleic acid sources show better promise for helping people with migraines reduce the number and impact of headache days than fish-oil based supplements, while reducing the need for pain medications. They hope to continue to expand this work to study effects of diet on other chronic pain conditions.

OPT

The Importance of a Tactile, Wonder-filled Education

An education for a young boy, according to The Avalon School, should be one that includes adventure, risk, competition, and above all, joy. Avalon Lower School teachers, such as kindergarten teacher Adele Kolf, understand what tools help boys learn in ways suited particularly to them. According to Kolf, “Play is vital in [boys’] development both physically and socially. Avalon provides both structured and spontaneous moments of outside play. On a weekly basis, I see how they use sticks to build forts, use snow mounds to climb on, invent games with rip sticks, and happily get dirty.”

Avalon’s Assistant Head of School, Istvan Teleki, agrees and



Avalon students explore a park resembling Tolkien’s Lothlórien during Natural History Class (L to R: Vincent Radich of St. Patrick’s Parish, Connor Hayton of St. Mary’s Parish, and Giacomo DeMarchi of Holy Redeemer Parish)

views this special time of youth as one in which experiential learning is paramount. “Young boys need to move, get outside, play with one another, explore nature with wonder. Students need to be given a certain amount of autonomy, and they need to build bonds with their teachers. Sometimes this involves stopping class to play football in the snow or searching for newly-hatched butterflies.”

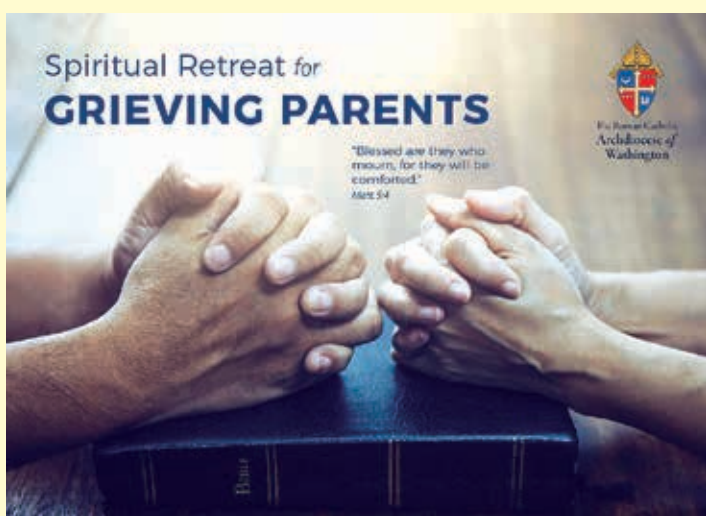
Young boys also need to engage their burgeoning imagination through poetry, story, and nature exploration. Avalon students learn and recite poetry throughout the year, and this gives students the ability to not merely memorize, but also to wonder, as poetry creates a different story and language than

prose.

Nature exploration, too, allows students to build a bridge spanning the world of the classroom, their imagination, and the real world. “When lower school students leave the classroom and step out onto a trail, they enter another world in which a different and equally important learning happens,” said Teleki.

The Lower School at Avalon understands that a developing young boy needs the proper balance of freedom and structure, academic and physical rigor, and authentic faith formation in order to help him grow into the confident and successful young man that God intends him to be.

OPT



Spiritual Retreat for Grieving Parents

Date: September 25, 2021, 9:30 am – 7:30 pm

Location: St. Patrick Catholic Church Pastoral Center, Rockville

If you are grieving the loss of a child, no matter the age of your child, how long ago your child died or the cause, we invite you to attend.

This one-day retreat, offered by the Archdiocese of Washington’s Office of Family Life and Emmaus Ministry, centers on the spirituality of the grieving process and will give you the opportunity to focus on your spiritual journey after the loss of your child.

The retreat fee is \$20 and registration is required.

To register, please go to eventbrite.com/e/retreat-for-grieving-parents-tickets-162108576115.

For more information call the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4546 or email visiblesign@adw.org.

OPT

Spin Rejoins Bird and Lime E-Scooters

Spin has redeployed to rejoin Lime and Bird as one of three approved vendors for e-scooter rentals in Montgomery County.

To locate an e-scooter, download one of the vendor’s app and follow directions.

Bird www.bird.co

Lime www.li.me/en-us/home

Spin www.spin.app/

Watch this two-and-one-half minute video to learn how to safely operate an e-scooter and remember to always wear a helmet: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-Oo1fT2LTw.

Source: Montgomery County Department of Transportation



Wheaton Revitalization Project Receives Merit Award

The Wheaton Revitalization Project has been recognized with a Merit Award for Government Public Buildings by the Engineering News-Record (ENR) MidAtlantic.

The ENR “Regional Best Projects 2021 Awards” program honored outstanding construction projects and the companies that designed and built them. The projects considered had to be completed between May 1, 2020, and May 31, 2021. The program recognizes projects in 18 categories. The Wheaton Revitalization Project was entered in the category of “Government/Public Buildings.”

“The Wheaton Redevelopment Project is critical to our efforts to revitalize and create jobs in the Mid-county area,” said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich. “Receiving the Merit Award from Engineering News-Record is a testament to the quality of this innovative project. It is great to have some of our departments now located in Wheaton. It is great for surrounding communities and to help spur commercial activity nearby as these employees will frequent the surrounding businesses. This project also includes a new plaza and amphitheater for our residents. It is a welcomed community and gathering

space in the heart of Wheaton.”

The program honored 32 projects from across the region. Two panels of industry judges reviewed nearly 90 projects located in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Projects were evaluated on the ability of the project team to overcome challenges; contributions to the industry and community; safety and construction; and design quality.

MCDOT led the development and construction of the Wheaton Revitalization Project—one of the largest projects ever built by Montgomery County. Construction took 39 months and cost about \$179 million. It was completed on time and within budget.

In addition to a 14-story, 308,000-square-foot office building, the project includes ground-floor retail and plaza spaces, an adjacent town square that will host public events and a four-level, below-grade public parking structure. The office building is the new headquarters of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and is home to Montgomery County’s departments of Environmental Protection, Health and Human Services,

Permitting Services and Recreation. Also relocated to the building were the Office of Community Use of Public Facilities and the Mid-County Regional Services Office.

“I am very proud that MCDOT has played a pivotal role in creating this smart-growth, transit-oriented development that has set a new design standard for public facilities in Montgomery County,” said MCDOT Director Chris Conklin. “The office building is the first government-owned office building in Maryland to achieve the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).”

LEED is the highest certification available by USGBC. LEED projects earn points across nine basic areas that address key aspects of green buildings including water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, location and transportation and energy and atmosphere.

The project broke ground in June 2017. The County envisioned that the project would spur economic development in the Wheaton Central Business District and provide a centralized location for government services within a short walk to the Wheaton Metro Station.

OPT



Confirmation class with Fr. Steve Carter and Bishop Mario Dorsonville

Confirmation at Christ the King

Christ the King

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

Fr. Stephen J. Carter,
Pastor

Paul Lamoreaux,
OPT Editor

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

June 14 was a special day at our church. Auxilliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville visited Christ the King Parish. He confirmed 13 teens in our community. The students prepared for Confirmation by writing a letter to Father Steve, our pastor. In the letter, they explained why they chose the saint for their confirmation name. Then the students learned more about their chosen saint.

Despite Covid 19, everyone was able to make this day special for the confirmants. The students wore the red robes to symbolize the Holy Spirit visiting them on this special day. Congratulations to all of them for working so hard to be ready for their Confirmation. And we thank their teachers and sponsors.

May the Holy Spirit help them navigate through the tough times they will face in the future!

OPT



HSYG also get to know each other with games like cup stacking as Fr. Jeffrey Hammond officiates and cheers them on.

Apples card game to a meaningful service project like making care packages for the homeless. HSYG highly encourages their Seniors and Juniors to provide leadership and suggestions as to what activities to do. The third Sunday is for faith formation, prayers, and Adoration. Teens face tough issues that constantly challenge their values and this third Sunday gives them the forum to bring up, question, discuss, and think about what they know, what the church teachings are and hopefully, blend the two together to continue to keep a strong faith that will allow them to share the same passion with others they meet.

Special outings allow the HSYG to create memories with each other. Each fall, they go for a hayride and bonfire, play laser tag, visit the Bible Museum, attend Mount 2000 and participate in a service camp, Encounter the Gospel of Life led by the same Ann Gradowski from the

youth group of the 1980's.

Every year is different with the dynamics of what the youth bring, but the focus of St. Jane DeChantal's High School Youth Group is always the same; To create an environment where teens know that they belong, create a strong Catholic identity for themselves, continue to practice their faith, and share their joy in Christ with everyone they meet.

The group strives to be welcoming to everyone. St. Jane DeChantal parish encourages all their High School aged parishioners to join their growing HSYG whether they attend a Catholic high school or not. They meet every other Sunday at St Jane DeChantal Catholic Church and Seton Center for Religious Education. For more information they can contact the Seton Center at 301-530-9100 or seton.center@stjanedechantal.org. Registration is open until the end of September.

OPT

Holy Cross Nurses Give Covid 19 Pfizer Vaccine

By Liz Weiss, retired RN, Parishioner and Social Concerns Commission

On Sunday, August 8, the community outreach nurses from Holy Cross Hospital came to Christ the King to give Pfizer vaccines. Outreach visits to the local apartment buildings, fliers in the local store windows and publicity on the neighborhood list serve were all done in preparation of the visit. The nurses gave a total of 28 vaccine injections, seven to the community and 21 from the

parish.

The nursing team is returning to the church Colonial Room on the morning of August 29 to give the second dose of the vaccine. The nurses will also give a first dose to anyone interested and let those people know when and where to get the second dose. We thank them for their service to the community and our Christ the King parishioners. And we give a big thank you to Father Steve for being so supportive of this Public Health effort.

OPT



Holy Cross Hospital outreach nurses

COLLABORATION

Con't from page 25

said.

Some of the cases on which the conferences have collaborated include helping individuals avoid eviction from apartments, preventing people from losing their belongings in storage units and paying for

people's medical bills, said Silverio Bonilla, president of the conference at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Gaithersburg.

"Our collaboration now is the best it's ever been and the speed with which we have been able to process some cases has been very good," he said. "It has been very beneficial for the people in need."

OPT

EUCHARIST

Con't from page 8

When mass is not scheduled, Holy Cross Eucharistic Minister volunteers Kerry August, Rita Forbes, Kathy Gallagher and Dick Schreitmueller visit Brighton Gardens weekly to administer the Eucharist to Brighton Gardens' Catholic residents and Catholic caregivers. Eucharistic visits resumed to Brighton Gardens on May 25th.

Eucharistic Ministers of the parish, Deacon Hubbard, Sally Croarkin, Charlene Hubbard, Charlotte King, Colleen Scanlon, Dick Schreitmueller, George

Tamerlani, Maureen Tobin, and Yolaine Watkins administer the Holy Eucharist to all parishioners who are ill or homebound.

After many years of dedication to the Catholic residents of Brighton Gardens, Dick Schreitmueller will soon retire. Holy Cross Parish is grateful to Mr. Schreitmueller as he inspired hope and offered comfort through his steadfast ministry. He will be sorely missed by the residents and staff of Brighton Gardens and his fellow volunteers.

If you would like more information to serve in this ministry or to receive the Eucharist, please contact the Holy Cross rectory at 301-942-1020 or parishsecretary@hccross-urch.org.

OPT

It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times

GOLF

Con't from page 23

istrator, one nurse, one security/handy man, and one housekeeper.

Pre-pandemic, the parish organized two mission trips annually, bringing trained medical staff and tons of supplies to the region. During the pandemic, there were no mission trips; but the parish continued to send supplies and medicines to keep the clinic open, plus personal protective equipment (PPE).

Bretton Woods Pride

The Bretton Woods Golf Course has a proud history. Economic troubles after World War I led to World War II, so before the end of World War II, the Allies met to build a new unified post-war economic system – a system that included the World Bank. This global planning meeting was held at Bretton Woods near Mount Washington in New Hampshire. The World Bank had an immense impact internationally, but also had an impact locally; its staff and employees came to Washington from all over the world, not just from Europe. And some of these men and women who had devoted their lives to the economic health of the world were not welcome at local clubs. In 1968, the new golf course in Germantown was opened, named for the global system, and open to the people who made it work – including people of color.

OPT

Five Ways to Establish a Reading Routine

By Brittany Higdon

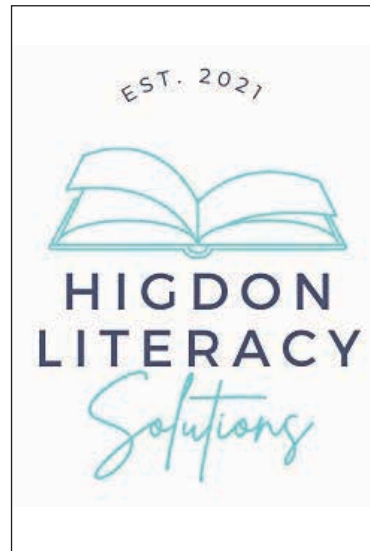
The most important aspect of your child's reading development is her constant exposure to books. In fact, children who are read to at least three times a week are twice as likely to score in the top 25% of reading than those who are not. As your child's primary educator, take this new beginning as an opportunity to establish a reading routine that is right for your family!

Treat reading as an opportunity.

Approximately 45 million Americans are functionally illiterate which makes the ability to read a privilege. Rather than saying something like, "you have to read before bed," a simple verbiage tweak ("you GET to read before bed") can make a world of difference. Try to stay away from bribes which communicate that reading is not a reward in and of itself.

Make reading a priority.

One major issue of modern society is over-scheduled kids. I have worked with several students who were presumed to have learning issues when, in fact, they were exhausted. While interests are good and should be encouraged, it should not come at the expense of reading and relaxation. If a child is in activi-



ties from after school until bedtime, it leaves little space for family time and reading.

Have a set time to read each day.

Many families that I have coached enjoy using the time after dinner to do family read-alouds. Share a favorite book from your own childhood. Discuss the book. Make reading fun and a time to be together as a family, as these are the types of memories that will last a lifetime. In fact, when I was in second grade, my mom read a chapter of *The Secret Garden* to me each night before bed and I still remem-



Brittany L. Higdon

ber it fondly. It wasn't until years later that she told me that her mom read it to her in second grade too!

Choose a variety of books to keep things interesting.

I personally love reading along with the seasons and family occasions. Do you have a trip to the beach coming up? Perhaps working through *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* is in order. Are the kids already excited for Halloween? Try *Gustavo, The Shy Ghost*. No matter the occasion, there is a book that the family is sure to love. Ask for

recommendations from friends via a social media post or ask a librarian for a book on a particular topic.

Think outside the box.

Yes, the typical after-dinner or pre-bedtime reading is great, but where can you add even more literacy? Try an audiobook on the way home from soccer practice. Read a poem over breakfast. Choose a news article to read after school to discuss at dinner. If there's downtime, more reading can be done!

After a year and a half of inconsistent schedules, use this new consistency as a way to establish a love for reading that will last a lifetime! Even though it might take a bit of adjustment, it's well worth it!

Brittany L. Higdon is a lifelong learner and educator as well as the Founder and Lead Instructor of Higdon Literacy Solutions (www.higdonsolutions.com). At HLS, Brittany and her team work with students on reading intervention as well as teachers and administrators on effective teaching methods rooted in the Western Tradition. Unlike mainstream educators, Brittany has a deep love for the humanities and integrates timeless texts in her instruction as often as possible.

OPT

SCHOLARS

Con't from page 6

while older campers became leaders while reinforcing skills learned in the previous school year to prevent the dreaded "summer slide."

During the two-week camp experience, the teachers and students engaged in learning through the fun themes of "Olympics" and "Under the Sea." During Olympics week, campers were able to learn about the history of the Olympics and learn about an "Athlete of the Day" who was competing in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. During "Under the Sea" week, students learned about the layers of the ocean and many of the creatures that live there. Students completed STEM activities to explore new concepts



The teachers and participants in OLOL's 2021 Summer Scholars Program

and created crafts as visual representations of what they learned each day. The teachers and students

of OLOL are looking forward to continuing this fantastic experience in future summers!

OPT

SKILLS

Con't from page 15

effort accordingly.

Language and communication skills—the receptive language ability necessary to understand, reason, listen attentively to books, follow directions, respond to questions and expressive language ability to express needs, concerns, and feelings as well as explain, connect, ask for help, add to a discussion or negotiate with a peer.

Self-regulation—the ability to manage age-appropriate emotional responses to pleasure, excitement, frustration, and disappointment.

Time management—the ability to organize work/play to participate effectively or complete activities efficiently.

Confidence—feeling capable, competent, and resilient. "I am what I can do or make work."

Independence—the ability to take care of personal needs and belongings, including tying shoes and buckling car seat belts.

Respect and manners—the ability to treat self, others, nature, and property with kindness, respect and politeness.

Enthusiasm for learning!—Good students are open to learning. They know their own strengths, ask questions to get information, know mistakes are opportunities to learn, have the power to connect with others, have the confidence to explore and dream, and realize that an effort mindset is more important than a perfectionist one — "do your best rather than be the best." There are many routes to success!

OPT

ROE/DOE

Con't from page 3

to 30 weeks after birth, said, "There is no doubt that from the first moments of its existence an embryo conceived from human sperm and eggs is a human being; and the same is true...even of an infant who is born... without a brain." Practical Ethics, 2nd ed.

Also, there are many constitutional scholars who claim the Roe decision does not have any rational basis and that the "right" to abort – a right that Blackmun "found" in

the "penumbra" (shadow or implied right) of the Constitution – does not exist. So, given the biased decision ignoring the humanity of the preborn and without a constitutional basis, it is easy to see why Roe/Doe should be overturned.

Blackmun's biased and constitutionally flawed decision has resulted in the killing of over 63 million preborn human beings, caused great pain and grief to millions of mothers, given rise to thousands of doctors willing to kill for money and caused what may be irreparable moral harm to our society.

If the Court only overturns the

Roe/Doe decisions in response to the Mississippi law, the country will be divided, with some states prohibiting the killing and some states sanctioning the killing of these living human beings without any restrictions (e.g., Maryland). There will be a minimal reduction in intensity as women residing in non-abortion states travel to obtain abortions in pro-abortion states.

Life is a continuum. It has a beginning and our bodies are changing daily until we die. There is no magical point at which we become more alive, more human or more of a person. We are God's marvelous

creation from conception to eternity.

To prevent millions more grossly unjust preborn killings, millions more wounded mothers and further moral decline in our country, the Supreme Court must not only overturn the Roe/Doe decisions it must also find abortion unconstitutional.

The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The preborn are persons and they must be allowed to live and

enjoy these "unalienable Rights".

Our country is at a precipice. Will we be a nation of life or death, good or evil? Will it sanction the murder of the preborn or protect their right to life?

Pray that the Supreme Court justices will find abortion unconstitutional.

OPT

Mr. Naughton has served in various pro-life positions in both state and local organizations.

Peace Camp

Inspiring Peaceful Living in the St. Francis International School Community

The past July marked the return of St. Camillus Peace Camp, a summer program organized by the Little Friends for Peace and hosted at various locations, including St. Francis International School. The week-long camp used art, games, and presentations to teach participants about mindfulness, empathy, anger management, conflict resolution, and self-empowerment for children ages 5-14. The 40 campers and camp staff began each day with an opening prayer and were then guided through activities designed to inspire peace in themselves and in their relationships with others.

OPT



Camp leaders and participants share the peace sign, showing what Peace Camp is all about!



Campers work to capture the beauty of nature in their colorful flower paintings

St. Francis International School Welcomes New Principal

St. Francis International School is excited to welcome new Principal Sam Chapa! Mr. Chapa comes to us from Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School in Takoma Park, where he was the Chair of the Social Studies Department. He is fluent in English, Spanish and French. He is a father of two little boys and husband of Marika Krausova. Mr. Chapa received his BA from the University of Texas at San Antonio and is completing a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision for Changing Populations at Notre Dame of Maryland University.

OPT



Mr. Sam Chapa is excited to serve the St. Francis International School community at their new principal

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Next Issue
September 29

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Sam Chapa, Principal

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Archdiocese Launches New *Laudato Si'* Local Action Plan for Protecting the Planet

Marking the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on care for the environment, the Archdiocese of Washington launched its *Laudato Si'* Action Plan: *Embarking On A Seven-Year Journey Promoting An Integral Ecology* on August 16. The Action Plan offers easy, moderate, and advanced strategies for individuals, parishes, schools and other institutions to work toward protecting the Earth, our common home, and all human life.

A result of eighteen months of work by the laity-led Care for Creation Committee and the archdiocesan Office of Social Concerns, this local action plan is to be used throughout the Archdiocese. It is a call to people of faith to "embrace environmental science and the science of climate change to protect and preserve the environment for future generations because the Earth is God's wondrous creation and gift to humanity." (*Laudato Si'* Plan p. 6)

Crafted for the people of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, this local *Laudato Si'* Action Plan seeks to work toward an integral ecology – the concept that says that caring for our fellow human beings is connected to our concern for the environ-

ment. (*Laudato Si'* No. 139) The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington *Laudato Si'* Action Plan aims to reflect an integral

ecology in the life of its parishes, parish schools, and with the faithful.

In an opening letter in the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, writes, "This Action Plan is for all of us! We are all called to protect our common home according to our ability and means..." He goes on to invite everyone to study the plan "...and be challenged to protect and restore our fragile Earth and our natural resources."

The plan includes simple, low-cost steps that households, parishes and others can take to conserve water and electricity and to protect natural resources. It also has relevant videos and links to resources such as grant applications, study guides and local environment-focused events. It ranks suggested activities on a scale from "easy," such as "cut down on single-use plastics," to "moderate," including "incorporate justice and care for our common home into faith formation programs at all levels," and a few "advanced" activities including "compost food scraps."

Genevieve Mougey, director of the Archdiocese's Office for Social Concerns, put the action plan in context of the August

9 United Nations (U.N.) report on the dire threat to the world from climate change. "While the U.N report illustrates the gravity of the situation we are facing, it behooves us as Christians to remember the core tenet of our faith is hope. Hope moves us forward to live in God's call of love and the care for our common home. The reality of what it means to be a Christian is that we live in hope. That's what the encyclical and this action plan call us to do – act out of hope and faith in God's love for us and our planet."

The action plan is being distributed to all priests and employees of the Archdiocese of Washington. It is available to the public online at adw.org/laudatosi

All are invited to join us in-person or on livestream for a special Mass October 3 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 2020 Saint Joseph Drive, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20774. In solidarity with Pope Francis, this Mass will highlight St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology, as it marks the start of October as Respect Life Month and celebrates all of God's creation, including our common Earthly home and life at all ages and stages.

Read our local *Laudato Si'* Action Plan and learn more about our work for environmental justice in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington at adw.org/laudatosi

OPT

Federal News from Maryland Catholic Conference

The Department of Justice issued a temporary stay on federal executions on July 1. Last December, the Maryland bishops urged a stop to the execution of a Maryland man, though, sadly, the federal execution went forward in January. Maryland has no state death penalty.

The Respect Life Secretariat of the United States Conference

of Catholic Bishops is urging Catholics to contact Congress now to maintain the 45-year ban on using taxpayer funds for elective abortion. To learn more and take action visit: www.notaxpayerabortion.com/learn.

In June, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a number of decisions of interest to Catholics:

- In *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, the

Court unanimously ruled that the city's foster care program should not have excluded Catholic Social Services from the program for following Catholic teaching. Read more.

- The Court dismissed a challenge to the Affordable Care Act in *California v. Texas*, by a 7-2 decision, noting that states lacked standing to sue over the individual mandate for health care in the ACA.

- The Court also dismissed *Mayorkas v. Innovation Law Lab* and ordered the lower court judgment be vacated as moot since the program in question, the Migrant Protection Policy (MPP), had been ended by the Department of Homeland Security on June 1. The USCCB had filed an amicus brief that opposed the MPP. Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville

reacted to the decision.

- In *Jones v. Mississippi*, the Court ruled that it is constitutional to sentence juveniles to life without parole. Maryland no longer allows life without parole sentencing for juveniles, following passage of bipartisan state legislation in the 2021 session that was supported by the Maryland Catholic Conference.

OPT

SWEENEY

Con't from page 1

in Silver Spring, from 2004 to 2012. Then he retired, and moved to St. John Neumann parish, where he still serves.

Fr. Kennedy went from St. Paul to St. Ambrose Church in Cheverly, from 2008 to 2016. In 2016, he moved to St. Gabriel Parish in DC, where he served until July 7 this year, when he was assigned to the Leadership Roundtable, developing church management tools.

Fr. Pierce moved last year to St. John Vianney parish in Prince Frederick, in southern Maryland.

Msgr. Filardi has known Fr. Sweeney for decades, and says that he was "always a joyful presence." He recalls proudly that Fr. Sweeney urged him to ask to be assigned to St. Paul, because it would be a good fit. He didn't ask, but was pleased when it came about anyway. He grins, and says, "I'd like to invite him back to St. Paul. But if I start tugging, there will be open warfare with St. John Neumann. They love him down there."

OPT

ORDINATION

Con't from page 8

sion. Photos from Father Robert's childhood and his time in military service provided glimpses of Father Robert's life before becoming a priest. Photos of his priestly service from his former parishes where he

served as pastor and from Holy Cross were also included in the collage.

Refreshments were kindly donated and lovingly baked by generous parishioners who provided hundreds of pre-packaged cookies of many varieties. A grateful parish was glad to come together for the first parish social event since

the lockdown began to express our love for our pastor. We thank the many volunteers who helped make this day possible. Father Robert was presented with a gift of Deacon Chairs and a Sacramental Kit for the Sick by Parish Council Chair, Cindy Kratz and Finance Council Chair, John Szczur.

OPT

WELCOME

Con't from page 8

Poets prize at the graduate level, and her poetry and prose appear in several publications.

"As a former student, I was excited to work at Holy Cross last year as a Kindergarten aide, and I cannot wait to teach what I am passionate about to Grades 3, 4, and 5 this year. I believe the written word is a beau-

tiful gift from God. I hope to teach students to hone their writing skills so they can articulate their thoughts across all disciplines."

"Holy Cross has always been blessed with outstanding faculty and staff," principal Lisa Kane noted. "I could not be more pleased to welcome our newest members to the team as they uphold that tradition. Each will share their gifts and talents to enrich our students and school family."

OPT

FAITH

Con't from page 10

after an exhausting year and a half. You are here doing God's work and it matters," says the school's Director of Admissions, Ms. Ghassabeh. She adds, "Faith is a gift. It cultivates curiosity, inspires purpose and a genuine desire to be of service to others, and it creates space for tolerance and inclusivity. Our kids need that; our world needs that, and I'm happy that it is available here at St. Bart's."

OPT



Fr. Santiago Marin celebrates Mass, including Bennett's baptism.

Shrine of St. Jude

SJAA: CYO 2021 Spring Soccer Champions



SJAA Boys 12U CYO Champs!

Players and coaches pictured left to right are—Back row: Coach John Greene, Matthew Greene, Jorge Velasquez Jr., Tewodos Belay, Natan Kebede, Daniel Valdez, and Coach David Palank. Front row: Christian Hibret, Brady Swift, Esteban Grijalba, David Palank, Charles Anani, and Peter Kilmer.



SJAA Girls 14U CYO Champs!

Players and coaches pictured left to right are—Back row: Eden Tewodros, Coach Ramet, Noor Frisby, Darby Marshall, Sallie Gitau, Molly Marshall, and Christina Argyros. Front row: Lillian Lora, Erin Atkins, Clare Rowedder, Rosemary Kilmer, and Katie Marcolin.



SJAA Boys 14U CYO Runners Up!

Players and coaches pictured left to right are—Back row: Coach Young, Coach Santoro, Dawit Belay, Jackson Santoro, Larry Kilmer, Jack Young, Enzo Sosa, and Coach Flores. Front row: Diego Valdez, Kevin Argueta, Santi Tellez-Leon, Paulo Mejia, Shaun McMahon, Leo Nguyen, and Santi Flores.

In yet another outstanding season of soccer at the Shrine of St. Jude Parish, three of the St. Jude Athletic Association's (SJAA) CYO soccer teams advanced to their respective championship games! Two of those teams—the Girls 14U and the Boys 12U—won the CYO title, while the Boys 14U lost a close one to San Miguel, bringing home the 2nd place trophy.

Each of these teams—along with all of the players on the rest of our soccer teams—represented the parish and made the St. Jude community proud. In an unprecedented year full of obstacles to organized team sports, SJAA was able to field seven soccer teams with 64 players this past spring. The dedication of SJAA coaches as well as players and their parents was truly extraordinary.

Thanks, also, for the dedication of CYO leadership at the Archdiocese and at many of our fellow parishes, SJAA was able to

field enough teams to have a competitive season across the region with games played at nearby parishes and school athletic fields, despite the numerous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Jude soccer teams battled with their peer competitors with three SJAA teams advancing to the championship tournament.

During the weekend of June 10–13, at the CYO championship soccer tournament at Holy Redeemer (Kensington, Maryland),

each of these teams showed up to 'play their hearts out.' Despite some challenging weather—the Boys 12U team played in a downpour—each team played through adversity and left everything they had on the field of play. The Girls 14U team had an especially successful season, finishing the season undefeated.

Congratulations to all the SJAA spring athletes!!

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St. Elizabeth

St. Elizabeth School is getting back into the swing of things with the annual Golf Classic!

The goal of this event is to bring the community together for some good old-fashioned fun in a safe and healthy environment. Golfers will be playing by ALL the rules on Thursday, September 16 when they tee up to support St. Elizabeth students!



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