



# Parish Times

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

AUGUST 2022

Living the Faith Together

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## Crucibles, Prophets and Growth

By Chuck Short

**W**elcome back from summer.

This issue of Our Parish Times informally kicks off coverage of many parish activities for the 2022-2023 year. September rings in the new school

year; parish ministries resume at full pace; we welcome new parish staff, teachers and clergy; and CYO sports fill the fields. It's an ideal time to recommit to active participation in parish community life. We will reflect on this later.

First, let's celebrate the lives of two great Montgomery "prophets" who returned to God this summer. Both passed away around Father's Day, notable since both lived lives that improved conditions for children and families in our community. Paul Molloy was an alcoholic, or as he bluntly described himself, a "street drunk". He was a well-educated, successful attorney blessed with a loving family, until at forty, he became addicted, and his successful professional and family life collapsed. His story is tragically commonplace.



Chuck Short

Continued on page 18

## 'School Year' Resolutions

**I**n 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar — what we now call the Gregorian calendar — to replace the one Julius Caesar introduced in 46 B.C. Caesar's calendar underestimated the solar year by 11 minutes, and over the centuries it fell out of synch with the seasons.

Pope Gregory's calendar has held up these 440 years. We can count on the calendar and the seasons lining up as they should. As critical and accurate as the Gregorian calendar is, I think for most of us it is less in synch with our rhythm of life than what we may call the "school calendar."

As we get older and finish our educations, we don't think as much about being dependent on school cycles, but much of our lives are still impacted by school beginning in the fall and ending in the spring. Many of you reading this probably have children or grandchildren back in school or getting ready to go



Fr. John Enzler

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Attendees of A Long Summer Day Camp at Our Lady of Lourdes School enjoy Slurpees on a hot summer day. See story page 8.

## In Memoriam



Miss Kitty leads a preschool class to the playground of The Woodlawn School.

*Founder of The Woodlawn School of Bethesda*

## Catherine DiCesare Corrigan, Age 100

**O**n July 12, 2022 of N. Potomac, Maryland; beloved wife of the late John Joseph Francis Corrigan; loving mother of Michael J. Corrigan, John J. Corrigan, Maria A. Corrigan, and Frances A. (John) Royo. Cherished grandmother of Lloyd and Joseph Shumaker. Beloved

sister of Rose Josephine Moran (married to the late William Joseph Moran). Also survived by many other loving relatives and friends.

Catherine DiCesare Corrigan was born in Palermo, Sicily on October 20, 1921.

Continued on page 4

## Parish's Efforts to Engage Young People with Special Needs in the Synodal Process is Highlighted on Vatican Website

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

**W**hen asked to reflect on how they gather, serve, and receive Jesus Christ in church as part of the Synod on Synodality, the six students in St. Francis of Assisi's Special Needs Catechesis class openly shared their experiences. Thanks to the efforts of their director of religious education, the students' reflections moved through the highest echelons of the Catholic Church, now serving as a best practice on how local parishes can better engage with people with special needs.

The turn of events occurred when Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson sought to use resources provided in February by the archdiocesan Office for Deaf and Disabilities Ministry to engage the students in the global conversations being held as part of the synod. Using questions based on three themes — Communion, Participation and Mission — the students spoke about, drew, or shared photos of their faith experiences during their regularly scheduled online classes last spring.

"The goal was pastoral in that it allowed our

Continued on page 3



# Well Read Mom Kicks off the Year of the Giver

Well Read Mom, an international woman's book club focused on helping all women to read more and read better, is preparing to launch its "Year of the Giver". The booklist includes titles from Tolstoy, Bronte, and others. It invites women to consider the proposed books through the lens of St. Therese of Lisieux, when she stated, "If a little flower could speak, it seems to me that it would tell us quite simply all that God has done for it, without hid-

ing any of its gifts. It would not, under the pretext of humility, say that it was not pretty, or that it had not a sweet scent, that the sun had withered its petals, or the storm bruised its stem, if it knew that such were not the case." In doing so, participants will be challenged to look at various characters, story arcs, and narratives, considering how each aspect of the story speaks to God as the Giver of everything. Well Read Mom uses a method of accompaniment to inspire partici-

pants to contemplate what the story suggests about their own experience. How does one's own life "tell of what God has done, without hiding any of its gifts"? The group can then become a place to share these insights.

According to the organization's website, by gathering in small groups to discuss the texts, "We hope to deepen the awareness of meaning hidden in each woman's daily life, elevate the cultural conversation, and revitalize reading literature from books."

Roughly a dozen Well Read



Mom groups meet throughout Montgomery County. Visit their website, [wellreadmom.com](http://wellreadmom.com) to find more information.

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## Our Parish Times in Rome

The publishers and managing editor of *Our Parish Times* recently returned from a trip to Italy, including stops in Rome, Florence, and Assisi. It was beautiful to experience the grandeur, beauty, and history of the Church in our visits to St. Peter's Basilica, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and many other churches. Our days allowed for prayer, pilgrimage, and time together. Each issue of *Our Parish Times* calls us to a different, but equally important, experience of the Church. Instead of basking in the immensity of Rome's splendor, we seek to celebrate the Church at its most local level, the parish. While the opportunity to revel in priceless artwork, feats of engineering, and a wealth of relics was truly extraordinary, we are equally happy to revel in the diverse faces of our parish communities, acknowledge the acts of charity and service performed, and to celebrate everything from our first communions to our graduations. The same Christ, Lord of All, present in the Church in Rome is present here in Montgomery County, Maryland allowing us to live the faith, together.



Above, Managing Editor Amy Hamm with her husband Andrew and their daughter outside the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.



At left, Publishers Kathleen and Larry Hamm at a restaurant in Assisi.

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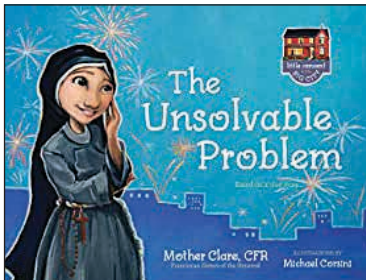
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## Little Convent in the Big City: A New Children's Series by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal

Thanks to the witness of our wonderful pastors, the children in our schools and parishes have some familiarity with the priesthood. However, the same cannot be said for religious sisters. Despite our vibrant faith communities, many Catholic kids today don't know about convents, habits, and most importantly, the amazing love for Christ that religious sisters share with the world.

The Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal are seeking to address this problem by publishing Little Convent in the Big City, a series of children's books that demonstrate both what the daily life of a sister looks like, as well as the amazing graces and miracles that they see. The first book in the series, *The Unsolvable Problem*, introduces readers to Sr. Mary Andy and her sisters as they confront a big dilemma while hosting a community picnic for the Fourth of July, which is based on a real experience of the CFR sisters. The story reveals how the sisters



rely on Jesus for every problem, big and small. It tells Sr. Mary Andy's story while also weaving in details of the religious sister's life, from taking care of the convent to gathering in the chapel for prayer, Adoration, and the Sacraments. Each page is a reflection of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal's commitment to serving Christ in the poor.

The Little Convent in the Big City books are written by Mother Clare Matthiass, CFR and illustrated by acclaimed Catholic illustrator, Michael Corsini. Mother Clare and the other Sisters of the Renewal hope that the books will tell Catholic kids loud and clear, that there are still religious sisters in the world and that it is a beautiful and joyous vocation.

*The Unsolvable Problem* is available in both hardcover and paperback at [littleconvent.com](http://littleconvent.com). You can also visit the website to sponsor second grade classrooms by donating copies.

OPT

## SYNODAL PROCESS

Con't from page 1

group to reflect on our experiences of Church and to share in the worldwide consultation process in preparation for the Synod of Bishops," Anderson said.

"There was also the catechetical goal of helping our group understand more fully our connection to the wider Church, including our communion with our local Archbishop, Cardinal Gregory, and with the Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis."

The students' participation in responding to the adapted synodal questions dovetailed with the parish's synodal listening sessions for adults. During four online gatherings last winter, parishioners responded to questions developed by the Archdiocese of Washington to address the synodal themes.

To adapt the questions for students with special needs, Anderson and her four catechists introduced the synod process during the February class and previewed the questions for the first theme. Students were invited to reflect on those questions and bring their responses to the March class. At the next class, the students shared their responses and then introduced the questions for the next theme.

Julie Wilhelm, whose 23-year-old son Matt is in the Special Needs Catechesis class, used tools from the Picture Exchange Communication System, which assigns a picture to a word, to communicate his thoughts. By cutting and pasting these pictures on a piece of paper, Matt formed sentences in response to the synodal questions.

Wilhelm praised Anderson's approach to adapting the material for her son and his peers,

saying the experience made her feel like she and Matt were heard.

"[Susan] is so open to how each of her students can participate," Wilhelm said. "Whatever our kids can do, she gets our kids and supports them."



**Thirteen-year-old parishioner Elijah Egan extinguishes the candles on the altar after the 11:15 am Mass on August 14. Egan, who is autistic, attends the St. Francis of Assisi Parish's Special Needs Catechesis class and recently took part in responding to questions that are part of the Synod on Synodality.**

After the students' synodal discussions concluded in May, Anderson compiled some of the resources her team used and the students' responses in a booklet for the archdiocese. When Cardinal Gregory celebrated one of the parish's 50th anniversary Masses at St. Francis on May 29, pastor Fr. John Dillon presented the compilation to him.

The archdiocesan staff submitted the document to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which, in turn, submitted the document to the Vatican. The document is now one of multiple tools represented on a web site featuring Vatican synodal resources; it can be viewed at [www.synodresources.org/resources/](http://www.synodresources.org/resources/).

Anderson said she was "very surprised" to learn the resource was chosen to be on the Vatican's synodal resource page, but believed it was picked for two reasons: it demonstrated engagement with a community that often sits on the margins and told a narrative of how the synod process could be integrated into existing ministry.

She said she hopes the synodal process demonstrated to the students and their families that they have an integral connection with the universal Church.

"Each of us, as baptized members of the Church, are part of the Body of Christ, called to spread the Good News," Anderson said. "I hope our students, families and catechists were affirmed in their understanding of this."

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## Endings and Beginning

By Patricia McGann

September – a time of endings and beginnings. For many of us, the end of a long, lazy summer – the end of popsicles, lightning bugs, and sand between our toes. Then there are the more significant endings-beginnings. My neighbor is preparing to take his only son to college on Friday. His son is spending every waking moment with his high school friends – finding it hard to believe they won't be together like this ever again. His mom and dad are starting to realize the inevitability of the new life they begin as their boy steps out into a world that they do not know. The idea that they are no longer his guides – his safety net – after filling that role for every minute of the last eighteen years will hit all of them hard as they drive away from their boy. There will be tears.

Young mothers and fathers drive by the doors to the preschool wondering if, when the "first day" comes, they will have the courage to leave their little ones in the hands of strangers for as many as eight hours a day. They are excited for this new phase in their lives and their children's lives, but there will be tears on that first day – and not all of them will be the tears of little children.

Older boys and girls are shopping for school supplies, finishing up summer reading assignments, and wondering what the new school year will bring. Will they make new friends, and will their old friends still be friends? Will the teacher like them? Will the work be too hard? The nerves are starting to kick in for parents, too. Will the teacher recognize how smart their girl is, or will she let her sit silently



Patricia McGann

in the back of the room? Will the teacher appreciate their son's wit, or will she find him annoying? (He can be a little annoying.) Will their child make a friend, or will he eat lunch alone? On that first day back to school, palms will be sweating and hearts will be beating just a little faster, and while they might be shed in private, there will be tears.

Somewhere a mother fights the tears, not wanting her son to see, as he deploys to Somalia. Somewhere a daughter cries, holding her father's hand, as he begins his last journey. Somewhere a young couple heads to the hospital to welcome their first child, not realizing that in a few hours they will begin their real life – as a family.

Life is such a series of endings and beginnings that we don't really stop to think about how we handle them, and what they teach us – until we are older and have the time to look back.

It seems to me that God gives us these beginnings and endings, not to test us, but rather to teach us that every ending provides us with the opportunity to discover something new. The tragedies and losses reveal strength and fortitude that we didn't know we had. The happy miracles – a smooth adjustment to school for our children, a beautiful new baby, a great job, or a safe return home – they all remind us to be grateful for the gift of life itself. Our beginnings and endings prepare us, I think, for the moment when we will say goodbye to this life. There will be tears, but there will also be a perspective that allows us to end with grace, and to hold hope for what God has waiting for us.

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## CORRIGAN

*Con't from page 1*

Along with her parents, Frances Paola DiCesare (Tamburello) and Giuseppe DiCesare, and sister Rose Josephine Moran (DiCesare), she immigrated to the United States in December 1928.

They established their residence in Baltimore City and cared for many family members during the Great Depression. Her father worked as a foreman in the ship-building yards, managing the construction of ships for the World War II effort.

Her mother insisted on the highest of academic and Catholic instruction and at great expense enrolled her daughters in the Institute of Notre Dame, later matriculating through to the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Catherine graduated in 1944 and immediately found work in Baltimore teaching at Dundalk High School. In 1947 she moved to Bethesda to begin an independent life and career. Fluent in at least four languages, she worked at the Italian Embassy while taking graduate level courses at Catholic University including instruction from Fr. Hartke in the Arts and Drama school. She then began working as a teacher at another school in Silver Spring.

Catherine's positive, confident, and entrepreneurial spirit created The Woodlawn School of Bethesda in 1950. Located on five acres across from the National Institutes of Health, the school attracted the children of highly educated parents who needed a full-time daycare and school for their youngsters. The inspired success of Woodlawn School derived from a commitment to 7 am to 6 pm childcare as well as a rigorous education.

Catherine worked tirelessly many long days and nights as teacher, principal, custodian, costume maker, camp director and owner/operator growing the school into a year-round venture. With the help of Blanche Drennan ("Miss Teadie"), The Woodlawn School Summer Camp launched with the addition of a large swimming pool, an event stage platform for plays and musicals as well as horseback riding events. A pioneer in childhood education, she was fondly known as "Miss Kitty." She worked continuously until retirement in 1990.

Catherine married John Joseph Francis Corrigan in 1964 at St. Jane Frances de Chantal. They met in late 1962 at the Army/Navy Club in Washington, DC. John was a veteran of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force.

In May of 1965, uncertain that she could have children at the age of 44, she adopted Michael. Eight months later in January 1966, she gave birth to John. In March



Catherine DiCesare Corrigan, 1921-2022

1967, Maria was adopted; in December 1968, Frances.

When Woodlawn School started it was grades k-8, but it became apparent to Miss Kitty that the greatest need was for the youngest children. She created two grades before kindergarten. Nursery and Prenursery. The entrance exam was going to the bathroom by yourself. By 1970 the school, located on five acres next to Ayrilawn Park, went only to third grade. It was co-ed. The enrollment fluctuated between 150 and 190. In 1990 after 40 years of running the school, she retired and sold the land to Mitchell and Best. They built 20 houses on the land on what is now Trafton Place. An interesting note is that that was not the first location for the school, which was originally on Old Georgetown Road on the land now occupied by Congregation Beth El. In 1954, Miss Kitty swapped her land for Mr. Marx's land next to Ayrilawn.

Woodlawn School's approach was to make each child's time from 7am until 6pm productive and fun. It was daycare from 7-9, school from 9-3, and then after-school from 3-6. In the summer it was camp. The school only closed for the Federal holidays. There were students who would come just when their own schools were closed for Christmas or the summer. Woodlawn closed after 40 years because Miss Kitty wanted to retire at age 70.

When they lived on the school grounds, the Corrigan boys went on to St. Anselm's Abbey School and their sisters attended Immaculata Preparatory School, which closed in 1991.

Throughout her 100 years, Catherine radiated a positive warmth and a zest for life to all fortunate enough to meet her. Every person she met came away feeling uplifted and genuinely loved by her. Her laugh was loud and infectious and the life of the party. She hosted many parties and gatherings. Her generosity was boundless (especially with food) and inspired her children to act the same. But if you asked Catherine her greatest strengths, she would always point to the Blessed Mother, her patron saint, St. Anne de Beaupre and her beloved Padre Pio.

Requiescat in Pace

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## 2022 CSO Teacher Initiative Grant Award

Victoria Posner, Mary of Nazareth's STREAM Coordinator and teacher, won the 2022 Catholic Schools Office Teacher Initiative Grant. The award includes \$1000 for a "Maker Space Upgrade" which will help streamline the lab that helps foster student's love for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth students in the STREAM Lab



## New Updates for the New School Year



Mary of Nazareth is excited to enter the new school year with some brand-new updates to the facilities. Installation of energy efficient and cost-effective lighting took place over the summer along with the integration of a top-of-the-line security system thanks to a Maryland Safety Grant. New intercom systems and projector screen are some other additions to the school facilities.

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The new PA system purchased through the MD School Safety Grant.

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School



Welcome back,  
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## Cotillion at Mary of Nazareth School

Mary of Nazareth School is offering Cotillion classes which is an introduction to ballroom dancing and social grace training for eighth grade boys and girls. Students enjoy the opportunity to learn basic dance steps and etiquette skills from professional instructors.

Registration opens August 11 and runs through September 1. Space is limited. View dates here: [www.maryofnazareth.org/student-life/cotillion/](http://www.maryofnazareth.org/student-life/cotillion/)

Contact Paola Ortiz at [portiz@maryofnazareth.org](mailto:portiz@maryofnazareth.org) with any questions.

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## ATTENTION ALL GOLFERS

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# Reaching out to Help Ukrainian Families

Over 180 volunteers rallied together on June 25th at St. Mary's School and Parish in Rockville to assemble 41,000 vacuum-sealed meals consisting of rice, dried vegetable seasoning, beans, soy and vitamins as well as breakfast meals consisting of cinnamon and apple oatmeal for Ukrainian refugees in Poland and Hungary. The meals were assembled by the volunteers with guidance from The Outreach Program. The boxes of meals were flown over to Poland and Hungary by Convoy of Hope. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event such a huge success and those that financially supported the event with over \$18,000 in donations. We continue to pray for an end to the war in the Ukraine and a conversion of heart for the leaders in Russia.

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Above, St. Mary's School students giving their time to help families in Ukraine.

At right, our Deacon and our priests were there to support the cause.



Above, St. Mary's Parishioners bring their love and their smiles to help others around the world.

## St. Mary's Parish

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## Parent Volunteers Help Freshen up St. Mary's Campus

Parents from the St. Mary's community braved the heat to provide some sprucing up around campus. They completed projects around the playground, landscaping, and even painting several of the classrooms. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped us to be good stewards of our resources and spaces. It will great to welcome students back this fall to a beautiful school.

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Dads ready to get to work!



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## St. Mary's Students Gather for a Midsummer Block Party



Students young and old get in on the fun.



The St. Mary's gym was bustling with activities.

St. Mary's families, new and old, gathered on Wednesday, August 10 for midsummer block party. Though weather kept the event inside, no fun was lost. Families enjoyed food, games, crafts and fellowship. It was a great opportunity

for old friends to reconnect before the school year, as well as for new students to get to know the community. We'll look forward to rescheduling some of the outdoor activities planned for our back to school picnic in September.

OPT





Avalon students and chaperones stand before the Baldacchino in St. Peter's Basilica during their summer trip to Rome and Assisi.

## Avalon Group Takes First Trip to Rome

By Deacon Bob Vince

In June 2022, the men of The Avalon School sent a delegation to Assisi and Rome. Our group was led by Kevin Oriani, Avalon's Latin teacher, and Pro-Rome's guide, Brendan McGlone.

While in Rome, we resided at the top of Via delle Fornaci near the Janiculum Hill. It was a beautiful place for early risers to meet each morning's sunrise with the daily office and every evening in prayer for the next day's promising agenda.

Our students visited the Tomb of St. Peter, which is in the depths of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican Necropolis. From the Scavi beneath, we all climbed to the top of the Dome of St. Peter's Basilica, with a breathtaking view of Vatican City and Rome. Visits to the Colosseum, the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, and to Anzio Beach provided

historical perspectives through the centuries.

In Assisi, where God invited St Francis to "go and rebuild my church which, as you see, is falling down," we attended an evening Mass in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. There we encountered Blessed Carlo Acutis, who was just 15 when he died in Assisi of leukemia in 2006. He lies in repose, in a tomb with a glass window, in his preferred wardrobe of Nikes, jeans, and a sweater. Pope Francis called him "a witness for young people that true happiness is found when one puts God first;" and he is a profound witness for our fellow travelers of this generation.

We returned through Rome invigorated from our travels, with our adventures and time with the Saints reminding us that as we are surrounded by a crowd of witnesses, we can persevere in sharing our faith with our family and friends here in the Archdiocese of Washington.

OPT

## RESOLUTIONS

Con't from page 1

back. As a priest, I can assure you that the school schedule — the idea that September begins a "new year" — dominates our lives as well.

My perspective of summer has changed through the years. As a child, Memorial Day was the beginning of summer, which was a time filled with swimming, tennis, staying up late and sleeping late, and just having a great time with family and friends in our Bethesda neighborhood. I loved it.

After college and almost 50 years in the priesthood, summer for me is more a period of weeks from July 4th to early August. In the life of a priest and a parish, June is when many important events and moments are still finishing — graduations, ordinations and other celebrations that bring the school year to a close. In the schools themselves, faculty meetings, in-service days, and other preparations for the next year take place.

By the time July 4th rolls around, the school year, religious education year, sacraments, ordinations and graduations have come to an end. Parish life begins to slow a little bit. August arrives before you know it, and you need to start planning for the year to come.

As I write this in mid-August, I am watching our new pastor at St. Bartholomew's, Father Mark Smith, do just that. He has a

vision for the spirituality of our parish, hopes for how we can become more active in the Eucharist and other goals. All of that begins taking shape in August as he shares his hopes and plans with parishioners and parish committees.

This goes on in parishes throughout the archdiocese. There are meetings, preparation and countless efforts being made to ensure that parish and school life, which will begin again wholeheartedly around Labor Day, will flourish throughout the year.

This rhythm of life revolving around the school calendar may or may not resonate with you, but I suspect it does for most of us. In our personal and professional lives, September is a time of new seasons, new projects and a return to a typical schedule.

Let's use the end of summer to enjoy any remaining vacations and relaxation time, but let's also think about the year to come and what God may be calling us to do. What are your hopes for yourself and your family? How will your life change as you return to school and work? And most importantly, how will your faith guide and challenge you as you plan for the future?

We normally make resolutions when the calendar year changes, but maybe we should think about "School Year" resolutions as well. Now is a great opportunity to reflect on our hopes, dreams and goals for the next nine to 10 months. May they be a time of blessings, growth, success and being the people God wants us to be.

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## A Lively OLOL Summer

**W**hen the last day of school arrived June 13, the doors at Our Lady of Lourdes School did not close for the summer.

The doors were kept wide open for students to enjoy camp activities at the school throughout June, July, and August. A Long Summer Day Camp was offered to boys and girls entering 1st through 8th grade. The camp offered "fun-packed" days. The daily routine included a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, laser tag, flag football and of course afternoons filled with water activities and games. Water slides were a fixture on the sports field for those sweltering days of July and August!

The second camp offered at Lourdes was the Lifelong Scholars Camp, for students entering Pre-K through third grade. The camp was broken down into Science Week, Lego Town Week, and Animal Planet Week and incorporated the following into each weeks' activities: reading and math support and enrichment, STEM and project-based learning, phonics and writing skills, read alouds/literacy advancement, as well as small group work in language arts and math. In science week, students learned about famous scientists as well as about children inventors, performed experiments, and created new projects with a variety of tools. During Lego Week the theme was "Building a Lego Town!", which integrated reading, writing,



Young scientists enjoy OLOL's Lifelong Scholars Camp.

and math into community themed activities.

The summer activities at Our Lady of Lourdes School brought both the simple fun activities that bring summer joy as well as scholarly pursuits to keep the days interesting and full of learning. Great memories were gained by all who attended.

OPT

## Women of Lourdes Walking with Purpose

**T**he Our Lady of Lourdes Walking with Purpose women's Bible study completed another successful year. About 40 women completed the year's weekly meetings. Group members are of all ages and stages, from 20s to 70s.

Group leader Tiffany Cissna shares that "Walking with Purpose is a beautiful ministry

that gives women an opportunity to receive spiritual nourishment through learning and living Scripture together. The other small group leaders and I have personally experienced the ministry's blessings and feel called to share them with our parish. Though, we just make space, God does all the work!" Group members cited their gratitude for a space in which to share and deepen their faith alongside other women.

*Continued on page 16*

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Members of Walking with Purpose enjoy their end-of-year gathering.

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**Fr. Walsh, Pastor**  
301-654-1287

**Mr. David Long**  
Assistant Principal  
301-654-5376

**More Our Lady of Lourdes  
on Page 9**



## Our Lady of Lourdes



Ten Our Lady of Lourdes parishioners accompanied Father Rob Walsh to Mexico City for the second parish mission trip in June 2022. Parishioners worked with Hope of the Poor, and they served residents in some of the poorest areas of the city.



IACA INVITES YOU TO THE

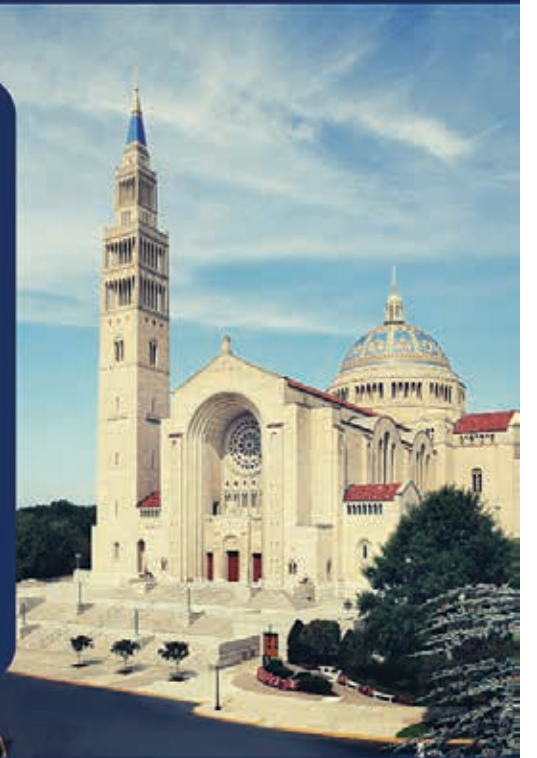
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# Fresh Faces and Old Friends in New Spaces

We are excited to welcome many new-bees to the Saint Bernadette School hive for the 2022-2023 school year! Anna Adhis joined us this summer as our office manager, and she has been busy this month getting our teachers ready for the new school year. Keysha Kerdock joins us as the pre-K teaching assistant and her daughter will be joining us as a Sixth-grade student. Christina Ramos joins us as Resource teacher, and she, like many of our students, calls our Woodmoor neighborhood home! Kristie Weatherby, a school parent, becomes our development director and will continue to support our classrooms as a substitute teacher.

While we are welcoming our new

friends, we are also welcoming a few familiar faces into new roles for this school year: Julie Lang, previously a fourth-grade teacher, will be moving to fifth grade, replacing Margaret Rodriguez, who will be wearing multiple hats as both the assistant principal and resource director. Shannon Calice, previously a second-grade teacher, will return to the fourth grade. Max McLaughlin, who was a Teaching Assistant in our Resource department, makes his teaching debut in the third grade as Anne Goudreau, previously a third-grade teacher, moves to the Resource department. Erin Fridley, previously the second-grade teaching assistant enrollment manager, will be a first year teacher in our second grade.

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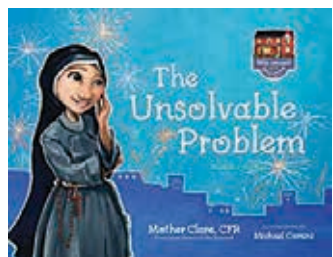
## St. Bernadette Parish

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

Erin Fridley, OPT Editor  
301-593-5611



See article page 3  
about the new series of  
children's books, the Little  
Convent in the Big City.

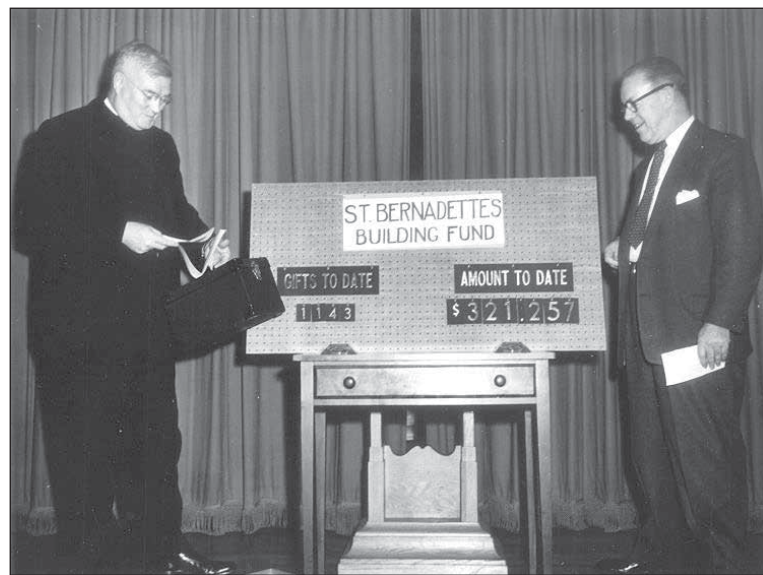


The first eighth-grade class, the class of 1951, graduates on the steps of the School Hall.

## St. Bernadette School Celebrates 75 Years

In the 1940s, there was a farm along University Boulevard in Silver Spring that provided land for houses to pop up. Saint Bernadette was established as a mission church in the diocese of Baltimore in 1944 on one of the remaining parcels of land. Three years later, as the Archdiocese of Washington expanded into Montgomery County, Saint Bernadette's Parish consisted of 250 families. With this large number of dedicated, involved, and faith-filled followers, the pastor Father Kennedy decided that Four Corners needed a school, convent and additional facilities to provide for the ever-growing Catholic community.

The school opened to kindergarten, first, second and third graders on September 8, 1947, with four sisters from the Third Order of St. Francis. Today, Saint Bernadette School educates over 300 students each



Saint Bernadette School's original building fund.

year from pre-Kindergarten 4's to Eighth grade and continues the tradition of academic excellence in a faith-nurturing environment. Our school's 75th Anniversary will be part of our fall festival weekend on October 22, 2022, and we invite all

our graduates, school parents and parishioners to join us in celebration of Saint Bernadette School, past and present. For more information, please visit [sbs75.squarespace.com](http://sbs75.squarespace.com).

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## Building a Culture of Life

On July 29, Our Lady of Lourdes parish presented a Building a Culture of Life panel, in which several parishioners presented the federal, state and county, and local aspects of this topic. Helen Alvarez, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Robert A. Levy Endowed Chair in Law and Liberty, GMU Scalia Law School, described the implications of the recent Supreme Court Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health decision, which reserved its earlier Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey decisions.

Kathy Kelly, a librarian and records manager who also serves as director for Democrats for Life of Maryland, described current Maryland and Montgomery County abortion politics, illustrating effective ways to engage politics, especially in preparation for warding off a proposed amendment to Maryland's Constitution next legislative session which would declare abortion a fundamental right.

Jill Gadwood, the Bethesda coordinator of 40 Days for Life, described the 40 Days for Life prayer campaigns occurring outside



L-R: Katy Kelly, Shaohannah Faith, Helen Alvarez, Jill Gadwood

abortion facilities in the County, and she also described her work as an Angel Friend with the Gabriel Project Cluster of Montgomery County, an all-volunteer organization helping needy women facing crisis pregnancies and their children.

Shaohannah Faith, Students for Life Capital Area Regional Coordinator, also spoke briefly about her pro-life political and public policy work, and her organization's efforts at the local and state levels to represent the growing Pro-Life generation in the DC and Maryland areas.

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# Simplicity, Joy, and Tomatoes

By John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

St. Paul is in Damascus, which was a farming community just a few decades ago. The parish was founded in the sprawl of Washington, when government workers moved farther and farther outside the city – lawyers and professionals and scientists among the farmers, and Catholics among the Methodists. Today, there are many parishioners who grew up on farms, but none who are still farmers.

We do still have some connections to our agricultural roots. For one, just north of town, there's a produce stand – Watkins



Brian Stone stands next to the kissing booth, an untested fundraiser. Photo by JCOK

ing north and west. The farm belonged to one of the oldest families on the area, the Watkins family; after several sales, most of the land became park property.

The old tavern was on its way back to the dust from which it had sprung when Brian Stone bought it. He and his family have been parishioners for decades. When he retired from the police force, he had had enough trouble and bad news; he wanted some happiness. So he wrestled a wreck back to life, and started providing good old Maryland-grown food to delight-

House Produce – at the edge of an old farm, in the building that was once the tavern on the road reach-

Continued on page 34



Greg Cummings, father of ten, strolls through the parish picnic, grinning. St. Paul – the northernmost parish in the archdiocese, situated at the highest point in the county – celebrates its 65th year. Photo from parish archive

## Welcoming the prophetic voices of children

By John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

St. Paul's is experiencing a population explosion. We have kids all over the place, at all Masses, Sunday and daily – babies, toddlers, monkeys, pre-teens, teens – each one bringing a unique and perhaps distracting worldview, bristling and bothersome, challenging our ability to hear the Lord in a bustling world.

Charles Williams, a friend of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, wrote about noisy babies. What's the difference between the crying of a baby and the probing of Socrates,

compared to the wisdom of God? Both are pathetic little efforts to

Continued on page 22

### Corpus Christi procession

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, the bishops of America launched a program to strengthen devotion to the Eucharist. It's a three-year program, designed to "rekindle in the hearts of the people a love for the Eucharist, to know the Eucharist better and to see the fruits of the Eucharist, as well, as we are sent out into mission," says Fr. Juan Guido, a spokesman for the bishops' initiative. St. Paul responded to the nation-wide invitation with a Corpus Christi procession – a public procession honoring the Lord present in the Eucharist. Photo from parish archive



**St. Paul Catholic Church**  
9250E Damascus Road  
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**Msgr. Edward Filardi**  
Pastor  
301- 253-2027

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OPT Editor  
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# St. Jane de Chantal Parish Welcomes Fr. Andrew Clyne

*An introduction to Fr. Andrew Clyne by Fr. Andrew Clyne*

While I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you in my first few weeks here at St. Jane de Chantal, for those whom I have not met, allow me to introduce myself: I am Fr. Andrew Clyne, the new parochial vicar of the parish, four years a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington.

I was ordained to the priesthood in June of 2018, and my first ministerial assignment was as parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer in College Park, Maryland, where I have been up until my reassignment here. Prior to that I spent six years in formation, first at St. John Paul II Seminary



Fr. Clyne has been an ordained priest for four years. St. Jane de Chantal is his second parish post.

for two years, and then at Theological College for four years, both seminaries adjacent to The Catholic University of America, where I did my coursework.

Prior to seminary studies, I did graduate work in theology at The Catholic University of America, and at Duke University. And before that I attended Catholic University for college, graduating in 2008.

When people ask me the question where I grew up, I have to more or less respond, all over! I was born in New Jersey, but then moved when I was very little to Connecticut, then to southern California, then Tokyo, Japan, then back to California, and then finally here to the D.C. area to start college; as I said, all over.

I'm a big fan of movies and books, and anyone who brings up either in my presence runs the risk of hearing me chattering on about them incessantly.

I am grateful for the opportunity afforded me to serve all of you here at St. Jane de Chantal Parish and I look forward to getting to know each of you personally in the weeks and months ahead.

God Bless, Fr. Andrew

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## St. Jane de Chantal Parish

9601 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD

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

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

Michelle D'Amour Flynn  
OPT Editor



Families gathered to pray the rosary to show support for their beloved church after the vandalism and arson.

## St. Jane de Chantal Turns Violent Attack into a Chance for Prayer and Healing

*The Parish celebrated Masses and group prayer to heal after the vandalism and arson of their church in July*

By Michelle Flynn

Early morning on Sunday July 10, St. Jane de Chantal's pastor, Fr. Giese was alerted by the church's fire detection system because of fires set inside the church. In addition to multiple fires started inside, Fr. Giese explained to the congregation, "Statues

were thrown down, books shredded, the Stations of the Cross pulled off the walls, the tabernacle desecrated. It is a horrific event for us as a church." The following day, cleanup crews were on campus to start cleaning and restoring the church and Montgomery County Police were also on site investigating

*Continued on page 30*

## St. Jane de Chantal School Starts the Year Ready with Exciting New Programs

*DeChantal School Joins International Exchange Program, Offers New Culture and STEM Programs, and Welcomes New Teachers*

By Catherine Tomsbeck

St. Jane de Chantal begins the 2022-23 School Year with a new international exchange program, a new French after-school program, a new STEM initiative and three new teachers.

In the spring of 2022, Saint Dennis International School – France selected St. Jane de Chantal to be part of their U.S. cultural exchange program. This long-standing program offers De Chantal Students in grades Seven and Eight the chance to

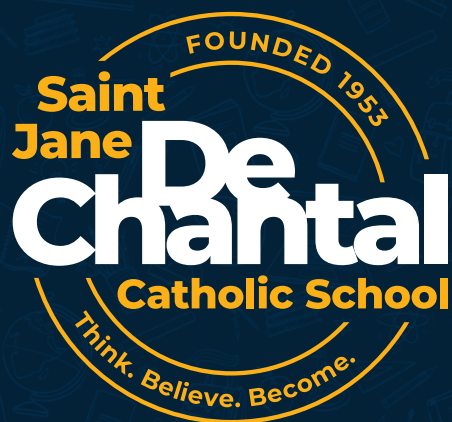


As well as nurturing their student's faith, De Chantal School is proud of their STEM curriculum.

live and study at the Saint Dennis International School in Loches, France. As a participating school, De Chantal will host students from Saint Dennis International during the winter and spring semester each school year. Interested families should contact Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton at [ehamilton@dechantal.org](mailto:ehamilton@dechantal.org).

An exciting addition to De Chantal after-school activities, for the 2022-23 school year, is *My French Class*. This well-regarded French

*Continued on page 29*



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## St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality Guild Tribute

On May 4, 2022, the Sodality at de Chantal held their regular general Meeting after an evening Mass celebrated by Fr. Samuel Giese. This May meeting routinely recognizes the Junior Sodalist essay winners from eighth grade with scholarship monies for local Catholic high schools. This year's winners were Sydney Townsend in first place, and Colette Johnson in second place. As Junior Sodalists under the direction of Kate Beers, these students also participat-



Helen Bollwerk, standing next to a garden statue of Our Lady, was recognized for many years of service by incoming President Anne Yockel.

*Continued on page 33*





On June 5, 2022 founding members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish stand on the altar with pastor Fr. John Dillon after one of the parish's Masses celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an archdiocesan parish. Celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, the liturgy included parishioners representing different ethnic groups reading the Prayers of the Faithful in their native languages and an acknowledgment of all longtime parishioners who were in attendance.

## On its 50th Anniversary, St. Francis of Assisi Parish Celebrates the Gifts of Its Pastors and Members

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

When recalling the early years of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Letty Deorio remembered a communal spirit pervasive among the 300 families who left Catholic congregations in 1972 to establish the new faith community in

Derwood, Md. That mentality extended to women pitching in to clean the church every three weeks, iron and wash the altar cloths, and forage for flowers.

"I had an Avon route, and if anyone had flowers in their yard, then I would make a couple of

*Continued on page 15*

## As He Continues His Journey to Christian Adulthood, Fr. Okulewicz Becomes St. Francis' New Parochial Vicar

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

At the age of 32, the newly ordained Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz has already completed several journeys experienced by few of his contemporaries. But the most important one – the ongoing journey to be a fully formed Christian adult – is one he continues to tread, as he takes on his new role as parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood, MD.

Having arrived full-time at the suburban parish on July 23, Fr. Okulewicz comes with an interesting resume. A native of Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland, he is the

*Continued on page 27*



On August 13, St. Francis of Assisi Pastor Fr. John Dillon and video producer Alexander Scaltrito watch a recording of video footage shot in preparation for a recorded interview with new Parochial Vicar Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz. Fr. G is standing in the background, while video producer Guy Federico stands in the foreground.



From left to right, Deacon Will Garcia, Fr. John Dillon, Acolyte Matt Konieczny, and parishioners Mary Polissedjian and Doris Chung enjoy the reception following the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Mass celebrated by Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory at St. Francis of Assisi Church on May 29. Cardinal Gregory also blessed the parish's elevator and Mary Grotto and greeted parishioners during his visit to the parish.

### St. Francis of Assisi Parish

6701 Muncaster Mill Road  
Derwood, MD

**Rev. John J. Dillon**  
Pastor  
301-840-1407

**Melissa M. Egan**  
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# Holy Cross Teacher Recognized as Teacher of the Year

**M**rs. Patricia Holt, who teaches fourth-grade math, social studies, reading, and spelling, as well as fifth-grade social studies and religion at Holy Cross School, was one of four Catholic school teachers recognized as “Teacher of the Year” by the Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council in May. Mrs. Holt has been teaching with the Archdiocese of Washington since 2005 and joined Holy Cross School in 2011.

Mrs. Holt was nominated by several of her students who describe her as “a one-of-a-kind teacher who leaves a lasting impression on each student” and someone who “brings each child closer to Christ and the Holy Family through prayer, Mass, and good works.” Her students described her meticulous planning to create lessons that are engaging and accessible to all students,



Mrs. Patricia Holt is pictured here last year collaborating with two of her students.

and how she inspires a collaborative learning experience implemented with dedication and patience.

A devout faith and a devotion to the Our Blessed Mother, which she attributes to her parents, is at the center of everything Mrs. Holt does as a teacher. “I keep in mind that each of my students is a precious child in the eyes of God and their parents, and it is equally important that Jesus sees me through the eyes of all of my students.”

“Mrs. Holt embodies all of the attributes we hold dear at Holy Cross School. She truly provides her students with an education that nurtures the spirit as well as the mind,” Principal, Mrs. Lisa Kane, added. “We are grateful to the Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council for recognizing her contributions to her students and their families.”

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## Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue,  
Garrett Park, MD

**Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor**  
301-942-1020

## Holy Cross School

**Lisa Maio Kane, Principal**  
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**Lurana Hogan, Parish Editor**  
l.hogan@hcross.org

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Above left, Our school mascot enjoyed the summer sun at the Jersey shore



Above right, Holy Cross families gear up for the school year at the annual uniform exchange in July.



At left, Students have fun on campus for a playground playdate arranged by the Home and School Association's leadership team.

## Holy Cross School Spirit Soars Over the Summer

**O**ver the summer months, Holy Cross School promoted family engagement and connection in many ways to maintain its strong sense of community!

The Summer Spirit program encouraged families to share a photo to be posted on social media of their student or family enjoying a summer adventure with a special prop designed with the school logo and our “Always Be Kind” motto. Photos have been received from all over the world, from the shores of the African coast to the sunny skies of California. Not all of the photos were from far flung destinations, however. Our school community enjoyed seeing photos from backyard get-togethers and of students participating in summer swim teams at their local pools.

Faculty even got in on the fun by sharing photos from local concerts and of vacations to Italy, Ireland, and hiking in the Sierra Nevadas! The Holy Cross School hawk mascot even shared a spirit photo while vacationing at the Jersey Shore! Christine



The Holy Cross Schools message, “Always be kind,” traveled around the globe this summer!

Zalewski, Director of Development and Admissions states, “Social media plays an important role in keeping our families connected and helps to showcase our diversity and our close-knit community. It was great fun to see a variety of photos of students and faculty sharing their Holy Cross summer spirit!”

Holy Cross School also organized several playground playdates by grade to provide families with the opportunity to connect on campus. The

events were hosted by faculty members and the Home and School Association leadership team. Julia Bueno, parent and PreK-3 teacher states, “I love how the playdates allowed returning families to reconnect on familiar ground while offering new families the chance to meet other parents and learn the ins and outs of school specifics from veteran parents. Students loved seeing their old friends and making new friends during the event. Holy Cross is so good at fostering a warm and welcoming environment. I remember being that new parent—my head was full of questions, and it was so nice to meet people before the start of the school year. The playground playdates really help to foster a sense of connection and security.”

In addition to planning many exciting events for the coming school year and facilitating summer playground playdates, the Home and School Association held a successful uniform exchange at the end of July. The uniform exchange recycled gently used uniforms and made them available for all families to stop by to pick up what they need to supplement their uniform wardrobes. This free community driven event helps all families keep the cost of attending Holy Cross as low as possible.

We are so thankful for our wonderful school community and know that the 2022-2023 school year will be amazing!

OPT



A Holy Cross family showed their school spirit while traveling.



## ANNIVERSARY

Con't from page 13

bouquets for the altar," Deorio said.

During one of its 50th Anniversary Masses on June 5, the parish community whose church once sat in the middle of a cornfield showed a different kind of bounty: a building filled with people of varying hues, singing, praying, and worshipping around the altar adorned with the Resurrection Cross – a sacred reflection of the joy felt by those in attendance.

In his Homily before the congregation, Fr. John Dillon – the sixth and current pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish – focused on the gifts of the Holy Spirit to celebrate the liturgy coinciding with Pentecost.

"The Holy Spirit remains with us and wants us to use our gifts," Fr. Dillon said. "These gifts help us to call us on our journey – they are meant to be shared."

Decreed on May 25, 1972, by Archbishop Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, the new parish drew from the boundaries of St. Peter's in Olney, St. Martin's in Gaithersburg, and St. Mary's and St. Patrick's in Rockville. Founding pastor Fr. John Stack celebrated the parish's first Mass in the Redland Middle School gymnasium – next door to the future church – on June 4, 1972, amid basketball hoops and a picture of a gorilla, then the school's mascot. The present church building was dedicated on October 4, 1975.

Over the last half century, the parish's membership ballooned to as many as 1,700 families and has decreased to its current 1,400 families. Under the pastoral leader-

ship of Fr. Stack, Fr. Andre Bouchard, Fr. Donald P. Worch, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Fr. David W. Beaubien, and Fr. Dillon, the parish continues a twinning partnership with Conversion of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Léon, Haiti, for over 30 years, operates a robust Religious Education program, and offers diverse music styles at its five week-end Masses. Over the past decade, it has also revitalized ministry life with the establishment of a Joyful Greeter Ministry and a Communications Ministry.

In addition to the anniversary liturgy and Parish Festival on June 5, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory commemorated the church's golden anniversary during a Mass held May 29. The parish festivities kicked off last fall at the Feast Day and Parish Picnic, continued with a tour of its Outdoor Prayer Spaces last spring and is culminating with a memorial tree fundraiser this fall.

Founding parishioner George Hicho, who lives in Bel Air, MD, joined St. Francis with his young family after moving to Mill Creek Town in 1965. A member of the parish's first Parish Council, Hicho said he recalls Fr. Stack putting parishioners in ministry roles that suited their strengths. "He said, 'We've got to keep this going to build this church for the people,'" Hicho said.

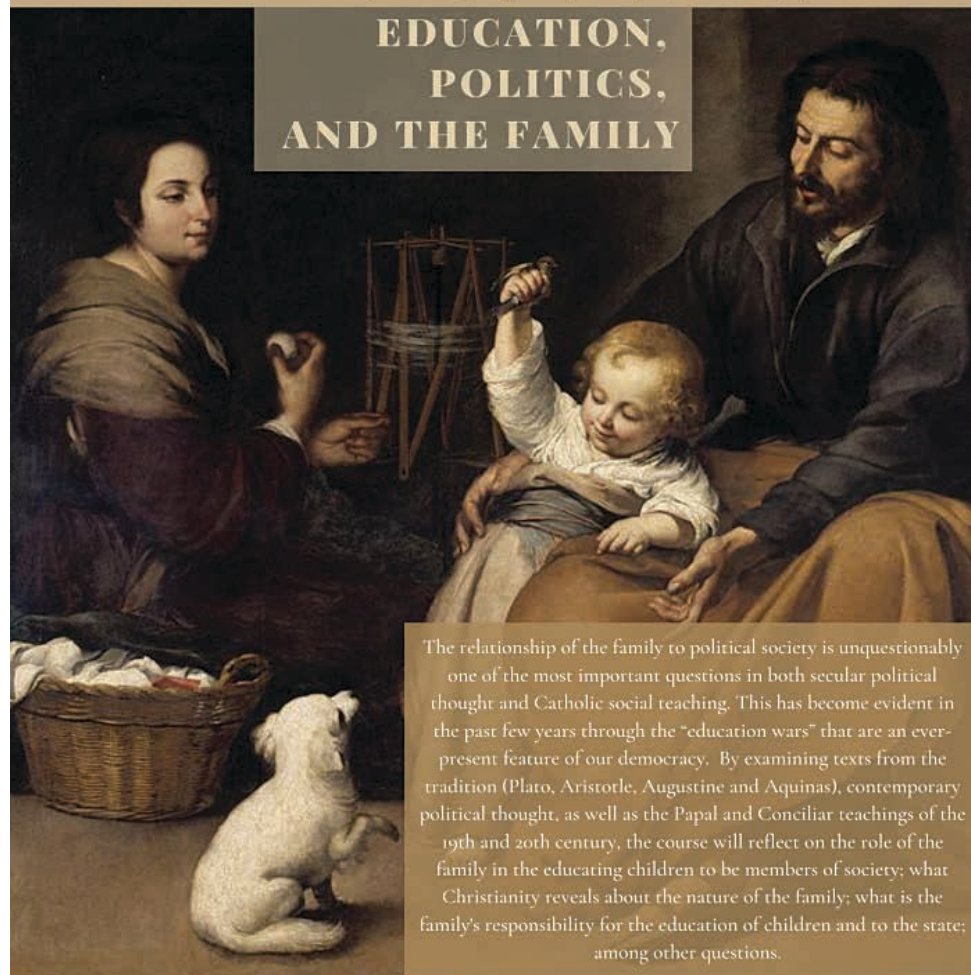
Hicho praised Fr. Dillon, who he said has done an "excellent job" helping the church transition to serving a more diverse demographic.

"To see new faces in the church, it's really encouraging," Hicho said. "My family was very proud to serve our Lord in that church."

OPT

## CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE WEDNESDAYS 6:30-8:30pm | Sep 7-Dec 7, 2022

### EDUCATION, POLITICS, AND THE FAMILY



The relationship of the family to political society is unquestionably one of the most important questions in both secular political thought and Catholic social teaching. This has become evident in the past few years through the "education wars" that are an ever-present feature of our democracy. By examining texts from the tradition (Plato, Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas), contemporary political thought, as well as the Papal and Conciliar teachings of the 19th and 20th century, the course will reflect on the role of the family in the educating children to be members of society; what Christianity reveals about the nature of the family; what the family's responsibility for the education of children and to the state; among other questions.



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**St. John the Evangelist Parish**

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Silver Spring, MD  
301-681-7663

**Rev. Joseph Calis,**  
Pastor

**St. John the Evangelist School**

**Shindana Crawford,**  
Principal  
301-681-7656

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

# SJE Welcomes New Principal

**S**t. John the Evangelist Catholic School welcomed a new principal, Ms. Shindana Crawford, on July 1, 2022. As Ms. Crawford takes the helm, she brings several decades of experience in Catholic education with her. Most recently, she served as the Assistant Principal for Student Life at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School in Takoma Park, Maryland. She has also teaching and administrative experience from her time at Holy Redeemer in College Park.

It was during her time at Holy Redeemer that Ms. Crawford converted to the Catholic faith. It is this same faith that will serve as the foundation for her leadership at St. John the



The St. John the Evangelist community welcomes Ms. Crawford!

of leading by example, I chose to do it with students and staff present. To share my love for Jesus and belief in the power of education at the same time is the perfect working scenario. Ultimately, my goal is to be an agent of meaningful growth and change in the lives of teachers and students. It will be an ongoing effort throughout the duration of my career as an educator. Holding on to a strong belief in faith, I look forward to continuing to serve the St. John the Evangelist community."

The entire SJE community welcomes Ms. Crawford and looks forward to and inspiring hearts and minds together!

OPT

Evangelist. "I was baptized into the Catholic faith while at HRS. I felt so strongly about the importance

ward to and inspiring hearts and minds together!



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The SJE team was able to meet Ms. Crawford back in June.

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## Back to School Reminders

**T**he end of summer means new beginnings at both the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and School. The children's liturgy will return in mid-September as part of the 10:30 a.m. mass. Children ages 3- first grade are welcome to participate. High school students seeking service hours can volunteer to help coordinate activities. See more information on the parish website. Parents seeking

to enroll their children in Religious Education for the 2022-2023 school year should email religious@sje-parish.org or take a form from the church vestibule. Finally, mark your calendars for the Parish and School Picnic on Saturday, September 10<sup>th</sup>. The afternoon will be full of food, games, and fellowship for all ages. The community event will conclude with the 4:30 p.m. mass in front of Mary's Garden.

OPT

## PURPOSE

Con't from page 8

One group member noted in the annual survey, "It pushed me to have a more consistent prayer life

which in turn improved everything else in my life."

Walking with Purpose will begin their next study, *Discovering Our Dignity*, on September 14. Veterans and new members are looking forward to another beautiful year!

OPT





St. Elizabeth's graduates from the class of 2022 assembled for one last class picture!

## Congratulations to the Saint Elizabeth School Class of 2022!

**W**e are incredibly proud of our newest group of alumni. This group of wonderful young leaders will soon begin their education at the top high schools in our country. Carry on St. Elizabeth graduates – you are St. E's Strong!

OPT

## Kindergarten Camp

**O**ne of the highlights of our summer was having incoming Kindergarten students with us for a week of camp! These campers met new friends, became familiar with daily routines, and got a taste of life as a Kindergarten student!

OPT

Welcome to the class of 2035!



Assistant Superintendent Denise Bell poses with Principal Mary Penny and Vice Principal Kristen Cocozzella.

## Summer Visitors at St. E's

**T**his summer we were visited by many people near and far! We especially loved our visit from Archdiocese of Washington Assistant Superintendent, Denise Ball. She is a joy to have around and we look forward to working with her throughout the school year!

OPT

### 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

### Heather Kerr

OPT Editor

301-881-1380

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**BROOKWOOD FOR GIRLS, K-12**  
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## SHORT

Con't from page 1

Paul entered a local group home and was making progress when the home suddenly closed. Yet another barrier to recovery could have been overwhelming. With God's grace and Paul's persevering leadership, the residents stayed in the house and managed their own sobriety, establishing rules for sober living among themselves. **This small group, living in a rented house in Silver Spring, was the humble beginning of the Oxford House Movement.** With the help of a young priest from Holy Cross Parish, Fr. Joaquin Bazan, today

there are more than 3000 Oxford Houses in the United States and abroad providing opportunities for once ruined lives to be salvaged. Paul and his co-founders faced their personal crises and the collapse of the treatment system supporting them with courage and innovation and envisioned a new and effective way to recovery. Those benefiting from their vision reclaim their lives, and some, thankfully for Paul Molloy, their families.

The Old Testament tells us of a loving and wise God who sent humanity prophets during chaotic and challenging times. I believe Paul Molloy was a prophet and a true "Street Saint".

On Father's Day, Rex Smith

passed away. Rex had four children but is remembered for providing loving care for thousands of Montgomery County youths who were abandoned, abused or ran afoul of the law. About the same time Paul Molloy was passionately advocating to improve addiction treatment services, Rex was a young probation officer struggling with an ineffective juvenile justice system. Just as he was beginning his heroic reform efforts, his young wife died suddenly leaving him to raise his young sons by himself. Personally and professionally, Rex faced a life changing time. With renewed commitment, he chose to take action to improve care for the vulnerable youth for whom he

deeply cared. Too many teens were being placed in decrepit and under-resourced reform schools without mental health and educational services needed to overcome their challenges. Most unacceptable to Rex was the lack of love and compassion provided for these children. A particularly unfair and ineffective practice of the time was to treat innocent and vulnerable abused and neglected children removed from their families, in the same place and manner as delinquent, often, violent children. Rex had a vision to make this situation better. With a few business and church volunteers, many of them Catholic including then County Executive James Gleason, Rex established an

organization called **Boy's Homes of Montgomery County to provide compassionate homes for troubled youth.** The first home opened in Rockville in 1968. Soon a home for girls was added in Silver Spring.

Rex Smith's prophetic vision resulted in a vastly improved juvenile justice system comprised of caring homes with essential supportive services throughout our county and the State of Maryland. The organization has aptly renamed itself, **Hearts and Homes for Youth.**

Paul Molloy and Rex Smith faced what David Gergen describes as crucibles of life in his recent book, "Hearts Touched with Fire". Gergen defines a **crucible of life as a time in the life of an individual or institution when multiple difficult and complex challenges converge at the same time often leading to profound individual or structural change.**

As we kick off a new season, many parishes are facing unprecedented, multiple and complex challenges. Gergen's description of a crucible! Severely stretched finances, aging facilities, lower Mass participation and parish engagement, older and more diverse parish populations, struggling Catholic schools, inadequate vocations, lingering effects of the pandemic, and discomfort with Church hierarchy have converged to create moments of truth and faith for individual parishioners as well as parish structures. Even blessed with dedicated and capable clergy and parish staff, these crucibles will not resolve themselves.

The urgent question is, **how will each of us as Catholics and our beloved parish community respond to the crucibles of today?** With prophetic vision, inspired by the teachings and life of Jesus and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, parishes can grow through this time of challenge. Yet, responding to God requires work and faithful participation. In the parable regarding false prophets (Matthew 7), Jesus tells us that the measure of our success will be as a vine that produces good fruit from new growth. Let's double down to help our parish measure up by producing the most delectable fruits. We will delve into this more specifically in future columns. Your emailed "prophesies" are welcome!

OPT

God Bless!  
Chuck Short  
cshort5@verizon.net



**See article on page 3 about the new series of children's books, the Little Convent in the Big City**

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# Parishioners Make a Vocational Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**M**embers of St. Martin's Neocatechumenal Way made a vocational pilgrimage to the Holy Land this summer. Mirroring the Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, the group started in Cairo and ended in Israel. Below several participants reflect on their experience.

**Kiara:** "The Pilgrimage to Egypt and Israel was so beautiful. Seeing how the city of Cairo was filled with poverty was sad and made me appreciate the style of living we have here. Climbing Mount Sinai was painful, but it was worth seeing the sunrise from a high view. My favorite part was getting re-baptized in the Jordan river. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and felt so much joy."

**Joshua:** "I'm 24 years old and this pilgrimage experience will be something I'll remember for the rest of my life. From climbing Mount Sinai and visit the actual places where Jesus was, where all the stories in the Gospel took place, it fills your heart with the knowledge that this is truly the truth. I was able to go at a point in my life where I'm growing older and pondering my vocation more, so to be able to experience this pilgrimage with questions in my heart made it all the more fulfilling. My favorite churches were in the Garden of Gethsemane and St. Peter in Gallicantu, places where Jesus went through great prayer and contem-

plation. I was able to do my deepest prayers there."

**Mark:** "I was a chaperone on the pilgrimage and found it a blessing but a challenge in many ways. It's a different experience trying to serve on a pilgrimage than going yourself. I was definitely challenged on this trip and found being a chaperone the perfect experience for me to learn a lot about myself, my pride and need for humility and my patience and limits."

"One of my favorite visits was Mount Sinai: the challenge of reaching the top, its beautiful view, and the beautiful monastery at its base. I also liked the mosque at site of Jesus' ascension. But, being a fisherman, the Sea of Galilee was really moving."

"In the end I have much to be

thankful for. Leaving Egypt and entering Israel was a great experience as we could feel the joy of entering a more beautiful place, truly the Promised Land. I never dreamt I would ever visit the Holy Land in my lifetime. I'm grateful for the opportunity despite being challenged by my weaknesses in keeping an eye on the youth and

helping with their needs. Every evening I think I fell asleep at our chaperone and itineraries meeting as we planned for the next day. In the end I lost a lot of weight, came back exhausted, but will be blessed for it."

OPT



Luis Saucedo is pictured with one of the herb gardens he constructed for senior citizens in the community to enjoy.

## St. Martin's Eagle Scouts

**B**SA Troop 926 congratulates Luis Saucedo and Mario Alvarenga on completing their Eagle Scout projects! Luis led an effort to build the two raised herb garden beds for residents at the Rockville Senior Center. Mario organized a project to build a fence at Croydon Creek Nature Center. Photos courtesy of Carrie Saucedo and Nelcys Menocal.



Mario Alvarenga and his fence at Croydon Creek Nature Center.



Campers enjoyed our STREAM-based Camp Crusade and participated in a School Readiness Program incorporating lessons and activities using math and reading skills, taught by several of our faculty. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

## St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. David G. Wells,  
Pastor

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	Freshman Class Size: 100 • Tuition: \$29,000 • Financial Aid Available					

 <b>Archbishop Carroll</b> Larry Savoy '93, President Elana Gilmore, Principal Judith Condezo, Director of Admissions <a href="mailto:admissions@achsc.org">admissions@achsc.org</a> 202-529-0900 ext 135 4300 Harewood Road, NE Washington, DC 20017	<b>CO-ED</b> Highly competitive athletic programs: Football, Basketball, Track & Field, Soccer, Volleyball and Baseball <b>WCAC</b> <b>LIONS</b> <b>Green &amp; Gold</b>	<b>SPECIALIZED Educational Programs</b> Jim Vance Media Program Project Lead the Way STEM/Engineering Fine Arts	<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>October 30</b> 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Early Application Deadline <b>DEC 9, 2022</b> Financial Aid Application Deadline <b>DEC 2022</b>	Early Admission Notification <b>FEB 17, 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2023
	Freshman Class Size: 130 • Tuition: \$16,791 • PRO DEO ET PATRIA • <a href="http://www.archbishopcarroll.org">www.archbishopcarroll.org</a>				

 <b>the Avalon School</b> R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President Kevin J. Davern Head of School Istvan Teleki Director of Admission 11811 Claridge Road, Wheaton, MD 20902 301-963-8022 <a href="http://www.avalonschools.org">www.avalonschools.org</a>	<b>Boys Grades K-12</b> Baseball Basketball Soccer <b>Competitive Athletics Program</b>	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	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday, November 6</b> 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Steps to Admission: • Application • Shadow Visit • Teacher Recommendation • Transcript • Family Interview	Application Deadline <b>Rolling Admission</b>	Notification of Admission <b>Rolling Admission</b>
	Avg. Class Size: 15 • K-2 Lower \$9,250 • 3-5 Elementary \$13,995 • 6-8 Middle \$15,450 • 9-12 Upper \$17,995					

 <b>Brookewood School</b> 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 <a href="http://www.brookewood.org">www.brookewood.org</a>	<b>Girls Grades K-12</b> Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Volleyball <b>Bengals</b> <b>Blue &amp; White</b>	College Prep • Small Classes • Personal Attention • Experiential Learning • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Actors Guild • Diverse Student Body • Fine Arts • Engaging Religion Curriculum	<b>Open House</b> <b>Brookewood's Open House is Saturday, October 29 from 1-3 p.m.</b>	Steps to Admission Shadow Visit Application Transcript Recommendation Family Interview	Freshman application deadline Jan. 12, 2023 Admission Notification Feb. 17, 2023	Rolling Admission for all other grades Financial aid deadline of Jan. 30, 2023
	Average Class Size: 14 • Tuition: Grades K-2 \$9,250 Grades 3-5 \$13,995 Grades 6-8 \$15,450 Grades 9-12 \$17,995 • For more information: Helen Williams 301-949-7997					

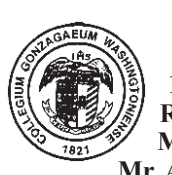
 <b>DeMatha Catholic High School</b> 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781 Fr. James Day, O.S.S.T., President Dr. Daniel McMahon, Principal Mr. Patrick Goulden, Admissions Director <a href="http://www.dematha.org">www.dematha.org</a> • 240-764-2210	<b>Boys</b> Wide range of co-curricular activities including 15 competitive interscholastic sports teams, and numerous clubs and organizations moderated by faculty. <b>Stags</b> <b>Red, White &amp; Blue</b>	<b>Curriculum</b> College Prep, Honors, Advanced Placement level courses to meet needs of a diverse student body.	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday, Nov. 6</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	Entrance Exam: Archdiocesan HSPT required	Freshman Application Deadline <b>December 15</b> Financial Aid Application Deadline <b>December 15</b>	Freshman Notification of Admission <b>Feb. 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due <b>Mid-March 2023</b>
	Freshman Class Size: 230 • Tuition: \$20,700 • Application / Financial Aid: Admissions Office 240-764-2211					


 <b>Elizabeth Seton High School</b> Dr. Lisa Grillo '89 President Rosalyn Cruz Director of Admissions 5715 Emerson Street Bladensburg, MD 20710 301-864-4532 <a href="http://www.setonhs.org">www.setonhs.org</a>	<b>Girls</b> Our athletic program fields 22 teams in 13 interscholastic sports. We offer over 30 clubs for extra-curricular participation. Washington Catholic Athletic Conference <b>Roadrunners</b> <b>Scarlet, Gold, and White</b>	<b>Pre-Career Programs</b> Engineering & Design Law, Health Science / Pharmacy, Entrepreneurship, Broadcast Journalism • AP & Honors Courses • Scholars Program • Small classes and personal attention	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday, November 6</b>	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan test results required. Schedule a student visit at <a href="http://setonhs.org/visit">setonhs.org/visit</a>	Application Deadline <b>December 8</b> Archdiocesan Financial Aid Application Required	Notification of Admission <b>February 16</b> Registration <b>March 10</b>
	Total Enrollment 535 Students • Tuition \$17,550					


 <b>Georgetown Preparatory School</b> 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852 <a href="http://www.gprep.org">www.gprep.org</a> 301-493-1215 Rev. James R. Van Dyke, S.J., President John Glennon Jr., Headmaster Brett Graham '92, Admissions Director	<b>Boys</b> <b>15 Interscholastic Sports</b> <b>Over 20 Clubs and Organizations</b> <b>Hoyas</b> <b>Blue &amp; Gray</b>	<b>College Placement:</b> Virginia Notre Dame Yale Georgetown Wake Forest Michigan	<b>Open House</b> Georgetown Prep will host its Open House on campus, Oct. 16, 12-3 p.m. Look for more information on the School's website <a href="http://www.gprep.org">www.gprep.org</a> .	<b>Admissions Process:</b> Please visit <a href="http://www.gprep.org">www.gprep.org</a> to set up your admissions account. Also, be sure to set up your Hoya-for-a-Day visit.	Application Deadline <b>Dec. 16, 2022</b> Supplemental & Aid Deadline <b>Jan. 13, 2023</b>	Notification of Admission <b>Feb. 24, 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due <b>March 10, 2023</b>
	Tuition: Day: \$40,565 Boarding: \$66,200 • Forming Men of Competence, Conscience, Courage & Compassion; Men of Faith, Men for Others since 1789					

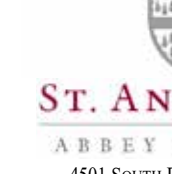
 <b>Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School</b> Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson, President Leonor Ponzio, Principal Janet Donnelly Keller, Director of Admissions 202.337.3350 • <a href="http://www.visi.org">www.visi.org</a> 1524 Thirty-fifth Street NW Washington, DC 20007	<b>Girls 9-12</b> A Catholic High 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 <b>Cubs • Gold, White &amp; Green</b>	<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct. 15, 2022</b>	Learn more about the admissions process at <a href="http://www.visi.org">www.visi.org</a>	Freshman Application Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Jan. 9, 2023</b> at 12:00 p.m.	Freshman Notification of Admission End of February Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2023
	Freshman Class Size: 127 • Tuition: \$33,750 • Financial Aid: Janet Keller @ 202.337.3350 ext. 2241				

# High School Open House Dates


 <b>Gonzaga College High School</b> 19 I St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 Rev. Joseph E. Ligan, S.J., President Mr. Thomas K. Every II, Headmaster Mr. Andrew C. Battaile, Dean of Admissions 202-336-7101	<b>Boys</b> 7 Freshman, 16 Junior Varsity, and 17 Varsity Sports <b>Washington Catholic Athletic Conference</b> <b>Eagles</b> <b>Purple &amp; White</b>	Comprehensive advanced honors courses; small class size; education with a conscience and a focus on social justice in the tradition of the Jesuits.	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>November 20</b> <b>10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Entrance Exam</b> Archdiocesan test results are required.	Application Deadline <b>December 14</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Jan. 13, 2023</b>	Notification of Admission <b>Feb. 24, 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due <b>March 13, 2023</b>
	Freshman Class Size: 240 • The Catholic, Jesuit school located in the heart of our nation's capital city. • Tuition: \$25,900					

 <b>OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL</b> <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, Executive Director of Enrollment Management <a href="mailto:Admissions@olgchs.org">Admissions@olgchs.org</a> • <a href="http://www.olgchs.org">www.olgchs.org</a>	<b>COED</b> Offering a comprehensive college prep curriculum including the IB Program, AP and Honors courses, the STEM Program, and the Ryken Program.	<b>Home of the Falcons</b> Extensive co-curricular activities, 40+ sport teams, Performing Arts, Speech & Debate and over 55 cultural and academic clubs. <b>Member of the W.C.A.C.</b>	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>October 23, 2022</b> <b>10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>	Prospective Parent Information Night Tuesday Sept. 27, 2022 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Freshman Application Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b> Freshman Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b>	Freshman Notification of Admission <b>Feb. 16, 2023</b> Freshman Registration <b>Friday, March 10, 2023</b>
	Tuition \$27,900					

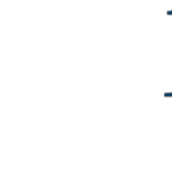
 <b>THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL</b> 10400 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854 Alvaro J. de Vicente, Headmaster Richard S. Moss, Director of Admissions 301-365-4300 • <a href="mailto:admissions@heights.edu">admissions@heights.edu</a> <a href="http://www.heights.edu">www.heights.edu</a>	<b>Boys 3-12</b> The Heights forms "men fully alive" through a rigorous curriculum implemented with a highly personal approach to education and character. <b>Cavaliers</b> <b>Red &amp; White</b>	Challenging liberal arts; innovative science and math; small classes; individual mentorship; WCAC Athletics; extensive extracurriculars; rich sacramental life.	<b>Admissions</b> <b>Fall Open House: October 22, 2022</b> Contact us anytime at 301-365-4300 or visit <a href="http://heights.edu/process">heights.edu/process</a>	Upper School Applicants Admissions Deadline <b>Dec. 16, 2022</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Dec. 16, 2022</b>	Admissions/FA Notification <b>Mid February</b> Enrollment Deadline <b>March 10, 2023</b>
	Freshman Class Size: 65 • Financial Aid: Phil McGovern (CF0) 301-365-4300				

 <b>ST. ANSELM'S ABBEY SCHOOL</b> 4501 SOUTH DAKOTA AVE, NE WASHINGTON, DC 20017 Mr. John Corrigan, '83 Headmaster 202-269-2350 Mr. Patrick Granfield, '99 Director of Admissions 202-269-2379 <a href="mailto:admissions@saintanselms.org">admissions@saintanselms.org</a> <a href="http://www.saintanselms.org">www.saintanselms.org</a>	<b>Boys</b> Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling, Tennis, Baseball, Track, Lacrosse, Golf, Fencing <b>Potomac Valley Athletic Conference</b> <b>Panthers</b>	<b>Special Programs</b> Challenging academic program for students of above average ability in grades 6-12	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>November 6</b> <b>11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b> <b>Benedictine School</b>	Winter Open House December 11 1:00 to 3:00pm Entrance Exam offered by appointment	Application Deadline <b>Rolling</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Feb. 1, 2023</b>	Notification of Admission: <b>Feb. 22, 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due <b>March 3, 2023</b>
	Freshman Class Size: 42 • Tuition: \$31,900 Middle; \$32,900 Upper • Financial Aid: Mr. Mark Commins <a href="mailto:mcommins@saintanselms.org">mcommins@saintanselms.org</a>					

 <b>SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP</b> Will Knotek, Head of School Mary Catherine James Director of Enrollment 3989 Buckeystown Pike Buckeystown, MD 21717 E-mail: <a href="mailto:MJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org">MJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org</a> • 301-662-4210	<b>Special Programs</b> Frederick County's Only Comprehensive Private High School • Founded in 1829 • Comprehensive College Prep Curriculum • Guaranteed College Admission and Scholarship Program • AP and Honors Courses • Mount St. Mary's Dual Enrollment • AOPA STEM Program • 20 Athletic Teams • More than 20 Athletic Teams • New Student Support Center including School and College Counseling and Academic Support	<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>Nov. 6, 2022</b> <b>12:00-2:00PM</b>	<b>Schedule your Private Tour and Shadow Visit</b>	<b>HSPT or Institutional Testing Required</b> <b>Priority Application Deadline</b> <b>Dec. 16, 2022</b>	Financial Aid & Scholarship Deadline Feb. 1, 2023 Notification of Admission Feb. 16, 2023
	VIKINGS Green, Gold & White School Size: 275 • Tuition: \$18,130 • Financial Aid: <a href="mailto:MJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org">MJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org</a> • <a href="http://www.saintjohnsprep.org">www.saintjohnsprep.org</a>				

Mr. Jeffrey Palumbo President/Principal  <b>ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI HIGH SCHOOL</b> 113 ST. MARY'S PLACE, LAUREL, MD 20707 301-725-3228 Ext. 2202 • <a href="http://www.pallottihs.org">www.pallottihs.org</a>	<b>Coed</b> Over 25 varsity athletic teams; Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)-Men; Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM)-Women <b>Panthers</b> <b>Blue &amp; White</b>	Grades 9-12 College Prep Curriculum Honors & AP Courses 96% College Placement Accelerated & Computer Science Programs Visual & Performing Arts Program Learning Center	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday, Nov. 6</b> <b>2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	Visit the web site for 2023-2024 application! <b>1:12 Teacher Student Ratio</b>	Admissions Application Deadline <b>Dec. 16, 2022</b>	Financial Aid Application Deadline <b>Jan. 3, 2023</b> <a href="mailto:admissions@pallottihs.org">admissions@pallottihs.org</a>
	410 Students					

 <b>ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL</b>   Est. 1851 Mr. Jeffrey W. Mancabelli, President Mr. Christopher J. Themistos, Principal Mrs. Susan Hinton, Director of Admissions 202-363-2316 • <a href="http://www.stjohnschs.org">www.stjohnschs.org</a> 2607 Military Road, NW, Chevy Chase, DC 20015	<b>COED</b> 24 AP Courses 16 Honors Courses 29 Varsity Teams 60+ Clubs and Activities 1:1 iPad Program <b>Cadets</b> <b>Scarlet &amp; Grey</b>	<b>Special Programs</b> Scholars Program Benilde Program Cadet Corps Entrepreneurial Center for Innovation & Social Impact Center for Performance & Leadership Visual & Performing Arts Wing	<b>Open House</b> <b>OPEN HOUSE</b> <b>Oct. 30, 2022</b>	<b>Entrance Exam</b> Archdiocesan HSPT results are required.	Application Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Jan. 30, 2023</b>	Notification of Admission <b>Late Feb. 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due <b>March 11, 2023</b>
	Tuition: \$22,950					

 <b>Stone Ridge</b> <i>School of the Sacred Heart</i> Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, Head of School 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814 • <a href="http://www.stoneridgeschool.org">www.stoneridgeschool.org</a>	<b>Girls Grades 1-12 (Coed PK-K)</b> Basketball, crew, cross country, equestrian, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, squash, swimming/diving, tennis, track & field and volleyball <b>The Gators</b> <b>Blue &amp; Gold</b>	<b>Special Programs</b> Honors / AP Courses Social Action Network Exchange STEAM Certificate 1:1 Laptop	<b>Open House</b> <b>Upper School</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>October 16, 2022</b>	PLEASE VISIT <a href="http://www.stoneridgeschool.org">www.stoneridgeschool.org</a> to learn more about our admission process <b>Application Deadline</b> <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b>	Financial Aid Deadline <b>Jan. 15, 2023</b>	<b>Decision Notification</b> <b>Feb. 24, 2023</b> Contract Due Date <b>March 10, 2023</b>
	301-657-4322 • Average Freshman Class Size: 95 • Tuition: \$41,500 • Financial Aid Available					





# Our Lady of Mercy School News

## Mercy Welcomes New Staff Members!

Jennifer Volkmann McDonough, fifth-grade Teacher – Mrs. McDonough will be Mercy's fifth-grade home room teacher, and will teach Language Arts and Mathematics to students in fifth grade, and Language Arts to students in sixth grade. She will also teach STEM in the lower grades. Mrs. McDonough has 13 years of teaching experience, teaching every grade from PreK to 8, but has decided that the early middle grades are her favorites. She is a seasoned middle school Science teacher, as well as having taught Language Arts to grades 2, 4, & 5 and STEM to grades PreK to third. She has taught at both St. Raphael School and St. Elizabeth School.

Shannon Sisco, PreK-4 Teacher – Mrs. Sisco has a degree in nursing and also is an experienced educator, having taught in MCPS schools as a nurse educator and substitute teacher for several years. Mrs. Sisco is the



Mercy's Pat Sharp receives the 2022 Golden Apple Award!

mother of three current Mercy students.

Alba Sanchez, PreK-4 Assistant – Mrs. Sanchez has her two-year early childhood degree and has taught in a bilingual PreK school. She will also offer Spanish classes to the PreK 4 students.

Gabby Eyres, Grade 2 – Ms. Eyres most recently taught first grade in North Carolina. She has a special interest in science education for young children. She has eagerly attended all the courses offered by the

Archdiocese regarding preparation of students for the sacraments of reconciliation and First Communion.

Mrs. Monique Briend-Walker, Librarian – Mrs. Walker is a seasoned educator, having taught a variety of positions at Landon School for many years, and having served as a catechist at Blessed Sacrament. She was a wonderful addition to the Mercy staff as a long-term substitute last year.

## Facility Updates

Mercy's hard-working facilities crew, led by German Lopez, has been busy renovating many areas of the school campus this summer. Our library has been completely transformed with new carpeting, lighting and paint. The first phase of hallway carpet removal is done and has been replaced with beautiful vinyl tile. Other improvements include a new office space for our school counselor, complete with a private entrance, as well as an upgraded space for our gym

teacher, a sink in the nursery, and completion of a state-of-the-art school-wide security system. Continuing to prioritize school safety and security, Mercy will be implementing the SchoolPass platform to simplify and secure the dismissal, attendance, and visitor management processes.

## Golden Apple Award for Mr. Pat Sharp

Mr. Pat Sharp, Mercy's Science Teacher, was awarded the 2022 Golden Apple Award on May 19 for excellence in teaching and commitment to Catholic education! Members of the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office presented the award during a surprise visit to our school. We couldn't be more excited for Mr. Sharp and are truly humbled by his commitment to Mercy and the greater Catholic community. This is the second year in a row a Mercy teacher has received the award (Mrs. Green, 2021).

## A New Challenge for Mercy's Assistant Principal!

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Christine Green will assume the position of full-time assistant principal effective in August of 2022. Our plans include the opportunity for Mrs. Green to further develop our Educational Extension Program for students who need an academic challenge, specific professional development for faculty, oversight of our middle school program (grades 5 – 8), instructional support, and extensive input into our building program via the capital campaign. Plans for a new makerspace, more after school and embedded electives, and an update to Mercy's reading and math series are just a few of the initiatives that will benefit from Mrs. Green's ability to focus full-time on administrative issues.

Mrs. Green has generously served as both a teacher and administrator for seven years, and Mercy has been blessed by her work in both areas. She will continue to teach Leadership Seminar to grades 7 & 8 and teach Study Skills 6.

BE INSPIRED. BE CHALLENGED. BE YOU.

## Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School



## OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

PRE-K 3 THRU 8TH GRADE

## CHILDREN

*Con't from page 11*

find the finger of God. If we can let the Greeks help us pray, can we let babies do the same? The church is full of stimuli – stained glass, statues, incense, music, bright vestments – all of which can distract us or help us pray, depending on how we decide to react. Can we decide the same with a baby's cries?

Babies gurgle. Who knows what they're saying? It might as well be Latin, or a charismatic speaking in tongues. But we can hear the tone of simple joy, and let it capture us and lift us. Noisy joy? Amen!

Babies shriek. Lemme go, gimme that! If they were more verbal and precise, would they be shrieking, "Lord, have mercy"? Who is ever far from that prayer? If I don't hurt, my neighbor does, and I sure hope God cares about it. We try to focus on the reading or the homily, but memories and plans and fears and troubles intrude. Grownups learn to respond

with some self-control and discipline; but inside, maybe there's some fuss. Kyrie, eleison? Amen!

Babies sing, but not with the choir. That shouldn't bother anyone; most of the church sings off key or out of synch. We can't let that interrupt our tranquillity.

Babies are curious. Teach me, Lord, to approach you with awe and wonder, ever-new. Amen!

Babies have their own schedules. They want to nurse, eat, strut, or leave when they say it's time. Adults want to follow their schedule – sing, sit, listen, stand, kneel, watch, pray, recall, reflect, meditate, contemplate, supplicate – on cue. But it never works perfectly. When adults pray the Our Father, someone is always a little ahead or a little behind or uses the wrong pronoun (thy, your). But we pray together, right? Amen!

Socrates, Gregorian chant, incense, stained glass, babies: it's all happy hungry noise. Amen?

OPT



9222 Kentsdale Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854  
301-365-4477  
schooloffice@olom.org

See Parish Times Online  
[www.parishtimes.com](http://www.parishtimes.com)



# Father Paul Lee Celebrates Ten Years as Pastor at the Shrine of St. Jude

By Tom Roach

**“D**um Spiro, Spero – While I breathe, I hope” ... This quote is the motto of St. Andrews, Scotland, and also copied from Fr. Paul D. Lee’s Facebook page. Fr. Lee truly has lived by these words while serving as pastor for the past 10 years at the Shrine of St. Jude in Aspen Hill.

Reverent Paul D. Lee, STD, was born in Seoul, South Korea (the land of morning calm), on December 31, 1955, to Bernard and Susanna Lee and is part of a large family with four brothers, one sister, and many nieces and nephews.

He earned a BA degree in Philosophy at the Catholic College in Seoul and briefly taught high school before coming to the United States in 1979 to attend seminary. After graduating from Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington on May 28, 1983. Fr. Lee’s first assignment as a parochial vicar was at the Shrine of St. Jude, where he served from 1983 to 1989. Fr. Lee then continued his theology study at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome from 1990 to 1994, where he graduated summa cum laude with a Doctorate in Sacred Theology. From 1994 to



Fr. Paul D. Lee’s personal devotion is to Korean War veteran and Chaplain, Fr. Emil Kapaun, for whom he celebrates an annual Mass each September. Photo by Tom Roach.



Reverend Paul D. Lee, STD, celebrates 10 years at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville. Fr. Lee is pictured here with his beloved Westie, Rocky. Photo by Tom Roach

2002, Fr. Lee served as Chaplain of the Korean Community of Mercy, and from 2002 to 2010 he served as the parochial vicar at the Sacred Heart parish in La Plata and was the pastor at both Our Lady of Victory and Epiphany parishes in Washington, DC. From 1994 until 2012, he served as the Director of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Office for Continuing Education for Priests in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Fr. Lee hit the ground running 10 years ago when he arrived at the Shrine of St. Jude. His very first project was organizing a Parish Paint Day, where parishioners and St. Jude Regional Catholic School families were invited to paint the exterior of the school—over a hundred people responded to the call! This opening act had a two-fold purpose of first, gathering an extensive group of diverse parishioners into a single effort and, second, setting a precedent of renovation to our aging parish campus.

The Holy Spirit descended on Fr. Lee in his ministry of bridging the more than 60 nationalities at St. Jude, as St. Paul, his namesake, did traveling the known Roman world 2,000 years ago. Fr. Lee touts the strength of the St. Jude diversity in his inspirational homilies and lec-

tures to invited theology gatherings. Over the years, Fr. Lee has established a robust Faith Formation and RCIA program, serving our diverse parishioners, and Masses for the Spanish and Filipino communities are regularly celebrated. At this past Easter Vigil Mass, Fr. Lee gave over 30 Easter greetings in different languages after his dual English and Spanish homily.

When the pandemic hit our growing immigrant community rather hard, Fr. Lee recognized the corporal works of mercy with a need to feed the hungry. He gathered concerned parishioners and quickly created a food pantry. The St. Stephen’s Food Pantry at the Shrine

*Continued on page 24*

**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**  
**Jeanne Donatelli, Principal**  
301-946-7888

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



## Win the World for Jesus

What a joy the week of July 17–22 was at the Shrine of St. Jude as in-person Vacation Bible School resumed with the theme of “Win the World for Jesus.” Forty-one youngsters spent time learning and singing about Jesus and the saints, doing arts and crafts, playing games with a purpose, and attending Mass on Friday. Many thanks to Ms. Marilyn Mullan along with Ms. Andrea Barish, Ms. Bridgette Pfeufer, and Ms. Terry Heineman as well as 27 student leaders who made it all come together. Photo by Cynthia Gonzalez



## Shrine of St. Jude Sodality Awards

Pictured above left with Fr. Bob Kosty are Natalie Craven (seated) and Nancy Biggin, who were both named *Woman of the Year* for their dedication and generous time given to Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality at the Shrine of St. Jude. Pictured above right is Betty Beltz, who was awarded the first annual Angel Award for 63 years of being a Band Leader. Sodality joins in prayer and service to the church and community. Thank you to Fr. Bob Kosty, who serves as the group’s moderator. All three women are what make Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality a wonderful organization to be a part of at the Shrine of St. Jude.



## Come see *YOURSELF* at SJRCS!

Along with true Catholic identity, high-school prep academics, and a welcoming community of parents, students, faculty, and staff, SJRCS boasts a diverse enrollment where students of every race and culture can see themselves and feel at home. Centrally located and easily accessible for commuters, SJRCS welcomes you! We wish everyone a happy, holy, and wonderful school year! **We are ... St. Jude!**

**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.



# Back to School Supply Drive Helps Students have a Great Start to the New School Year

**S**tudies have shown that starting the school year with the necessary school supplies promotes learning, boosts self-esteem, and helps keep kids in school. Financially strapped families often struggle with how they will be able to purchase all the necessary supplies in time for the start of school. School supply drives, like the one organized by eighth-grade CCD student, Finn Silvola, helps ensure that kids in our sister parish, Sacred Heart DC, have the same opportunities to start the school year right.

As a candidate for Confirmation, we asked why Finn chose this specific cause for his service project. "I love the idea of

being able to help the less fortunate and really getting out there to do something good for local communities. The feeling of knowing that all of these kids are benefiting because of something I've helped with is truly incredible. I get to be part of something that will help many other families," says Finn.

Finn and friends are on their way to filling up 34 backpacks for school and CCD students at Sacred Heart. Long after the backpacks are distributed, the students engaged in similar service-learning activities will continue to reap the benefits. Students learn more about their capacity for serving others, better understand the meaning of responsible citizenship, refine their decision-making abilities, and acquire other career-related skills.

"I personally believe that all of the planning that comes along with organizing a backpack drive is the most challenging and time-consuming part because there is a lot of thought and placement... other than that the drive just requires some time and focus to push through and finish it," says Finn.

Thank you to all who have generously donated to this drive! St. Bart's school and CCD students will ask for your support once again during the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit Sacred Heart, beginning in November.

OPT

## St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816

**Rev. Mark Smith**  
Pastor  
301-229-7933

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

**Frank Maguire,**  
OPT Editor  
202-512-8226



The St. Bart's community knows how to have a party! The celebration on the feast day of St. Bartholomew is sure to be a good time.

## St. Bart's Day Celebration is Sure to Rock!

**P**lanning is underway for what is sure to be the best St. Bart's Day celebration in recent history! The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast Day of St. Bartholomew annually on August 24. With school starting before Labor Day for the first time in years, the perfect opportunity presented itself for the parish to come together in celebration of their patron saint's feast day. Consider it a "back to school, back to Bart's" welcoming event. Whether you are new to the school or new in the pew, all members of St. Bartholomew Parish are invited to this special celebration on Sunday, August 27. The night kicks off with a

special 5pm Mass featuring a professional Christian Rock Band. The Rock Band draws huge crowds every Sunday night at 8pm, the last Mass in Montgomery County. Immediately following Mass, pastor Fr. Mark Smith invites all families and friends into the courtyard for a potluck dinner, with grilled meats provided by St. Bart's. There will be entertainment and fun for all ages—guaranteed! From 6:30-8:30pm we'll have a DJ, dancing, and games outside and a professionally hosted trivia contest inside. We can't wait to welcome you back. RSVP online through our Church or school websites.

OPT



WORK HARD, PLAY HARD, PRAY HARD  
AND BE A GOOD GUY



## MATER DEI SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, November 2  
9:30AM TO 11:30AM

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS FOR GRADES 1-8  
ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND  
\* NO NEED TO REGISTER \*

9600 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD | BETHESDA, MD  
WWW.MATERDEISCHOOL.NET  
301-365-2700

## FATHER LEE

*Con't from page 23*

of St. Jude, started just over two years ago, has become a model in responding to this need and feeds about 200 families a week.

Fr. Lee's spiritual ministry saw a robust growth of the Faith Formation with well over 1,000 children entering the faith thru baptism and advancing in First Communion and Confirmation. Other ministries under Fr. Lee's direction are: The That Man is You, which ministers to the men of the parish, and an Arimathea Ministry, which answers the call of another corporal works of mercy, to bury the dead.

Enrollment at our parish school (St. Jude Regional Catholic School) was in the decline prior to Fr. Lee's arrival. Under his leadership, the school is thriving and is now a Regional School at full capacity—a testament to Fr. Lee's strong belief and commitment to educating our children in a strong Catholic environment.

Fr. Lee's personal devotion and quest is to honor the Korean War veteran and Chaplain, Father Emil Kapaun. It is a St. Jude tradition that every September, Fr. Lee celebrates an outdoor Mass on the school parking lot using the hood of a military Jeep as an altar to honor Fr. Kapaun in the same way that Chaplain Kapaun celebrated Mass to troops in the field.

Fr. Lee's renovations to the infrastructure

at the Shrine have been nonstop and include a new parish office, new school roof, a solar energy source with panels throughout the campus buildings, newly renovated St. Clare chapel, renovated rectory, renovated parish kitchen, renovated parish hall ante room, renovated breezeway, renovated the Madigan Hall with a parishioner donated new basketball floor, and he acquired new tables and chairs for the community hall. After celebrating the big 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Shrine in 2016, Fr. Lee undertook the full renovation of the church sanctuary, a three-month project that included a new sound system and lighting. Other outside projects included the major replacement of the entire parking lot while improving the landscape with new tree plantings and giving a new coat of paint to our buildings, especially to the landmark bell tower.

Fr. Lee can often be seen walking his beloved adorable Westie, Rocky, around the beautiful St. Jude grounds. So, be ready for a friendly tail-wagging greeting and a funny pun from our pastor. Rocky tends to join in our mutual groans and whines over Fr. Paul's fondness of "punny" jokes. If not on his dog-walking excursions, Fr. Lee's favorite pastime is hitting the links for a round of golf.

Fr. Paul Lee is truly answering the call of Pope Francis to evangelize with an inviting parish where our church stands as the "Beacon of Christ on the Hill."

Happy Pastoral Anniversary, Fr. Lee!

OPT



# Fr. Peter Mlynarczyk's First Mass at St. John Neumann

By Larissa York

**"O**f whom much is expected, much is given." -Fr. Scott Woods

On Sunday, June 19th, Fr. Peter Mlynarczyk celebrated his first Mass. St. John Neumann Catholic Church was blessed to host him in his home parish. Over the years, the parish had grown to know and love Fr. Peter and had prayed for his discernment. Joining him were Msgr. Robert Panke, Fr. Stefan Yap, Fr. Peter Sweeney, Fr. Scott Woods, Fr. Carter Griffin, Deacon Martin Begley, Seminarian Danny Morrison, and five newly ordained priest friends from Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

It was Juneteenth, Father's Day, and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Fr. Scott Woods touched on all of these during his homily while focusing on Corpus Christi and the gift of the priesthood. He gave thanks for Fr. Peter's story and the good that God has done through him, with him, and in him. There was a strong overtone of expectant joy and blessings that will come from Fr. Peter's priesthood.

In his homily, Fr. Scott shared Fr. Peter's story that many parishioners had not heard before. When Fr. Peter was younger, he did not appreciate the Faith and it was reflected in his lifestyle. He quickly flunked out of college his first year and his parents wisely told him that he was not going



Fr. Peter Mlynarczyk celebrating his first mass with Fr. Griffin, Rector of the St. John Paul II Seminary, Msgr. Robert Panke, Pastor of St. John Neumann, Deacon Martin Begley, Fr. Stefan Yap and Fr. Peter Sweeney of St. John Neumann parish, Fr. Scott Woods, Homilist, and newly ordained classmates from Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

to stay home and play video games all day. When they were at work, he was told that he needed to be out of the house. Fr. Peter spent time in the park but people would look at him like he was a "weirdo." So, he went to the perpetual adoration chapel at St. John Neumann's because he knew that it would be a place of silence where people wouldn't stare and judge him.

Fr. Scott went on to say that Fr. Peter went to the adoration chapel "not in search of God but rest. But God had him come there because He was in search of [Peter]." It was there that Fr. Peter came to know Christ's merciful love and decided

to start anew by going to confession and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation.

As the Lord opened Fr. Peter's heart, he began to transform his mind as well. His grades went from F's to A's all while he fell deeply in love with the Lord. Fr. Peter trusted God with his everything and during this time, he began to discover his vocation to the priesthood.

Fr. Scott went on to share that Fr. Peter was assigned to him as a seminarian and while they were together, Fr. Scott witnessed Fr. Peter's loving devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and our blessed Mother Mary. He encouraged Fr. Peter to stay anchored with



Fr. Peter Mlynarczyk had just presented gifts to his parents: the stole from his first confession and crucifix to his father; and the maniturgium with the chrism from his ordination to his mother.

them and he further underscored that Fr. Peter's hallmark smile was from his relationship with Christ and Mary. He assured that "should [Fr. Peter] stay united to them, [his] smile will always be there." He also urged Fr. Peter to be like St. John the Apostle with his head constantly on the chest of Christ listening to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr. Scott emphasized that "we have nothing to fear when we are united to Christ."

The Mass was celebrated beautifully by Fr. Peter. He wore the chasuble he received from the parish. After Mass, he was presented with a spiritual bouquet and returned sincere appreciation to the congregation and the priests that were there

today. Tear-filled, Fr. Peter shared that he offered Mass for his Nana who recently died and was a significant supporter of his vocation. He gave a rosary to his great uncle, the stole from his first confession and crucifix to his father; and

*Continued on page 27*

**St. John Neumann Parish**  
9000 Warfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
**Msgr. Robert Panke**  
Pastor  
**Kimberley Rice**  
OPT Editor

## Reviving our Eucharistic Faith

By Taylor Colwell

**T**his year marks the beginning of the Eucharistic Revival called for by our nation's bishops. We at St. John Neumann parish are beginning our efforts to take part in this revival, and one aspect of that is ongoing formation and catechesis. During his summer assigned to our parish, seminarian Taylor Colwell gave a series of faith formation talks on the mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

The series of talks was entitled "Reviving Our Eucharistic Faith" and featured three different facets of what we believe about the Eucharist and how it impacts our lives as Christians. They took place on three consecutive Thursday evenings: July 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, and featured a strong turnout of parishioners.

The first of these three talks discussed "Hidden Manna: The Eucharist in the Bible." It examined some of the most important images and types from the Old Testament, particularly the Exodus from Egypt, and saw how these were fulfilled by Christ in the Eucharist. We were reminded of Christ as the New Passover Lamb and the Eucharist as the New Passover Meal as well as new Manna from heaven.

The second talk was entitled "Sacrament of Unity: The Eucharist in the Church." It explained how the Eucharist makes the Church, that is, how the celebration of the Eucharist lies at the origins of the Church, holds the Church in being, and gives



During his summer assigned to St. John Neumann parish, seminarian Taylor Colwell gave a series of faith formation talks on the mystery of the Holy Eucharist: "Reviving Our Eucharistic Faith."

the Church her mission.

The third talk was entitled "Sacrament of Charity: The Eucharist in the Christian Life." This final installment examined the central place of the Eucharist in our spiritual lives. We learned how each Christian has a "Eucharistic form" to his or her spirituality. We heard how the Eucharist impacts each area of the spiritual life and also received practical suggestions for enabling the sacrament we receive to bear greater fruit in our lives.

Through both diocesan and parish-level events such as this one, we pray that faith in the Eucharist will be revived and strengthened in the years to come!

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# Saint Peter's School Celebrates 65 Years

By Erin Pant

When classes begin on August 31, Saint Peter's School will mark its 65th year of providing Catholic education in Olney. Along with the notable anniversary, the 2022-2023 school year has much to be excited about.

Saint Peter's has had three consecutive years of enrollment growth. As of early August, enrollment is expected to be 465 students, almost a 20% increase from last year, and the third consecutive year of more than 10% growth. Due to the positive enrollment trend, Saint Peter's will offer a new PK-3 class and two sections of each grade from PK-4 through eighth grade. The school is nearly three times the size it was



back in August 1957 when The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill traveled from Philadelphia to Olney to teach the inaugural 160

pupils.

"As we look to the new school year, there is much excitement about the school's 65th anniversary,

as well as the return to post-covid experiences for our students. We look forward to welcoming back morning prayer assemblies, lunch shifts for all students in our parish hall, ballroom dancing, and field trips," said Vice Principal Nelson Abreu.

Strong fundraising support allowed the school to acquire \$200k in technology equipment and upgrades to enhance the curriculum and support the teachers this school year.

The 65th Anniversary will be celebrated in fun ways throughout the year including a parent reception on the first day of school, a school-wide student party on the 65th day, a dress like the '50s-day and alumni recognition at the school gala.

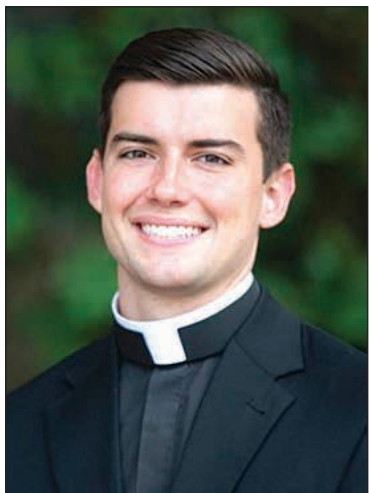
Mary Randles, the Director of Admissions and Development, is entering her 28th year at Saint Peters. She says that while the school has grown and seen various changes over the years, the sense of community has remained the same. "The teachers, students, and parents, form a close, supportive group, with many friendships lasting well beyond eighth grade. We are now, more than ever, committed to helping our students find their place in the world, spiritually and academically. I'm looking forward to celebrating all the things that make Saint Peter's School a special place for both returning and new families. It's connecting with people that brings me the most joy."

OPT

## Welcome Fr. Morrison and Fr. Mlynarczyk



Father Peter Mlynarczyk



Father Nicholas Morrison

Saint Peter's Parish recently welcomed two new parochial vicars, Father Nicholas Morrison and Father Peter Mlynarczyk.

Both priests grew up in Montgomery County and call Saint John Neumann their home parish. Father Morrison attended Saint John Paul II Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in 2021. He recently completed classes in Rome before being assigned to Saint Peters. Father Mlynarczyk attended Saint John Paul II and Mount Saint Mary's Seminaries. He was ordained to the priesthood in

June 2022. Mlynarczyk was previously assigned to Saint Peter's as a seminarian.

"I thank God that I was here five years ago, so many of the nerves aren't there because I already know and love the people here," said Fr. Mlynarczyk. "The transition has been as easy as it could be for a new priest. It is amazing to see all that is going on at the parish, and to meet people in the different ministries. The Holy Spirit is at work here and it's so good to be here," said Mlynarczyk.

OPT

## Summer with Saint Peter's Youth Ministry

Saint Peter's Youth Ministry had a busy and productive summer. In June, students participated in a Mission Trip to Saint Veronica's in Philadelphia for Bible Camp. After having to postpone the camp for two years during the pandemic, the teens were very excited for the opportunity to teach about Jesus and his overwhelming love for each of us. In July, as part of the middle school

EDGE camp, students created projects to educate the public about the need for clean drinking water and how they can help supply it. They shared their projects with the parish and outside of businesses in the Olney area and have raised over \$3,000 to purchase tanks in African countries.

After all of the hard work, the youth ministry enjoyed some fun at Hershey Park.

OPT



### St. Peter's Parish

2900 Sandy Spring Road  
Olney, MD

Rev. Thomas Kalita, Pastor

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stpetersolney.org

St. Peter's School

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

301-774-9112

stpetersschoololney.org

See Our  
Parish Times  
Online

[www.parishtimes.com](http://www.parishtimes.com)



# Riderwood Catholic Community

By Fr. J. Barry

Nestled in a forest on the border of Silver Spring/Montgomery County and Calverton/Prince George's County is Riderwood Erickson living community. It is a senior living place which houses hundreds of Catholic residents as well as peoples of other beliefs and backgrounds. It has 21 connected buildings each the size and look of a hotel and it has for clubhouses and dining halls, aquatic centers, stores, banks, pharmacies, a theatre, a bus system, and handsome outdoor properties in its gated community. Erickson has welcomed Faith communities as an integral part of their retirement living, and the Catholic community gets four masses a week and use of the chapel for other activities, as well as a private 24/7 tabernacle room.

Our Resurrection parish covers it with various lay volunteers, under Fr. Barry, along with the Resurrection Burtonsville parish



Fr. John Barry in Riderwood Interfaith Chapel

coverage. It's a parish within a parish. A religious priest, Fr. Virginus Osuagwu SDS, is also full-time for the parish, who oversees the day-to-day Riderwood care. Both

priests serve White Oak Adventist hospital, too, "We have a collection of Catholic folks from Maryland parishes in a blended new community here," says Fr. Barry, "in fact

I serve people for the second time whom I've first known in parishes in Bowie, Bethesda, Colesville-Silver Spring, Laurel, Leonardtown and Burtonsville. We have had a smile over God crossing our paths again, meeting in this parish in our senior years. I am 65 years old myself now. This past week I had several hours of chaplain's office time or campus roaming, a few Masses, a few visits to residences, or short counsel sessions, some trail walking, a bocce game, a funeral and luncheon, a few Masses, and an anointing call. Fr. Virginus has had his happy busy times too this week. It is a pleasant community here. Three interesting projects this week were a 100th birthday party, a resident artist showing a work that will be given to St. Hugh's parish and attending a music performance. During the year, our parish also helps bring in concerts to Riderwood Chapel. We have had social outreach projects too and

spiritual programs offered here.

Some Riderwood members also participate in things at the Resurrection Burtonsville church and hall, and Riderwood provides a parish council member and a finance committee member to Resurrection."

Riderwood Catholics do have fascinating life accounts to share. It's a joy just to hear their sharing of experiences. One 92-year-old resident says that, since he has lived for 'nine lives now, he has many stories to beguile the willing listener.' It's fun to oblige him.

OPT

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

## VICAR

Con't from page 13

third of six children that grew up in a devout Catholic family of modest means. He served as an altar boy in his home parish, but identifies his faith formation in the Neocatechumenal Way, a charism focused on helping teens and adults rediscover the meaning and gifts of one's Baptism through small faith communities and mission service.

"The small community is formed in the parish," Fr. Okulewicz recently said. "That's why I try to connect the Word of God to daily problems of life. It's something that has to be applied in real life."

His journey to become a priest has been equally real. Describing himself as "an unhappy, cynical teen," Fr. Okulewicz nevertheless found solace in his Neocatechumenal community and acceptance in his youth group, which was led by a priest, Fr. Andrzej Kolodziejczyk.

It was during a retreat with his youth group during the elevation of the Eucharist at Mass when he recalls hearing a voice asking, "What it would be like to be on the other side of the altar?" He felt an immediate peace and calm, waiting for the answer.

"That was opening my life to the idea of a vocation," he said. "When I didn't know where to go, God showed me the way. Becoming a priest wasn't in the picture, but I fol-

lowed his voice."

After more vocational discernment, Fr. Okulewicz entered a lottery at the age of 20 and was placed at the Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary Redemptoris Mater in Hyattsville, MD. There, he received his spiritual formation while completing his academic education at the Catholic University of America. During his 12 years in priestly formation, Fr. Okulewicz earned a bachelor's degree of philosophy in 2016, a bachelor's degree in sacred theology in 2022, and a master's degree of divinity the same year.

Shortly after celebrating the ordination with nine other men in his priestly class this past June, Fr. Okulewicz traveled to Egypt and the Holy Land for a catechetical and vocational pilgrimage attended by 8,000 young people formed in the Neocatechumenal Way. His address is now Derwood, MD, where he will learn how to be a parish priest and soon begin celebrating a new Spanish Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish this fall.

Marianna Konieczny, who frequently attends Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and is herself a Polish native, has invited Fr. Okulewicz into her home on two church feast days and senses a very special priest.

"He is an extremely good listener, and this is very important," Konieczny said. "He looks in your eyes in Confession and he is looking in my eyes like Christ. That is what the people need."

OPT

## MASS

Con't from page 25

the maniturgium with the chrism from his ordination to his mother. The moment was concluded with a sweet embrace of his parents and was followed by Eucharistic Adoration and a reception where the Knights of Columbus presented

him with a special chalice.

Although he has been assigned to St. Peter's in Olney, Fr. Peter will always have a special place in our parish. Please keep him in your prayers.

Fr. Peter Mlynarczyk's First Mass of Thanksgiving is available on the St. John Neumann Parish - Gaithersburg YouTube channel.

OPT

# Resurrection Community Family Festival

## Sunday, September 11

### 1:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Rain Date: September 18  
3315 Greencastle Road  
Burtonsville, Maryland 20866

Puppet Theater

Games





Moon Bounce

Giant Slide

Giant Fun Derby





Face Painting

Prizes

Food

More Games





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# Holy Redeemer Welcomes Father Kyle Vance

By Ann Enkiri

The Holy Redeemer community is so very blessed to welcome a new Parochial Vicar, Father Kyle Vance.

When you meet Father, he invites you to call him Father Kyle or Father Vance, demonstrating his awareness of personal sensibilities in addressing a priest. Newly ordained this June, Father Kyle brings the joy, dignity, and humility of the priesthood to his new role in ministry at Holy Redeemer. Welcome, Father Vance!

"I grew up in California, MD (Saint Mary's County) and attended Hollywood Elementary School. My parents, John and Susan Vance, are still in Southern Maryland, while my brother Sean lives in Front Royal, VA and my sister Erin attends the University of Dallas." Father Kyle chose the great illustrated classics, especially *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* as his favorite elementary school reads, as well as the CS Lewis classics, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. While not sure of a favorite subject back in elementary school, Father Kyle remembers enjoying science and math. This is not surprising as, at the University of Maryland, he went on to receive degrees in mathematics and in



Father Kyle Vance, Holy Redeemer's New Parochial Vicar

physics, participating in research projects on lasers and on dark matter.

When interviewed by Mark Zimmerman for *The Catholic Standard*, Kyle talked about how, as a student at the University of Maryland, he deepened his faith through activities at the Catholic Student Center.

There, his interest in theology and his commitment to prayer were enriched by the Dominican friars. Father Rob Walsh, then chaplain at the Center, led a men's discernment group that proved helpful to Kyle and Father Raymond Schmidt, the pastor of his home parish, St. John Regis, also encouraged him in his faith. Father Kyle told *The Catholic Standard*, "This led me to want to pursue a path where my time would be more directly and fully given to the things of God."

Kyle further detailed his vocational journey, sharing with Mr. Zimmerman, that after going on a discernment retreat and a mission trip, "I felt most called to enter the seminary." As a seminarian in Washington, D.C., Kyle studied at the John Paul II Seminary and at the Theological College, the national seminary of The Catholic University of America. Ordained on June 18, 2022, Father Kyle celebrated his first Mass at St. John Regis Catholic Church the very next day.

At the start of this new school year, Father Kyle tells me, "I am most looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone at Holy Redeemer School this year." Offering ways to connect on different levels, Father Kyle, an avid skateboarder in his childhood, might be seen on the blacktop shooting hoops or on the

field playing soccer. "I appreciate vacationing with friends and love outdoor activities like hiking and rock climbing." On the contemplative side, Father Vance takes as special patrons Saint Martin of Tours, his confirmation saint, and St. Therese of Lisieux. His spiritual devotions include prayer with scripture and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Father shared with me, "I have come to appreciate the Surrender Novena lately." The refrain of this beautiful novena, given to Don Dolindo, spiritual director of Saint Padre Pio, is profound in its simplicity and faithfulness, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!"

Please extend Father Kyle Vance a warm Holy Redeemer welcome whenever you see him at church or school. And...keep him in your prayers as he begins his priestly journey of ministry with us.

Special thanks to: Zimmerman, Mark. "With varied backgrounds and interests but sharing one call, 10 men ordained as new priests for archdiocese." *The Catholic Standard*, June 13, 2022, <https://cathstan.org/news/local/with-varied-backgrounds-and-interests-but-sharing-one-call-10-men-ordained-as-new-priests-for-archdiocese>. Accessed August 12, 2022.

OPT



Redemptor Hominis Mosaic by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik from the John Paul II National Shrine website.

## Holy Redeemer Faculty Takes Time for Prayer before Action

By Ann Enkiri

As Holy Redeemer administrative staffers, teachers, and classroom aides prepare for the new academic year, they take time together to place themselves in God's presence and to pray. They begin by attending the Opening Mass of The Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on August 22. This annual event

marks the commissioning of our Catholic school teachers to bring Christ's light into their classrooms and into the lives of their students. Sliding into pews together, they quiet themselves and prepare to listen, respond, sing, receive Holy Communion, and to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!"

This year, the HR Faculty will further ready themselves for the daily challenges of fulfilling all of their professional duties by taking time for a retreat at the John Paul II National Shrine, immediately following the Opening Mass. There is a lot for which to prepare!

The short list of faculty duties at Holy Redeemer Catholic School includes:

- Prepare and execute engaging and appropriately challenging lesson plans.
- Assess and plan for each student's growth in mastery of skills and knowledge.
- Provide and maintain safe and welcoming classroom and recess

### 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

## HR Students Soared into Summer Fun at Camp Cardinal

By Ann Enkiri

Camp Cardinal returned for its second year, offering four weeks of enrichment and fun for the last two weeks of June and the last two weeks of July. Current HR students ages 4-12 enrolled for one or more weeks to participate in activities organized around weekly themes: "Under the Sea", "Americana", "Superheroes and Fairy Tales", and "Out of This World/ Around the World." This year, HR alumni



Musical Theater at Camp Cardinal

who attend St. John's College High School and Georgetown Visitation helped engage campers in the many elective activities such as sports, crafts, music and drama, while earning Christian Service Learning Hours. Our campers and staffers benefited from their energy and enthusiasm, especially during weekly water-play days.

Thanks to the planning and participation of twelve committed teachers, Camp Cardinal ran smooth-

Continued on page 29



Superheroes at Camp Cardinal

Continued on page 29



# Five Prospective All-Star Teachers Join Holy Redeemer Faculty

By Ann Enkiri

If only teachers were truly recognized for the stars that they are, they too might have individualized trading cards—just like their sports counterparts! Imagine the action on the playground as excited preschoolers started their personal collections of HR All-Star Teacher Cards with PreK4 swapping for Mrs. Wasp. Parents would surely engage as this year's second graders and fifth graders sought two of the hottest cards up for trading—Miss Horning and Mrs. Trujillo.

These prospective all-stars are sure to gain recognition with the support of their grade-level team members. Mrs. Bedard of PreK fame will be executing favorite plays with Mrs. Wasp. MVPs Mrs. Rand and Ms. Oertli are Miss Horning's second-grade teammates and tournament favorite Mrs. Kennedy will team up with Mrs. Trujillo.

What about middle schoolers? Not to be left out, the eighth graders especially would be eagerly awaiting the release of the new Math Teacher Card featuring Mrs. Marti Robey and the new Literature Teacher Card featuring Mrs. Ann Low. Anticipation is building as they marvel at the opportunity to have Mrs. Robey—one of Holy Redeemer's favorite substitute teachers, alumni parents, and active parishioners—in the classroom *daily* to teach math. Inquiring minds cannot wait to meet Mrs. Low who, after a long career in the U.S. State Department, literally brings a world of knowledge to her chosen vocation of teaching literature. They can count on generous assists from the Middle School Team as they suit up for this year's round of play.

OPT

## Mrs. Kathryn Wasp

PreK4A

**Grew up in:** Holy Redeemer Parish, Kensington, MD

**Attended:** Holy Redeemer School and I have very fond memories.

**Parents:** William and Kay Foote. Our whole family lives very close by, and I feel very lucky for that.

**Siblings:** I have 3 sisters- Mary Jane, Peggy and Lois.

**Spouse:** John Wasp.

**Children:** One son and one daughter who both attend Holy Redeemer.

**Favorite School Subject:** My favorite subject was Social Studies, with Mrs. Stallsmith.

**All-time Favorite Children's Book:**

Corduroy by Don Freeman.

**Especially-admired Saint:** Saint Bernadette.

**Special Faith Devotion:** Angel of God. I have a special angel necklace that I received from my parents, on my First Communion.

**Favorite Vacation:** Rehoboth Beach, DE

**College Attended:** WestVirginia University

**Most Looking Forward To...** "meeting my students and learning about their unique personalities."



## Miss Kelly Horning aka "Miss H"

Second Grade

**Grew up in:** Laytonsville Maryland

**Attended:** Sandy Spring Friends School

**Parents:** Honored and appreciated for raising six kids.

**Siblings:** Four brothers and one sister.

**Favorite School Subject:**

Science! I loved being able to do different experiments in the classroom.

**All-time Favorite Children's Book:** If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff

**Especially-admired Saint:** St. Francis of Assisi for his compassion and love for everyone and everything that Our Father has put on this earth.

**Special Faith Devotion:** The "Our Father"

**Favorite Vacation:** Going to the beach! I love spending my summers in Rehoboth.

**College Attended:** Fairfield University, Fairfield CT

**Most Looking Forward To...** "joining the Holy Redeemer Community and getting to build relationships with the faculty, staff, students and their families!"



## Mrs. Lauren Trujillo

Fifth Grade

**Grew up in:** Rockland County, NY

**Attended:** St. Anthony Catholic School in Nanuet, NY

**Parents:** Honored and appreciated for Catholic education K-College

**Siblings:** One older sister in MD and one younger brother in NY City

**Husband:** Together, we are so grateful to be part of the Holy Redeemer parish community.

**Children:** Two sons and two daughters. Three attend HR: PreK, K, and 2nd Grade.

**Favorite School Subject:** Science! My third-grade teacher dressed up like Mrs. Frizzle from Magic School Bus!

**All-time Favorite Children's Book:** Strega Nona by Tomie de Paola

**Especially-admired Saint:** Saint Monica, my confirmation saint and patron saint of mothers

**Special Faith Devotion:** Hallow App's daily gospel reflection and the women's daily devotional by Lisa Brenninkmyer

**Favorite Vacation:** Annual Family Reunion at Marco Island, FL

**College Attended:** Providence College, Providence RI

**Most Looking Forward To:** "joining a faculty of incredibly hard-working and loving staff, and working to make known the love of Jesus Christ to my students."



## CARDINAL

Con't from page 28

ly under the leadership of Camp Director and School Nurse, Alana Pitcher. Each week teachers welcomed 100 campers and four to ten high school volunteers. The teachers who led camp programs included: Mr. Ansah and Mr. Sabatano (PE), Mrs. Rozier (Spanish), Mrs. Morris (Art), Mrs. Breitenbach (Music), Ms. Trotta (Middle School Science), Mrs. Kennedy (5th Grade

and Astronomy Club), Mrs. Clark (PK4), Ms. Boyd (4th Grade), Mrs. Rand (1st Grade), Ms. Cook (Kindergarten) and Ms. Martinez. Mrs. Pitcher shared, "Two extra class additions this summer proved to be very popular. These were Chess for Rookies and an all-day Musical Theater class!"

Mrs. Pitcher reported on Camp Cardinal's highlights, "We had weekly themes and each Friday culminated as Friday Fun Day with Pizza and Popsicles and entertainment! Our second week celebrating

"Americana" was themed around the Fourth of July and concluded with a Patriotic Sing Along led by our gifted seminarian, Dillon. Our fourth week culminated with the wonderful Musical Theater's final performance, heartily enjoyed by our pastor Father Hughes and our new parochial vicar, Father Vance."

The Camp Cardinal family soared into summer fun, encouraging one another to grow in love of God, self and others as followers of Jesus, our Holy Redeemer.

OPT

## PROGRAMS

Con't from page 12

language and culture program will offer a 90-minute session each Monday after school. The sessions will be fun, engaging and follow a "camp" like format.

A portion of funds raised during the highly successful 2022 De Chantal Gala have been dedicated for the STEM Lab. Mrs. Ramsayer, De Chantal's STEM Lab teacher, is grateful for the influx of funds allowing her to build on the success of last year. Additional materials for Engineering Design projects will ensure a one-to-one ratio for all students. Scientific Kits and ongoing expenses for intricate design programs will be fully funded thanks to generous De Chantal parents.

New teachers always bring new

enthusiasm and ideas. This school year De Chantal warmly welcomes three new faculty members. Ms. Therese Cotton is joining Mrs. D'Antonio as a third-grade teacher. Ms. Cotton, a De Chantal Alum, is excited to join the faculty and meet her students at the start of the new school year. Mrs. Tara Merola, is the newest De Chantal Librarian. Mrs. Merola, a De Chantal Parent, brings a love of literature, writing, and storytelling to her new position. Mrs. Christina Porter, also a De Chantal Parent, is the new Art Teacher. Mrs. Porter is excited to return to the classroom and share her knowledge and love of art with De Chantal Students.

De Chantal Faculty, Students, and Parents look forward to an exciting 2022-23 school year filled with faith, academics, service, and community.

OPT

## PRAYER

Con't from page 28

- environments.
- Continue their own professional development.
- Nurture each and every student's emotional well-being.
- Foster each student's lifelong love of learning.
- Fulfill "other duties as assigned"

--every teacher's chance to shine!!

- Support parents in guiding each child to know God, to love God, and to serve God—Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit.

After enjoying lunch together, all will join Father Vito Crincoli, LC, on a tour of the *Redemptor Hominis* (Redeemer of Man) Church and the Luminous Mysteries Chapel. The rest of the afternoon will take the

form of a retreat, with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a Reflection by Holy Redeemer's parochial vicar, Father Kyle Vance, and the opportunity to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This time of spiritual nurturing will conclude with praying the Divine Mercy Chapel, Benediction, song, and closing prayer.

OPT

See *Parish Times* Online  
www.parishtimes.com



# Vacation Bible School at Mother Seton Parish

By Mary Beth DeLuzio

**M**other Seton Parish held Vacation Bible School in early June. We had an enrollment of about 80 children and 45 volunteers. We spent the week praising God for His love, strength, and courage. We had the privilege of having our summer seminarian Joe Gonzalez helping us with all things technology and encouraging all the volunteers and children. Everyone was happy, Vacation Bible School is finally back and everyday there were lots of smiles leaving the building.

OPT



Above, preparing for Morning Prayer



At right, Seminarian Joseph Gonzalez



Above, learning about God

At right, fun in the sun



Marian Consecration at MSP

## 33 Days to Morning Glory Marian Consecration

By Connie Chaskes

**T**he Mother Seton Parish Women's Thursday Night Group met via Zoom to review each week of the "33 Days to Morning Glory" book study in preparation for Consecration Day on the Feast of the Visitation. We also watched the accompanying

videos by Fr. Michael Gaitley in the Formed app. All parishioners have free access to this app, which is a storehouse of videos and audios about our faith.

The Thursday night women's group and some members of the Sodality met for Mass on The Feast of Visitation. After Mass, Father Alberto Biondi said the consecration with us, then blessed our medals and sprinkled them with holy water as we stood around the baptismal font. At a group celebration breakfast, we discussed how to continue living the consecration: saying the consecration often, daily rosaries, enrollment in the brown scapular, pilgrimages to Marian shrines, and First Saturday devotion. We hope to study the consecration together again next year.

OPT

## New Youth Minister at Mother Seton Parish

By Susan Lea

**H**ello, my name is Susan Lea, and I am grateful to be the new Youth Minister at Mother Seton Parish. I am originally from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood. I studied at Montgomery College, Towson University and UMD I and enjoyed a 20-year career in Social Science Research. While volunteering as a sixth-grade catechist and leader in youth ministry at St. Francis, I received a calling to youth ministry. I was hired as Youth Minister at St. Francis ministered there for 11 years. Then worked at two parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore for five years, and I am happy to return to



Susan Lea Youth Minister

the ADW at Mother Seton.

I have a heart for Jesus and a desire to make him known, especially to the youth. I am excited to get to know and love the youth at Mother Seton and hopefully lead them to know and love Jesus too.

I see youth ministry as an active and a vital part of the whole parish and when it is thriving, the whole parish is engaged: parents, pastors, peers, mentors, elders, and the youth. The Young Church is full of energy, creativity, joy, and beauty. They have so many gifts to share with their families, friends, their parish, community, and the world. But so many of them do not see that. The Young Church needs all of us, to show them they are loved, that they have potential, to mentor, guide and help them to live their best lives. Please pray for our young church and get involved in youth ministry at your parish – our young church needs you!

OPT

## HEALING

Con't from page 12

the crime. An individual has been identified and the matter has been handed over to the state's attorney for Montgomery County. While the parish was comforted by the quick response by police and their leadership to fix the physical structure, the community gathered together and took the opportunity to heal spiritually as well.

As word got out about the arson and vandalism, a few parish moms thought the best weapon against hate is prayer. On Thursday evening, July 14th, over 100 adults and children of the parish gathered in front of the church and prayed the rosary together. Decades were led by DeChantal school moms Gabriella Almy and Michelle Flynn, DeChantal School's 8th grade teacher Justin Molloy, and Faith

Formation's catechists Kathy Reed and Yazmin Rowe. Families were glad to come together in prayer for their church and to show support for Fr. Giese, Fr. Clyne, and Mrs. Hamilton, the school's principal. Popsicles were enjoyed by all afterwards.

On Saturday, July 16th, the parish was blessed to have Bishop Roy Edward Campbell celebrate Mass and Rite of Reconciliation of a Profaned Church. As part of the penitential rite, in reparation of the desecration of the church and for their own sins, Bishop Campbell sprinkled holy water on every person at the mass and every inch of the church including the walls, altar, and tabernacle. After this important rite, the congregation could celebrate mass back in the church as they had to be moved to the school's gym immediately after the attack.

Finally, the parish was honored

to welcome His Eminence Cardinal Wilton Gregory on Saturday, August 6th who celebrated the 5pm Vigil Mass at St. Jane de Chantal Church. Cardinal Gregory, Fr. Giese, and Fr. Clyne con-celebrated mass with Fr. Pierre Henri whose parish, St. Louis de France also utilizes St. Jane de Chantal church for Sunday mass. Cardinal Gregory took the time at the beginning of mass to thank Fr. Giese for his leadership during this time and as he also showed thanks by explaining that "we are grateful for the progress that has been made in restoring this house of worship: God's house, to its proper dignity and glory." The parish was incredibly blessed to have all the leaders of their faith community united on the altar in celebration, reconciliation, healing and sacrifice. These spiritual and physical cleansings of the church and her community brought much joy to the entire ST. Jane de Chantal parish.

OPT

### Mother Seton Parish

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Germantown, MD

**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer**  
Pastor

301-924-3838

**Brenda Rosado**  
OPT Editor

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## Maryland Senior Olympics

### 2022 Season Calendar of Remaining Events

For the latest information about each of the sports below, visit: <https://mdseniorolympics.org/>

August 27	Volleyball Women	Sept. 10	Softball
August 28	Volleyball Men	Sept. 12	Golf
August 29	Bowling (Ed Lanehart Tournament) Singles	Sept. 15	Tennis
		Sept. 16	Tennis
		Sept. 17	Tennis
August 30	Bowling (Ed Lanehart Tournament) Doubles	Oct. 1	Archery
		Oct. 1	Lawn Bowling
		Oct. 2	Shuffleboard
Sept. 3	5K Running	Oct. 2	10K Running
Sept. 7	Racquetball Singles	Oct. 6	Bocce Singles
Sept. 8	Racquetball Doubles	Oct. 7	Bocce Doubles
Sept. 10	Swimming	Oct. 14	Billiards
Sept. 10	Badminton	Oct. 16	Cornhole

To register for an event listed above,  
visit: <https://maryland.nsga.com/registration/1796/>

## FDA Finalizes Historic Rule Enabling Access to Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids

*More Affordable Hearing Aids Could Be in Stores as Soon as Mid-October*

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a final rule to improve access to hearing aids which may in turn lower costs for millions of Americans. This action establishes a new category of over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids, enabling consumers with perceived mild to moderate hearing impairment to purchase hearing aids directly from stores

or online retailers without the need for a medical exam, prescription or a fitting adjustment by an audiologist.

The rule is expected to lower the cost of hearing aids, furthering the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of expanding access to high-quality health care and lowering health care costs for the American public. It is designed to assure the safety

and effectiveness of OTC hearing aids, while fostering innovation and competition in the hearing aid technology marketplace.

Today's action follows President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy, which called for the FDA to take steps to allow

*Continued on page 32*

## Midlife cholesterol and blood sugar levels may be risk factors for Alzheimer's disease

Abnormal cholesterol and glucose (or blood sugar) levels as early as age 35 may be associated with Alzheimer's disease risk later in life. These findings, published in Alzheimer's & Dementia, suggest that people with normal cholesterol and glucose measurements in early through middle adulthood may be less likely to develop Alzheimer's as older adults. The study was led by NIA-funded researchers at the Boston University School of Medicine

In previous studies, researchers have explored whether known risk



factors for cardiovascular disease — including diabetes, obesity, and high cholesterol — are also associated with an increased likelihood of developing Alzheimer's. While several of these studies suggest a rela-

tionship, these associations had only been measured in adults 55 years old and older. In this study, the research team examined the association of Alzheimer's with cardiovascular risk factors at different stages of adulthood; early (35-50), middle (51-60), and late (61-70). Their findings showed that measurements of these factors in early to middle adulthood were associated with Alzheimer's risk in older adulthood.

The researchers used health data from participants in the

*Continued on page 32*

# Let's Talk Assisted Living.



It's a conversation we've been having with seniors and their families for over 30 years. At Victory Housing, you'll discover our simple and straight-forward approach to assisted living. From all-inclusive rates to individualized care, our award-winning communities offer the ideal setting to call home. **Call or visit us today, let's talk.**



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A Non-Profit Organization





## Welcome to Fr. Holmer!

Welcome to St. Patrick's new Parochial Vicar, Father Scott Holmer. Fr. Scott comes from St. Edward the Confessor in Bowie, Maryland. Msgr. Parry has already been busy introducing Fr. Holmer to the

broader St. Patrick's community, including the two local assisted living homes nearby as well as to the homebound parishioners. Make sure to introduce yourself after mass and at all the upcoming parish events!

OPT

## Pray for St. Patrick's Parishioners in Formation

St. Patrick's currently has eight men in formation for the priesthood. They include men discerning diocesan vocations as well as vocations with religious orders. It is a true sign of the richness of the faith and sacramental life at our parish. As Msgr. Parry says, "what a gift!". Please pray for these young men as they determine God's will for their lives and that God continues to bless the St. Patrick's community with more men and women in religious life.

OPT



Matthew Tobin, who grew up attending St. Patrick's, is preparing to enter his second year of seminary in Rome with the Priestly Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo.

## Bishops' Pro-Life Chairman Responds to Executive Order Facilitating Abortion

WASHINGTON - On August 3, the President of the United States signed an executive order facilitating abortion, the second such action from President Biden in response to the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued the following statement in response:

"Even preceding the *Dobbs* decision, my brother bishops and I have implored the nation to stand with



Archbishop William E. Lori

mothers in need, and work together to protect and support women and children. Continued promotion of

abortion takes lives and irreparably harms vulnerable pregnant mothers, their families, and society. It is the wrong direction to take at a moment when we should be working to support women and to build up a culture of life. I continue to call on the President and all our elected officials to increase support and care to mothers and babies, rather than facilitate the destruction of defenseless, voiceless human beings. Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our nation, intercede for us as we advocate to protect human life and work toward solutions that will help every mother and child flourish."

OPT

## HEARING AIDS

Can't from page 31

hearing aids to be sold over the counter and set a swift 120-day deadline for action, which the FDA met. In 2017, Congress passed bipartisan legislation requiring the FDA to create a category of OTC hearing aids, but it was not fully implemented until now. Consumers could see OTC hearing aids available in traditional retail and drug stores as soon as mid-October when the rule takes effect.

"Today's action by the FDA represents a significant milestone in making hearing aids more cost-effective and accessible," said Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Close to 30 million adults in the U.S. could benefit from hearing aid use. Individuals with permanent hearing impairment can use hearing aids to help make speech and sounds louder, improving the ability to communicate effectively with others. Many hearing aids can be expensive. The final rule aims to stimulate competition and facilitate the sale of safe and effective OTC hearing aids in traditional retail stores or online nationwide, providing consumers with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss with

improved access to devices that meet their needs and are less expensive than current options.

"Hearing loss is a critical public health issue that affects the ability of millions of Americans to effectively communicate in their daily social interactions," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "Establishing this new regulatory category will allow people with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss to have convenient access to an array of safe, effective and affordable hearing aids from their neighborhood store or online."

The OTC category established in this final rule applies to certain air-conduction hearing aids intended for people 18 years of age and older who have perceived mild to moderate hearing impairment. Hearing aids that do not meet the requirements for the OTC category (for example, because they are intended for severe hearing impairment or users younger than age 18) are prescription devices.

The FDA finalized the rule after receiving and reviewing more than 1,000 public comments on the proposed rule issued on Oct. 20, 2021. Comments submitted by consumers, professional associations, hearing aid manufacturers, public health organizations and advocacy groups, members of Congress, state agencies, and other stakeholders are

summarized in the final rule, along with the FDA's respective responses. In response to public comments and to assure the safety and effectiveness of OTC hearing aids, the final rule incorporates several changes from the proposed rule, including lowering the maximum sound output to reduce the risk to hearing from over-amplification of sound, revising the insertion depth limit in the ear canal, requiring that all OTC hearing aids have a user-adjustable volume control, and simplifying the phrasing throughout the required device labeling to ensure it is easily understood. The final rule also includes performance specifications and device design requirements specific to OTC hearing aids.

Furthermore, today's action correspondingly amends existing rules that apply to prescription hearing aids for consistency with the new OTC category, it repeals the conditions for sale for hearing aids, and it includes provisions that address some of the effects of the FDA OTC hearing aid regulations on state regulation of hearing aids.

The effective date for the final rule is 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

OPT

Source: Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

## RISK FACTORS

Can't from page 31

Framingham Heart Study (FHS), a long-term, multigenerational cardiovascular study dedicated to improving the scientific understanding of heart disease. The team focused on a set of FHS participants who joined the study in the early 1970s and were examined approximately every four years for much of their adult lives. The 4,932 participants were between 5 and 70 years old at their first exam, with an average age of 36. During each exam, FHS researchers measured the participants' glucose, cho-

lesterol, and triglyceride levels as well as their blood pressure, body mass index, and smoking status. In later years, participants were also given cognitive health exams and were followed for possible signs of dementia.

After examining the study data, researchers determined that the impact of glucose and cholesterol levels on Alzheimer's risk begins much earlier in life than previously thought. They found that lower HDL (known as good cholesterol) and higher triglyceride (a type of fat found in the blood) levels measured in blood in early adulthood and high blood glucose levels in middle adulthood contributed to future risk of developing Alzheimer's. These

results underscore cardiovascular risk factors, such as high cholesterol and glucose levels, as risk factors for the disease. The findings also support the idea that managing cholesterol and glucose levels early in adulthood may lower the risk. Further studies are needed to determine whether the effects of these risk factors apply to dementias other than Alzheimer's.

OPT

Source: National Institute on Aging Reference: Zhang X, et al. Midlife lipid and glucose levels are associated with Alzheimer's disease. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. 2022;1-13. doi: 10.1002/alz.12641.

## Upcoming Events at St. Patrick's

**Monthly Food Drive: Sunday, September 18 from 8:00 a.m. to noon**

Thank you for supporting those in need with the following items: canned tuna and chicken, soups, fruits, vegetables and tomatoes, pork and beans, small bags of beans and rice, peanut butter, jelly and jams (plastic jars), cereals and cans of oatmeal, boxed pasta and pasta

sauce (plastic jars); fruit juice (plastic jars); paper towels and toilet paper, baby items, including baby wipes, baby formula, toiletries, including feminine hygiene products, deodorant, travel-size soap, and shampoo and toothpaste. As a reminder, we collect food every third Sunday of the month.

**Donations Needed for Upcoming Community Yard Sale**

After a two-year break, the HUGE Community Yard Sale is back and will be held on Saturday, October 15 in support of Life Connection Mission, Haiti. Please consider donating furniture, home art, baby toys and clothes, children's toys, sports equipment, bikes, etc. (no mattresses or electronics). Dig through your closets, garages, and basements and please support the efforts of the St. Patrick community to aid Life Connection Mission's work in Haiti. Donations will be accepted throughout the Columbus Day weekend (October 8-11).

OPT

### St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road  
Rockville, MD

**Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Parry**  
Pastor

301-924-2284

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

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

**St. Patrick's Food Drive**  
**Sunday, Sept. 18**  
**8:00 am to noon**



# What Do Teachers Really Do During the Summer?

By Jodie Shoemaker, Assistant Head of School

No one really understands the life of a teacher. Students may think they are mysterious creatures who only exist at school. Can anyone imagine how teachers spend their summers when school is not in session? Have you ever wondered what teachers do with those wonderful few months of freedom? Here is a glimpse of how some teachers from The Woods Academy spent their summers.

## Study & Learn

For some teachers, summer means thinking about anything but their classroom. For others, summer provides the perfect opportunity for professional development. Many teachers from The Woods took advantage of their "time off" to attend multi-day workshops or courses in order to hone their craft. Various teachers completed the following courses:

- Institute for Multi-Sensory Education (IMSE) Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham
- IMSE Phonological Awareness
- 6+1 Traits of Writing
- Methods of Teaching for



Math Teacher (and Woods Alum) Carol Lucarelli took the course "Open Up Resources Virtual Learning Academy for Math" this summer.

- Elementary Teachers at Community College of Baltimore County
- National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics Summer Leadership Academy
- Open Up Resources Virtual Learning Academy for Math
- Effective Strategies for Talking About Race & Racism in the Preschool to Grade 5 Classroom
- Giving Great Feedback: Using "Value Grids" to Give Teacher Timely Feedback

- Special Education Advocacy with Learning Disabilities of America and Committee of Education Funding

## Travel Abroad

Yes, many people travel during the summer to visit beautiful beaches and lakes, National Parks, and favorite friends and relatives. However, teachers tend to explore faraway places enhancing their worldly knowledge and collecting nuggets of information to share with their students when they return to school. Some of The Woods teachers visited the places below. Who knows what these Woods teachers learned while traveling abroad this summer?

- Spain
- Canada
- Honduras
- England
- Portugal
- The Bahamas

No matter how teachers spend their long summer days, many of them are planning, dreaming, and looking forward to the new school year. Most will not admit this, but it is true. The Woods Academy faculty and staff cannot wait for the students to return to the building and fill their classrooms with the sounds of joyful learning!

OPT



Co-ed elementary schools like The Woods Academy encourage the development of social skills and better preparation for a diverse world.

# Why Co-Ed?

By Jodie Shoemaker, Assistant Head of School

For years, many have debated whether same-sex or co-ed schools are better learning environments for children. Unfortunately, there is no conclusive research that identifies that one has a real advantage over another. Yet, there are some important benefits to a co-ed elementary school worth highlighting.

Co-ed elementary schools like The Woods promote positive self-esteem. Academics and learning are enriched when both genders participate in the learning process together. Students are exposed to each other's thinking and experiences in the classroom. Diversity of thinking and experience can encourage growth and self-discovery.

Co-ed elementary schools also encourage the development of social skills and better preparation for a diverse world. Children will be adults in a world where both genders are present. So, it is healthy for them to grow up in the same environment. Co-ed schools provide boys and girls the opportunity to learn how to work together productively long before they enter the workforce. This is good preparation for what will be expected of them later in life.

Co-ed environments can teach students to have respect for the opposite sex and even break down gender stereotypes. Many same-sex schools emphasize teaching the way "boys learn" or the way "girls learn." Gender does not predetermine how a child will learn or what a child will find interesting. Teachers in co-ed elementary schools like The Woods focus on

the individual child, nurturing each one's unique learning style rather than teaching in a prescribed method based on gender traits.

Our alumni are proof that a co-ed elementary school provides the learning environment necessary to prepare an individual to lead a life of significance regardless of one's gender.

- This year, 100% of our graduating class was accepted to their top choice high school.
- Two-thirds of Woods graduates take honors and/or AP courses throughout their high school experience.
- 70% of Woods graduates participate in high school athletics.
- 86% of Woods graduates receive at least one award or formal recognition for their achievement in high school.
- 5% of Woods graduates attend an Ivy League University, compared to a nationwide average of less than 0.5%.

The Woods has provided each student the tools that they need to succeed not based on their gender, but based on their individuality.

OPT

# Welcome New Woods Academy Faculty & Staff!



Abra Alahouzos  
Montessori I Lead Teacher



Catherine Gonzalez  
Spanish Teacher



Carey Hollensteiner  
Fourth-Grade Teacher



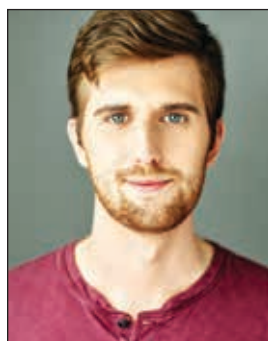
Heather Maxwell  
Montessori III Owl Teacher



Carolina Cruz  
Assistant Teacher



Hunter Davenport  
Associate Teacher



Sean Laraway  
Montessori III  
Assistant Teacher

## The Woods Academy

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Joseph E. Powers

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Director of Marketing and  
Communications  
[www.woodsacademy.org](http://www.woodsacademy.org)



## TRIBUTE

Con't from page 12

ed in the May procession held the first of May in the Mary Garden.

In addition to this recognition, the Executive Board also paid tribute to Helen Bollwerk, the outgoing President of Sodality. Helen was acknowledged not only for her extended term as President going into the pandemic, but also for her many prior years of service to

Sodality in several capacities, as unit chair of the John Neumann Unit, Co-President, Prefect, and Secretary. Her positive attitude, and attention to all details has been unwavering. Helen has been a model of service for all. Anne Yockel, incoming President, presented Helen with a statue of Our Lady for Helen's garden in gratitude for all Helen's untiring efforts, and true dedication to Sodality's purpose.

OPT

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times





Father Steve saying Mass on August 7.

## El Salvador del Mundo

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

**A**t Christ the King Church we have many Spanish speaking parishioners from El Salvador. In Central America, El Salvador is the smallest but most densely populated country. The Fiesta of San Salvador goes back to the 1500s. The Spanish explorer Pedro de Alvarado named the land after Jesus Christ the Savior. Later the name was shortened to El Salvador.

The weekend of August 6 is very special for Christ the King parishioners. The feast of El Salvador del Mundo, which means The Savior of the World, is a national holiday celebrating the Transfiguration when Jesus's face began "shining like the sun" and his garments became "white as snow." Jesus becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain; Jesus is called "Son" by the voice of God



The Savior of the World Save Us

the Father.

After the 11:30AM Sunday Mass in Spanish the feast was celebrated with traditional Salvadorian foods, including fried yucca.

OPT

## Gloria Patterson, Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

**G**loria Patterson, a longtime parishioner, died this summer after a long illness. Gloria was a charismatic person who touched many people of our Parish with her kindness and her volunteering. A retired schoolteacher, she was an active member of the Social Concerns Commission, and she helped coordinate the annual Giving Tree project for many Christmases, even into her nineties. She also knitted hats for the preemies at Holy Cross Hospital for years at the local nursing home, visiting weekly. She even counted



Gloria Patterson, Beloved Parishioner

Sunday collection money for the Church. Gloria was a "giver." We will remember her smiling face and positive attitude. Many of us at Christ the King have lost a wonderful mentor and friend.

In addition to her church volunteering, Gloria was the caring matriarch of her family which included many grandchildren and even great grandchildren. She will be missed by all who knew her. May she Rest in Peace.

OPT

**Christ the King**  
2301 Colston Drive  
Silver Spring, MD  
301-495-2306

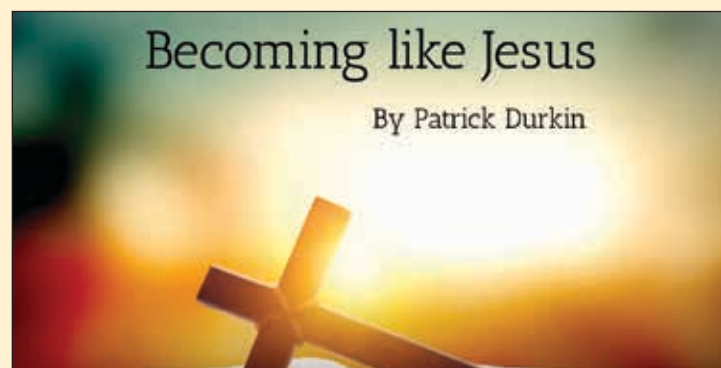
**Fr. Stephen J. Carter,**  
Pastor

**Paul Lamoreaux,**  
OPT Editor

## Becoming Like Jesus

**N**orth Bethesda resident Patrick Durkin has made a brief video, *Becoming Like Jesus*, in which he reviews the teachings of Jesus about discipleship found in Luke Chapter 6. It's about ten minutes long. Share with anyone you like: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-YuAGEOuoc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-YuAGEOuoc)

Mr. Durkin, 68 years old, is a retired special agent and, as a result of a bodysurfing accident at Ocean City in 2009, a ventilator-dependent quadriplegic. Despite his limitations, he thinks like a man of action and acts like a man of thought. After visiting wounded Iraq-war veterans at Walter Reed Medical Center he took online classes with the



Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation so that he could mentor others with spinal cord injuries. Deeply concerned about the Christians being persecuted by ISIS, he founded the Interfaith Prayers for Peace Group, which

held face to face encounters with those of different faiths, including Islam. He has also worked with the Maryland Coalition for Life as a Regional Director trying to raise awareness of profile issues.

OPT

## Lecture: Dobbs v. Jackson and the Culture of Life

August 27, 2022

9:00am - 12:00pm

**Saint John Paul II National Shrine**  
3900 Harewood Road, NE

**T**he Supreme Court's decision this summer to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and thus to do away with federal protection of abortion as a fundamental right, came as a shock to many. The decision, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, has provoked responses from joy and relief to outrage and even violence. But it is also becoming clear that many Americans are unaware of exactly what *Roe*, along with the important 1992 decision *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, actually held, and thus are uncertain about what the consequences of *Dobbs* for abortion law in the United States will be.

On August 27, 2022, the John Paul II Institute is hosting a panel discussion of the *Dobbs* decision to help Catholics to "read the signs of the times and interpret them in the light of the Gospel" (*Gaudium et spes*, 3-4). Featured scholars will shed light on the significance of this landmark decision for American law and culture, in view of the Church's understanding of the dignity of every human person and the sanctity of human life. Talks will present and interpret the history of abortion jurisprudence in the United States and will also look ahead to new opportunities and challenges for the pro-life movement.

### Speakers

**David S. Crawford**

Dean and Associate Professor of Moral Theology and Family Law, Pontifical John Paul II Institute



**Elizabeth Kirk**

Director of the Center for Law & the Human Person, Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America

**Jeanne Mancini**

President, March for Life Education and Defense Fund

**Moderator: Jeanne Heffernan Schindler**, Senior Fellow, Pontifical John Paul II Institute

### Registration

The registration fee is \$15. To register, please go to: <https://www.johnpaulii.edu/pay/2022>

If you have questions, please contact [mrice@johnpaulii.edu](mailto:mrice@johnpaulii.edu) or 202-526-3799.

OPT

## JOY

Con't from page 11

ed neighbors.

He sells produce, sort of. The produce is real, but Brian's commitment to sales is iffy. For example, he doesn't handle credit cards. If you don't carry cash, take what you want and pay him next time you come by. He's been doing that since he started and hasn't yet lost a penny that way. He shows up at weekday Mass often, with day-old produce to give away. Corn is

touchy: a day makes a difference. But tomatoes and squash that were good yesterday are just fine today. So he sells, sort of. Money isn't the heart of the matter. Sales are likely; laughter is guaranteed.

The old tavern was a watering spot along a road from Annapolis going west. Before the railroad, travelers needed to stop and care for their livestock every seven miles or so. Today, most cars go farther than that before they need to take a break, and the tavern was neglected. In fact, when Stone started work on the house, it had a hole in the

floor, where some nocturnal visitor had built a fire smack-dab in the middle of the room. Fortunately, it burned through and fell into the cellar before it burned the whole house down.

Rebuild my church, the Lord said to St. Francis. Stone didn't have any vision; he just wanted preservation not ruin, stories not oblivion, neighbors not strangers. He's a bridge to our farming past, and an opening to a joyful future – and a proud example of our still-sorta-rural parish life.

OPT



## Spiritual Retreat for Grieving Parents

If you are grieving the loss of a child, no matter how old the child is or how long ago the child passed, we invite you to attend this retreat.

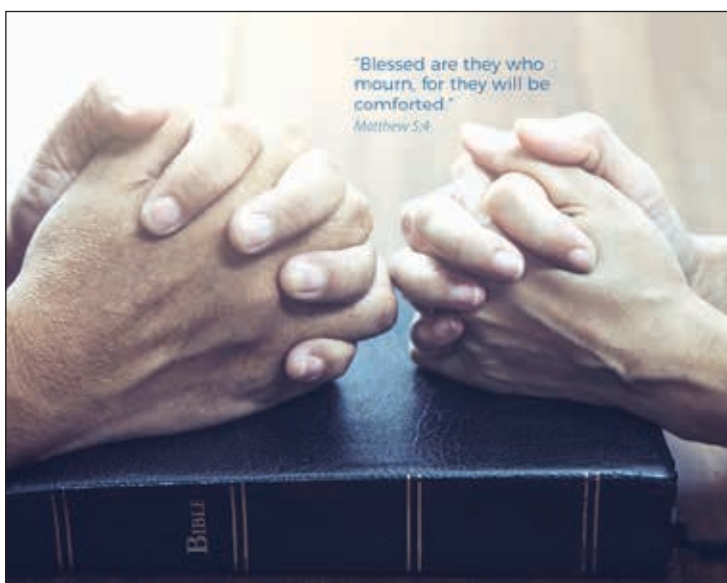
We will focus on the spirituality of the grieving process to help you as you grieve the loss of your child.

This one-day retreat, offered by the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Family Life and the Emmaus Ministry, will give you the opportunity to be with others who have also lost a child.

Saturday, September 10, 2022  
9:30 AM – 7:30 PM EDT

St. John Neumann Catholic Church  
9000 Warfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

The retreat will be a very special time for you to focus on your specific spiritual journey in grieving the loss of your child's



earthly presence. While we have a general schedule of events for the program, please know that you will not be required to attend any of the activities, and you will not be forced to share any information you are not comfortable

sharing. Many people participate by listening.

If you would like more information, please contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4546 or flm@adw.org.

OPT

## Saint Michael the Archangel Parish Welcomes Father Carlos de Rodrigo Gutierrez, Parochial Vicar

By Janice Hamilton Outtz

Parishioners of Saint Michael's extended a warm welcome to Father Carlos de Rodrigo Gutierrez on July 24. Father Carlos was ordained this past June by Cardinal Wilton Gregory. Father Carlos remembers that the first time he felt the call to the priesthood was when he was 10 years old in a conversation with his grandmother, who was a devout Catholic. His grandmother helped him by her witness and prayers to say "yes" to the Lord. When asked what he likes best about being a priest so far, he says, "the people."

Father Carlos is the third child born in a house of 10 children. He is the only sibling with a vocation



Father Carlos celebrating his first Mass at St. Michael the Archangel

to the priesthood. He was born in Madrid, Spain and went to Catholic schools run by Augustinians and then, before entering the Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Washington, DC, he attended a pontifical university where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Engineering.

Father Carlos loves soccer. His favorite team is Real Madrid. He also likes hiking, a good history book, chatting with people, and looking at the sea. Although he has been with us only a short time, he thinks that St. Michael's is fascinating because of our relationship with St. Michael the Archangel—our warrior against the forces of evil. We look forward to getting to know Father Carlos and sharing our faith with him.

OPT



Parishioners enjoy the welcoming reception for Father Carlos



Statewide Initiative for Moms & Children



**Helping Hope Bloom**, our new statewide initiative to assist pregnant and parenting moms in need, is now live!

This initiative links Maryland parishes and parishioners with prayerful and practical resources, all in one place.

Look through the ideas and get inspired. Then visit the resource page, where we have prayers, plus links to organizations here in Maryland — diaper banks, health care ministries, pastoral care, housing for pregnant and parenting moms, pregnancy support centers, and other ministries and organizations — that fill a critical need for moms and their children at a vulnerable time.

Together, we can help hope bloom in Maryland.

[www.mdcatholic.org/hopeblooms](http://www.mdcatholic.org/hopeblooms)



The first meeting of the English Charismatic Prayer Group: Vera Joseph, Deacon Oscar Mendez, John Dittmeier, John Webster, and Chomwaita Mayonde

## English Charismatic Prayer Group Started

By John Webster

St. Michael the Archangel has formed a new English Charismatic Prayer Group under the pastoral direction of Deacon Oscar Mendez. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Rectory. All are welcome to join us as we share in praise, prayer, spiritual music, scripture, and testimony.

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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The children and volunteers gathered for the closing presentation.

## Saint Mary's Vacation Bible School

**O**ur 2022 VBS "Camping in God's Creations" took us through the many ways God's light leads the Way. Our Pavilion was transformed into a Tropical Island. Our classes were enthusiastic as always, this year, but we had fun



Preschool students sang about God's animals.



Father Kevin congratulates Brenda Murtha for her decades of dedication as Director of VBS.

singing led by our wonderful staff and our many 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. Fr. Kevin recognized VBS Director Brenda Murtha for her decades of leadership and dedication to the program. **OPT**

## Knights of Columbus Installation



Above, District Deputy hands Gavel to newly installed Grand Knight Dave Bivans



Above, Fr. Kevin O'Reilly receives his Chaplain's Jewel from the Knights of Columbus. He is joined by Knights Ben Snuffer and Joseph Murtha



At left, Andrew Parsley played the National Anthem at the Installation of Officers

## 147th St. Mary Annual Chicken Dinner

**P**arishioners 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, apple-sauce, green beans, coleslaw, and

rolls. The event sold almost 1000 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**



Bill Lynch heads up the day's organization, ordering of food and materials, and anything else that needs to be done!



Above, the hungry faithful arrived and enjoyed a wonderful meal on a beautiful day.

At left, the Jousters charge in hopes of spearing the golden ring.



Chicken flocks and cookers keep the line moving till all the chicken is done.



Ladies of the Sodality prepare the Arts and Crafts Stand with a smile.

**St. Mary's Parish**  
18230 Barnesville Road  
Barnesville, MD 20838  
**Rev. Kevin O'Reilly,**  
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# Scenes from OLQP Parish Life

First Communion. Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., stands with the First Communicants after celebrating their Holy Mass on May 28, 2022, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD.: Jan Bisk, Emilia Folusiak, Emilia Golab, Mikolaj Hajduk, Adam Karamanski, Oskar Kudrycki, Maria Majewska, Alicja Rachon, Lena Sliwinski, Piotr Wójtowicz.



Poland Parish Polish Saturday School, on June 4, 2022. School principal Ewa Chlebowska and teacher John Armstrong, dressed in style for the occasion, presented certificates to the students.



At left, Corpus Christi Celebration. The traditional Corpus Christi (Boze Cialo) procession to four outdoor altars, prepared by several parish organizations, took place on June 23, 2022, after the 12 noon Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring. Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., presided with participation of parish groups including the Knights of Columbus, Rosary Society, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Scouting Organization, and others.

At right, some of the participants at the Corpus Christi procession at OLQP on June 23, 2022: Anna Kajkowska, Dr. Richard Z. Okreglak, Dr. Edwarda Buda -Okreglak, Klaudia Weidlich, OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, Seminarian Maximilian Korzan, Bozena Buda, Sabrina Beard-Dowlut, Jola Noska, and members of this year's First Communion class.



Above, the 78th anniversary of Warsaw Rising was commemorated at a Holy Mass requested by Polish American Congress Washington Metro Area Division and celebrated by OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych on July 31, 2022. Representatives present included those from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP, Polish American Congress Wash DC Metro Area Div., and others. Pictured are Beata Nolbert, Viktoria, Konsul Edyta Holdynska, Dr. Richard Okreglak, David Birely, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, BG Krzysztof Nolbert, Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, Jacek Marczynski, Margaret Gasser, LTC Karol Budniak, Bozena Buda, Robert Dowlut, Hanna Zawadka, Konsul Nikodem Rachon, John, and Margaret Rogoyski.



The St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus officers after the installation ceremony on July 24, 2022, at OLQP Parish, included: District Deputy Gus Susman, OLQP Pastor and Council 16634 Chaplain Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, District Warden Franklin Morton, Grand Knight Stefan Witczak, Robert Dowlut, Jacek Marczynski, Dr. Richard Z. Okreglak, Andrew Frank Michaels III

## Installation of Council 16634 Officers

By Bozena Buda, ED

New Officers of the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus were installed for the coming year at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, MD, after Holy Mass celebrated by OLQP Pastor and Council Chaplain Fr. Jerzy Frydrych on July 24, 2022.

The new officers are: Grand Knight Stefan Witczak; Deputy Grand Knight Jacek Marczynski; Chancellor Frederick G. Stachura; Warden Robert Dowlut; Treasurer Janusz Bilinski; Recorder Andrew

Frank Michaels III; Advocate Terrell N. Roberts; Outside Guard Andrzej Migasiuk; Inside Guard John L. Armstrong; Trustee 3 Year Franklin Morton; Trustee 2 Year David Birely; Trustee 1 Year Dr. Richard Z. Okreglak; and Financial Secretary Tomasz Kolodziej. Council Chaplain is Rev. Jerzy Frydrych. The Council was instituted in February 2017 and continues to grow as new members join.

The Council has been active in parish, family, and community life, and even internationally. Congratulations to the newly installed officers!

OPT

## The Macanders Celebrate Their Golden Jubilee

By Bozena Buda, ED

This year, Izabella and Aleksander Macander celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. As long-time parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Poland, they have contributed much to the parish and to the community and continue to do so today. Presently, Iza is chairperson of the Parish Council. Aleks is a Knight of Columbus of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634. They have been active in many organizations throughout their lives and continue their volunteer activities.

As the story goes, which was recalled at their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception hosted by their daughters earlier this year, they met in California where Iza resided, in 1971. Aleks, who lived in New Jersey at the time, traveled to a wedding in California in which Iza was a bridesmaid. As Iza noted, "We hit it off." They were officially engaged later that year. After a bicoastal courtship, during which Iza graduated from university, they married on April 15 of the following year in Pasadena, CA, at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church. They remember their anniversary



Izabella and Aleksander Macander with their Golden Jubilee Papal Blessing.

each year.

They noted that, "Our beliefs [faith] and our cultural heritage were major components when considering marriage. We were up front with our goals and aspirations before we married ...but you can weather anything if you can work out your differences in a respectful way."

And, "Marriage is a two-way street. Everyone has to give and take but love is the binding factor that makes everything possible."

They feel "very blessed with two wonderful and successful daughters, a great son-in-law and 3 super grandchildren." They recently received the Papal Blessing which OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych presented to them.

We wish Iza and Aleks "Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary" and *Szczesc Boze*.

OPT

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## New Faces Shine at Darnestown Parish



Music Director Dr. Jyoti Hensch.



Office Secretary Sheryl Hamlin-Williams.

**O**ur Lady of the Visitation Parish has been blessed with several new team members. Sheryl Hamlin-Williams seamlessly stepped in following the retirement of longtime office secretary Kathy Rooney. Additionally, Dr Jyoti Hensch was hired as the first parish Music Director.

Cheryl Hamlin-Williams was born and raised in Washington, DC. She was educated in both Catholic School and the DC Public Schools. As a mother of two and the grandmother of twelve, she now also has the blessing of being the great-grandmother of one. She

has been married to her self-described “awesome husband” Thaddeus Williams for thirteen years.

Cheryl’s first working career was in healthcare as a medical assistant in the field of hematology and oncology for over twenty-seven years. After a short retirement God opened another door and she started a new career as a church secretary for the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Washington, DC. She has worked for the Archdiocese of Washington for ten years. Six of

*Continued on page 39*

## Faith and Fun during the Dog Days of Summer

By Diana Hurley

**O**ften denoted as the “dog days of summer” as a time for slowing down, the hot months of the year did not shut down the active Parish life at OLVP. They were filled with low key, faith filled, fun activities. For the first time in parish history, a summer seminarian was assigned to the parish. On May 31st, Colin Snyder arrived to serve his 8-week assignment. Jumping in quickly, he supported the Vacation Bible School, served at daily mass and as cantor during Eucharistic Adoration. In July, he presented “Cardinal



Seminarian Colin Snyder and Bible Study families celebrate Fr. Greg's one year anniversary as pastor.



Parishioners share a laugh with “Strider” and facilities manager Tony Glander.

Virtues”, a talk on prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance also a day retreat entitled “Sanctity Amidst the Chaos of Daily Life”. Colin’s last day at the Parish was July 25th. The parish was blessed to have him share his many talents.

In July, a Parish blog was created for those who may be away from the Church or also those who may be feeling lost in life. The “Lost Sheep Blog” is written by Fr. Greg who posts several times a week. The blog can be found at the parish website [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org). The intention is that readers of the blog will

*Continued on page 39*



New Sign welcomes all.

## Gift of Love

**T**he news of the loss of beloved parishioner Heid Titus shook the community September 17, 2021. Her funeral mass at Our Lady of the Visitation was attended by crowds of family, friends, parishioners and so many that she had touched during her impactful life. Her generous heart was always on display. She was the first to welcome newcomers to her beloved Visitation Parish. An integral part of the OLVP parish life, Heidi was always found on the property either

lectoring at daily mass or hosting the Scripture Study. As a past Prefect of the Women’s Sodality, she planned and supported both service and social activities. Her husband Frank Titus and daughters Abby and Maggie decided it would be fitting to give back to the parish a visible sign of her love. After conversations with pastor Fr. Greg Schaffer, the family choose to donate a beautiful entry sign for the parish property. Heidi was devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary so it was fitting to include a Marian statue as part of the project. Working with Premier Artsapes, a design was created for a beautiful piece consisting of granite stonework as well as chiseled limestone. Installation of the project was completed on August 7, 2022. The gorgeous sign is clearly visible from MD Route 112 (Seneca Road) inviting new and old to the Catholic Church, just as Heidi Titus was a welcoming beacon to all.

OPT

### Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

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Campers and staff share their faith adventure.

## Vacation Bible School Sets Sail!

By Erin Clegg

**V**acation Bible School (VBS) has been an integral part of Faith Formation at Our Lady of the Visitation since the beginning of the parish. Due to the pandemic, VBS was not able to be held during the last two years. This year, campers and volunteers returned during the week of June 20th - June 24th ready for high adventures. Erin Clegg, Director of Religious Education implemented the program “Discovery on Adventure Island.” With the help of her intrepid VBS team, including summer Seminarian Colin Snyder, Erin steered nearly fifty campers on a week of fun



Fifth grader Yifei Liu crafts his Jesus lantern.

and faith formation.

The happy campers ranged in age from 3 to 12. Teen youth volunteers shared their enthusiasm for their faith. Each day, campers learned a Bible story, which was followed by a rotation between science, sports, music and crafts. A favorite part of the day was learning songs with Colin’s ukulele accompaniment and the Bible trivia game at closing each afternoon. Daily mass attendees were graced with the sounds of laughter and song from the campers. The week was a great success! We’re looking forward to another faith-filled VBS in 2023.

OPT



# Persecution of Church in Nicaragua Intensifies

## Pope, U.S. Bishops Respond

Nicaraguan police on August 19 detained a bishop and seven other priests and seminarians, after a 16-day stand-off, in an escalation of tensions between the country's government and the Catholic Church, CNN reported. Police entered the headquarters of the Matagalpa diocese and arrested Bishop Rolando Álvarez and the others, authorities said in a statement published on social media.

Earlier in August, Óscar Benavidez, a parish priest at the Espíritu Santo Parish of Mulukuku was, according to the Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights' (CENIDH) sources, "taken from his vehicle and taken on a patrol to an unknown destination" after celebrating Mass on Sunday.

At the end of his weekly Angelus message on August 21,

Pope Francis said, "I am closely following, with worry and sorrow, the situation created in Nicaragua."

As threats to the Catholic Church in Nicaragua grow amidst the local social and political crisis, Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, issued the following statement:

"In 2018, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio travelled to Nicaragua to express USCCB's solidarity with our brother bishops in that country. In his homily at the Cathedral of Managua he memorably said, 'I see the commitment of your bishops as a sign of God's love.' In the last few weeks, the Nicaraguan bishops have, once again, heroically demonstrated the enduring validity of that sen-

timent.

"In light of the growing crisis, Monsignor Juan Antonio Cruz Serrano, the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States, recently stated that 'the Holy See cannot fail to express its concern,' and he appealed 'to the parties to find ways of understanding, based on respect and mutual trust, seeking above all the common good and peace.'"

"Today, I express our continued steadfast solidarity with our brothers in the Nicaraguan episcopate, along with their priests and foreign missionaries, in their calling to freely proclaim the Gospel and live the faith. The faith of the Nicaraguan people, who stand in solidarity with their bishops and priests, is an inspiration for us all."

OPT

## NEW FACES

Con't from page 38

those ten years were worked with Fr. Greg Shaffer who was pastor at Assumption prior to his assignment to OLVP. She is passionate about people and helping the community in the church. She has a ready smile for all who visit the parish office. Cheryl adds, "In my free time I love watching movies, traveling and spending time with family and friends, and especially the grandkids and now my great-granddaughter."

This summer Jyoti Hench began serving as the first Director of Music at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish. She is new to the Archdiocese of Washington, having recently moved to Maryland from Northern California. Dr. Hench started serving in music ministry in the Diocese of Sacramento in

2018, first as a volunteer pianist and cantor at her parish, and then as a Catholic school music teacher. Prior to her career in music ministry, Dr. Hench was a piano teacher for thirteen years. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. She is married and has two children in Catholic School.

Dr. Hench feels incredibly blessed to use her musical gifts to serve Jesus and His Church in full-time music ministry. She is especially grateful to the Blessed Mother for drawing her to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish. She was contacted by Fr. Greg Shaffer on the same day that she asked the Blessed Mother for career guidance following her move to Maryland. Jyoti is graciously building the music ministry at the parish and has plans to begin a choir in the upcoming months.

OPT

## DOG DAYS

Con't from page 38

feel connected to OLVP. The hope is that they will know when they return that they will be treated with love and mercy.

College students who were home for the summer were invited to share time together over a BBQ dinner. Cornhole and games made for a great evening as the students reconnected with parish friends. Many attendees spoke highly of the goodie box that was mailed to them individually at their college address. Sent from the parish, this box contained information about where they could attend mass on or

near their campus as well as snacks.

The weekly Bible Study continued throughout the summer months. The upcoming Sunday readings are discussed by the participants each Wednesday evening. To celebrate the first-year anniversary of Fr. Greg as pastor, on July 7th this group hosted an evening dinner party at the Parish pavilion. Later in July the Women's Sodality provided a birthday lunch to all parishioners attending noon mass on Fr. Greg's birthday. Highlights were visitors from Mary of Nazareth School and the amazing homemade golf course birthday cake. These low-key activities made the summer months a fun time to build both faith and fellowship.

OPT

# Building the future with migrants and refugees





**MASS TO COMMEMORATE  
THE 108<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY OF  
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Archdiocese of  
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Member St. Jude's Parish



# After “Dobbs,” Congress Must Come Together to Protect Life and Promote the Common Good

**W**ASHINGTON - Since the release of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, Congress has been taking up legislative proposals that are harmful to the common good. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed, and the Senate may soon consider, a series of such bills, including the Women’s Health Protection Act, the Respect for Marriage Act, and the Right to Contraception Act, and is advancing appropriations bills that exclude longstanding provisions prohibiting federal taxpayer funding for abortion and protecting the conscience rights of healthcare providers.

Meanwhile, Congress has taken no action since *Dobbs* on any of the following measures, which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has previously endorsed and continues to support, and which would help to build up a culture of life: the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act; an expanded child tax credit, including for pregnant moms; the Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act; the PFAS Action Act; and a federal paid family leave policy. On a positive note, it is encouraging that there is meaningful consideration of needed investments in care for our common home in a possible recon-

ciliation framework.

In light of this situation, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee

on Congress to seize this hopeful moment by coming together around the dignity of every human person and the common good.

“This begins with the recognition that every human life is an inestimable gift from God with an inalienable right to life deserving of full legal protection. We must also recognize that the family – founded upon the love and mutual self-gift of husband and wife – is the first

with prayer and support, those led by single or adoptive parents are close to our hearts.

“Since *Dobbs*, too many in Congress have ignored bills that would advance these worthy goals and have focused instead on bills that would attack them. Such legislation places no value on the lives of children until their moment of birth, severs sex and marriage from their meaning, promotes using peo-

and parenting women, assistance with nutrition and affordable housing, environmental restrictions on chemicals that cause birth defects, and provisions to assist low-income families. These are building blocks of our vision for **Standing with Moms in Need**.

“Care for creation is also integral to care for human life, and we encourage continued efforts to advance proposals that will protect our common home and promote the well-being of human life and the environment for years to come. For more on this point, see the USCCB’s letter on the new framework for environmental investment currently before Congress.

“Families and individuals, civil society, businesses, non-profits, and religious groups, government officials at all levels – and especially members of Congress – should ask themselves how they are supporting families at this moment, particularly around welcoming new life and raising children through adulthood.

“Catholic social teaching shows the way to a better place – a society marked by justice, mutual support, civility, friendship, mercy, and love – than where Congress is now leading. We pray that Congress will rise to meet this generational moment.”

OPT

“ We call on Congress to seize this hopeful moment by coming together around the dignity of every human person and the common good. ”

on Laity, Marriage, Family Life & Youth, and Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, issued the following statement:

“The *Dobbs* decision presents a historic opportunity to reshape society for the better. The injustice of abortion has loosened its grip on our nation’s Constitution. We call

building block of society, and that raising children is both a great gift and a lifelong responsibility.

“The health, safety, and support of the family should be the focus of all good policymaking. A principled commitment to being pro-life entails a commitment *both* to protecting all human life, especially the most vulnerable, *and* to advancing policies that help families to flourish. As we accompany every family

ple as means to ends, and would strip rights of conscientious objection from those who oppose these hallmarks of the throwaway culture. Instead, we ask all our elected officials to take action to reach consensus and pass an expanded child tax credit, a refundable adoption tax credit, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, a federal paid family leave policy, further supports for the health and wellbeing of pregnant

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