



Parish Times

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

AUGUST 2023

Living the Faith Together

FOUNDED 1991

I'm Going Back to School!

By Msgr. Enzler: Mission Advocate at Catholic Charities and Chaplain at St. John's College High School

For all of you getting ready to return to school, I'm right there with you this year.

Yes, Fr. John is going back to school.

After retiring in July as president and CEO of Catholic Charities, I am returning to my alma mater – St. John's College High School – to become chaplain. This will be a big part of the next phase of my priesthood, and I couldn't be more excited.

I'll be at the school at least four days a week for a few hours each day, and I look forward to working with students on their faith formation and religious growth. My days will



Fr. John Enzler

Continued on page 10

Here We Go

By Patricia McGann

Another school year is upon us. If you've ever been a parent or a teacher, September will always feel like the beginning of a new adventure for you. For children, September presents

a shiny new opportunity for discovery, a chance to make new friends, to reconnect with old friends, and maybe even to create a new persona.

The best teachers will not base their relationship with any child on the notes in the file, the rumors of trouble or perfection, the lack or presence of school supplies and signed forms, the state of his uniform, or the bow in her hair. Every parent's hope is that his or her child will be discovered, appreciated, and eventually loved just as he or she is. But there are no guarantees, are there?

E. L. Doctorow said of living, "It's like driving at night with the headlights on. You can only see a little way ahead of you, but you can make the whole journey that way." This is particularly true for parents. You have made the choice of Catholic school for your children. You have saved (or borrowed) money for the tuition, because you have faith that it will be worth it. You have chosen a particular Catholic school for your children based on multiple factors, and now you can only give it time.

With no guarantees, you travel a little



Patricia McGann

Continued on page 15



A gathering of young pilgrims for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal

Mother Seton Youth Group Members make the Pilgrimage to World Youth Day

By Susan Lea

After months of preparation and fundraising, nine pilgrims from Mother Seton were part of the Archdiocese of Washington Pilgrimage to World Youth

Day (WYD) in Lisbon, Portugal.

The pilgrimage began in Lourdes, France and continued through Northern Spain and Portugal, including

Continued on page 39

Pastor Publishes Book of Homilies and Lectures Celebrating 40th Anniversary of Ordination

By Michelle Ardillo

To mark the 40th Anniversary of his priestly ordination on May 28, 2023, the Rev. Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude parish in Rockville, MD, published a book compiling more than 20 of his homilies from liturgical year A, along with the text of seven of his lectures. The book title, "I Was Blind and Now I See," is inspired by the bas-relief on the front of the ambo on the altar of the Shrine of St. Jude, the words coming from John 9:25.

The parish honored Fr. Lee with a reception following the 10:30 Mass on his ordination anniversary, where Fr. Lee signed copies of his book for parishioners. Copies are available in the SJ Parish Office or the SJ Parish Giftshop. All proceeds from the book's sale benefit the Pastor's Scholarship Fund for St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

An article dated August 11, 2022, written by parishioner Tom Roach served as the forward to the book. Mr. Roach commemorated Fr. Lee's 10th anniversary as pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude and highlighted Fr. Lee's

Continued on page 33

Unity in Christ

I hope that everyone had a blessed and refreshing summer. Welcome back to a new season of faith-inspired community life; school, sports, and ministries. This newspaper is unique in many ways with its exclusive focus



Chuck Short

on local parish life in Montgomery County. It's also unique as it has flourished during a time when community papers are going out of business. Since 2005, over 2,500 community newspapers have folded. As they disappear, an important source of community spirit and cohesion is lost. Thank God for *Our Parish Times*.

We welcome new pastors, associates, and deacons to Montgomery County parish life! Thank you to them and to all clergy for their service and guidance in our faith. Welcome, and thank you to parish school and other parish staff and volunteers who prepare children and enable parishioners to serve God, the Church, and their community.

A parable:

There are two people kneeling in the parish Adoration chapel. No others are present. A comforting silence with a light scent of incense pervades the warmly lit room.

One person, sitting near the rear of the

Continued on page 12



Reverend Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude, stands front and center among the priests who concelebrated the mass honoring the 40th anniversary of his ordination. From left are: Fr. Ramon Dominguez; Fr. Robert Kosty, senior priest at the Shrine of St. Jude; Fr. John Macfarlane; Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, Pastor at the Shrine of St. Jude; Fr. Peter Daly; and Monsignor John Enzler. Photo by Rebecca Sella.

Plant. Grow. Give

Tomatoes, squash, peppers, and many other fresh vegetables were gently placed into the large coolers at the lower entrance to Founder's Hall. All of the freshly grown produce was donated as part of the "Plant. Grow. Give" program at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish. After the official weigh in, the first donation of fresh produce to Saint Martin's Food Pantry totaled one hundred and seven pounds. Volunteers at the Food Pantry were overflowing with praise of the quality and freshness of the donations.

Plant

The new program at Our Lady of the Visitation began with a question from a Mary of Nazareth student and parishioner to his mother, "How can we use all the extra plants to feed the poor?". They did some research and found that "46% of families with children in Montgomery County experience food insecurity. Most food banks and other resources do their best to provide non-perishable foods but often fresh vegetables are not an affordable option. A study conducted by nonprofit organization AmpleHarvest.org reported that on an annual basis 11 billion pounds of excess produce grown in the home and community garden becomes waste." An idea began to germinate, which they brought to the pastor

Fr. Greg Shaffer. They proposed "Like many gardeners, we grow our own plants. You have to over-plant seed because not all grow, but more always grow than we actually need. The leftovers are often thrown away. Also, many people throw extra seeds away because you don't know if they will produce the following year. Combining the two ideas, I would like to give away extra seedlings and seeds, with information on how to grow the vegetables, encouraging people to grow a little extra for the hungry." The program was enthusiastically approved.

Grow

Following all weekend masses on the first weekend of May, with the active support of parish staff, volunteers organized the distribution of seedlings and seed packets to those interested. Plantings were also placed in pots around the parish grounds to be watered and maintained by volunteers. Experienced gardeners and neophytes took plants and seeds, determined to plant and grow a variety of produce. Planting information and even watering techniques were shared to help even those without a natural "green thumb".



At top: Seedlings were made available for growing.

Above left: Youth helpers set up seed packets for distribution.

Above right: Gladys Loughrey and Fr. Greg survey the bounty of fresh produce.

Give

The second phase of the program is harvesting and donating the produce. Teaming with HarvestShare, the parish was provided with coolers and collection supplies. OLVP is listed on the HarvestShareMD.org website and included in their social media postings as a community drop off location open to anyone in the area. Weekly donations will be collected and delivered from Sunday, July 16 to Sunday, September 3. Plans are in the works for a more traditional on-site garden, expanding "Mary's Giving Garden" to continue to grow the program next Spring.

Volunteer Christi Mitchell summarized, "This whole effort has been a truly amazing experience and very much a group effort. The outpouring of support for this idea and feeding those in need is inspirational. It has also been so wonderful to see so many Parishioners willing to try something new and in many cases something they profess to be bad at, to support the idea of a 5th grader and/or to feed the hungry."

"The seed that falls on good ground ... produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown" *MT 13:23*

OPT

SIGNS BY TOMORROW

SIGN & GRAPHIC SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

Located in Rockville, MD near the Shady Grove Metro Station
Call us 301-881-7446 or visit us online at SBTRockville.com

The Goehring Family serving the Archdiocese for over 25 years



DYER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

Providers of "surrogate-CFO" services as well as tax and financial reporting services to some of the most successful businesses and individuals in the region...

IS PLEASED TO JOIN OUR PARISH TIMES IN SUPPORTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION BY CONTINUING OUR

CATHOLIC EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

5% of fees from participating clients are donated to The Washington Jesuit Academy for tuition assistance. Contributions are made in the client's name, up to \$100 per year, and will be matched by the SHEPHERD FOUNDATION.

Gregory B. Dyer, CPA
Holy Redeemer Parish
Georgetown Prep '76
De Chantal '72
Past President, Catholic Business Network - MC

Dominic Cipollone
Mother Seton

Dana Evans
Holy Redeemer Parish

Vanessa Smith-Terrell
St. John the Evangelist

Michelle Fegan
St. Patrick

Adam Giegel
St. Sebastian

10415 Armory Avenue
Kensington, Maryland 20895
(301) 654-6200
www.dyer CPA.com

Montgomery County Catholics Participate in World Youth Day 2023

By Amy Sapenoff Hamm

"**M**ary arose and went with haste". These words, taken from the Gospel of Luke 1:39 provided the theme for World Youth Day 2023, which recently concluded in Lisbon, Portugal.

In his message introducing the theme, delivered on the Feast of the Assumption in the summer of 2022, Pope Francis elaborated on what it means for us to "arise" in our world today. He explained that "In these troubling times, when our human family, already tested by the trauma of the pandemic, is racked

Continued on page 22



Three young religious with connections to St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg showed off their Maryland pride. From left to right, Fr. Nicholas Morrison, soon to be Br. Steve Castellano, and Fr. Andy Davy.

Index

Christ the King..... 15	Senior Services..... 28	St. Martin of Tours..... 35
Holy Cross..... 7	St. Bartholomew..... 8	St. Mary - Barnesville..... 26
Holy Redeemer..... 17	St. Bernadette..... 25	St. Mary - Rockville..... 13
Mary of Nazareth..... 14	St. Elizabeth..... 10	St. Michael..... 34
Mother of God..... 31	St. Francis of Assisi..... 24	St. Patrick..... 11
Mother Seton..... 32	St. Francis International School..... 37	St. Paul..... 27
Our Lady of Lourdes..... 9	St. Jane de Chantal..... 16	St. Peter..... 29
Our Lady of Mercy..... 5	St. John the Evangelist..... 18	St. Raphael..... 23
Our Lady of the Visitation..... 22	St. John Neumann..... 30	Woods Academy..... 6
Our Lady Queen of Poland..... 38	St. Jude..... 33	

Local Parishes help the Faithful to Prepare for the Upcoming National Eucharistic Congress

By Amy Sapenoff Hamm

As St. Thomas Aquinas once said, “The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life.”

The centrality of the Eucharist in our faith and spiritual life is not to be taken lightly and is a constant journey for all Catholics as we deepen our understanding of the Word made Flesh in the mystery of the Eucharist.

To help form and educate the faithful, a grassroots movement, under the direction of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is organizing a Eucharistic Revival, Congress, and Pilgrimage.

The three year Revival was launched on the feast of Corpus Christi in 2022 is on-going until it culminates at next summer’s Eucharistic Congress. The Revival’s website reflects on the fact that, “Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devo-

tion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.” Throughout the three years, events will be organized at the parish and diocesan level to help Catholics discover the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, including processions, adoration, and local conferences.

The National Eucharistic Congress will be held July 17-21, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana. It will be the first National Eucharistic Congress in over 80 years and nearly 100,000 American Catholics are expected to attend. Catholics will have the opportunity to participate in the mass, moments of formation, healing prayer, and fellowship.

The final component, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, is organizing routes from various starting points all around the country. Each path will lead to Indianapolis. It aims to encourage more Catholics to participate in the ancient tradition of pilgrimage, long proposed by the Church as a form of prayer, penitence, and conversion. The eastern route, named the Seton Route, will pass through the Archdiocese of Washington on its way to Indianapolis.

More information regarding the National Eucharistic Revival,



Congress, and Pilgrimages can be found at Eucharisticrevival.org, Eucharisticcongress.org, and Eucharisticpilgrimage.org. Each of the websites also offer videos, texts, and prayer aids to help Catholics to learn more.

Many Montgomery County parishes and schools are already helping area Catholics to prepare for this moment and to encourage richer devotion to the Eucharist. Several parishes (check out Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Paul’s in this issue) held Eucharistic processions for the feast day of Corpus Christi. Other parishes are expanding opportunities for Eucharistic adoration. Several areas churches, including Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac and St. John the Evangelist in Silver Spring offer 24-hour, perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Pastors are also

considering ways to expand education and understanding of the

Eucharist within their communities. For example, St. Mary’s in Rockville invited their seminarian, Matthew Fichter, to give parish talks on the Eucharist throughout the summer.

Consider asking your pastor or contacting your parish office about what opportunities they may be offering to help you and your family grow in your Eucharistic devotion.

OPT



Kathleen & Lawrence Hamm
PUBLISHERS
Amy Hamm
MANAGING EDITOR
Mina Rempe
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Danny Gannon
Michael Roseleigh
DISTRIBUTION



Parish Community Services, Inc.
5212 Goddard Road • Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone 301-706-9684
OurParishTimes@gmail.com

PUBLISHED IN ALTERNATE MONTHS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Centro Tepeyac’s Mission: Past, Present, and Future

By Julie Kilmer

Centro Tepeyac was founded under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to Mexican peasant Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill near Mexico City in 1531. This apparition coincided with the Aztecs’ end of human sacrifice, making Our Lady a champion for the right to life.

In 1990, a group of local citizens became aware that the abortion industry was targeting the Hispanic population in the DMV. Abortion clinics had begun an intensive campaign to promote their practices through Spanish radio and newspaper ads, seeking to exploit for financial gain the desperation that poverty-stricken immigrants can feel when faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Someone needed to fight for the forgotten, as Our Lady did with St. Juan Diego in 1531. Centro Tepeyac is that warrior, for not only the unborn, but for mothers.

Centro Tepeyac’s mission is to encourage, educate, and empower women and men to make life-giving decisions for themselves and their unborn children. They do this by being the first point of contact through gentle, compassionate counseling, practical



Julie Kilmer is in her third month as the Executive Director of Centro Tepeyac, a non-profit agency located in Silver Spring. She has taken many of her hopes and dreams of this pregnancy center and put them into action to expand their services to better serve the expectant mothers in the surrounding area.

support, and walking with our clients every step of the way.

Centro Tepeyac provides bilingual advice, ongoing support even after birth; with parents, counseling for men, Prenatal & Parenting Classes, support groups, and child-care programs, Maternity and baby clothing, furniture, and other supplies, Post abortion counseling & peer support, as well as instruction in Natural Family Planning..

The mothers that come into Centro Tepeyac are in a wide range of difficult pregnancies. Their needs vary from applying for insurance, material assistance, emotional support, help from domestic violence, and many more.

One young woman that recently came into the Center had a strong impact on the staff and supporters of Centro Tepeyac.

A 17-year-old named Katy (for confidentiality, we changed her name) arrived at the center in distress. Her grandmother introduced her, saying that her granddaughter wanted to abort her baby. Katy mentioned she arrived in the United States two months prior and just found out she was pregnant. Her boyfriend in Guatemala did not show

Continued on page 36

MAKE YOUR MARRIAGE THRIVE

STRENGTHENING YOUR LOVE

Marriage Renewal Workshop

OCT 14-15, 2023

Learn More...



OURLADYOFBETHESDA.ORG



Bethesda, Maryland
301-365-0612

Because We Care About Your Marriage!



Fr. Lou, along with seminarian Marco Magpantay, blesses the quilts.

Blessed Quilts for Children and Veterans

The Mother Seton Parish Quilting Angels, who donate their time and talents to create these quilts, have gifted over 1,300 of them since joining the Quilts of Valor Foundation in 2005. The foundation was established in 2003 by a “blue star” mother, Catherine Roberts, whose son was deployed in Iraq. The impetus for the quilts was to promote healing, comfort, and hope for the troops. In July, Fr. Lou Faust, with the help of seminarian Marco Magpantay, blessed 129 quilts for children with pediatric illnesses to help brighten their days, and 21 quilts of valor to be awarded to veterans and service members to keep them warm and remind them of the love, respect, and honor that veterans deserve.



Made with Love

OPT

St. Francis Parishioners Honored for Their Efforts to Live Out Their Faith in Service to the Community

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

In an ethnically diverse county of 1.1 million people, it’s no surprise that Good Samaritans serving their fellow Montgomery County neighbors hail from every corner of the jurisdiction. But, when it comes to the 2023 Montgomery Serves Awards – the county’s highest honors for volunteer service – two of this year’s five recipients worship at a single faith community, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood.

On June 26, parishioner Christine King accepted the award for Volunteer of the Year at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, while parishioners Matthew and Liz Phelan, co-owners of Simply Fresh Events, earned the Business Volunteer of the Year Award, along with their business partners, Geoff and Jocelyn Barker. Both King and the Phelans named their Catholic faith and parish community as an inspiration in their decision to make service a central part of their lives.

As co-founder of the New Neighbors Interfaith Alliance, an organization that helps newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers acclimate and transition to their new home, King said studying the *Baltimore Catechism* as a child growing up in Pittsburgh, Pa., underpinned her penchant for community service. “As I got older, I believed [Catholic teaching] with every core of my being,” King said. “You look at everyone as your brother and sister. You feel their challenges. This is all because of my faith.”

Since its founding in 2019, NNIA has offered services to refugees resettled in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County, including English and homework tutoring, food and diaper delivery, transportation to doctor’s appointments, friendship, and social interaction. The work is shared by some 150 volunteers across more than 20 faith communities and community entities, including two Catholic churches, seven synagogues, Unitarian congregations, Presbyterian churches, Muslim and Bahá’í communities.

With an earlier iteration of the organization having largely served Syrian refugees, the flood-



St. Francis of Assisi parishioner Christine King

gates opened in August 2021 when Afghans began evacuating from Afghanistan after the Taliban returned to power. Currently, NNIA serves about 30 families resettled in Montgomery County, the majority of whom are Afghan but also include people from Ukraine, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru, and Syria.

King stood out from a 30-person field because the nature of her volunteerism was comparable to that of a paid job, said Montgomery County Volunteer Center Manager Faith McNeill. “[Chris] drew from her professional career in planning and management to help Afghan families and bring

together different faiths,” she said.

In a similar vein, it was their Jesuit education and admiration for the Catholic Worker movement that inspired the Phelans and Barkers to establish a partnership with Nourishing Bethesda, a food drive initiative through St. John’s Norwood Episcopal Church that serves individuals and families in need of sustenance. Through its Gaithersburg-based catering and event planning business, Simply Fresh Events donates about 200 pounds of food each week to Nourishing Bethesda, much of which provides nutrition for the organization’s Monday night dinner for its clientele.

“It’s important for us to give and move food in the community, making sure we are good stewards,” said Liz Phelan. “It’s an identity issue for us.”

McNeill said Simply Fresh Events stood out from five nominees, because of their impact, reach, engagement, ability to overcome challenges, and their overall inspiration. She noted the company’s decision to donate chickens to Nourishing Bethesda’s clientele on Thanksgiving instead of turkeys, since the former fowl is more commonly eaten by the people served by Nourishing Bethesda than the latter.

“They scored high on impact, because of the way their work helped with the food crisis during COVID-19” McNeill said.

OPT

Blessed Sacrament School

100 years of academic excellence and faith formation

Join us for an Open House:

Thursday, October 26, 2023 from 9:00 - 11:00 am

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Register at www.bsstoday.org

5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW Washington, DC 20015

BIRTHDAY BASH



From left to right: Jocelyn and Geoff Barker, who attend Our Lady of the Presentation Church in Poolesville and Matt and Liz Phelan, parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church

Mercy Welcomes New Staff Members!

We are excited to announce several new additions to Our Lady of Mercy's school community:

Theresa O'Connell, Kindergarten Teacher and STEM instructor – Mrs. O'Connell grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, attended St. John the Evangelist Elementary school and The Academy of the Holy Cross High School. She attended High Point University and received an undergraduate and graduate degree in elementary education, with a concentration in STEM Education. She will begin her 11th year of teaching this fall.

Kristie Giles, PreK 4 Teacher – Mrs. Giles has been a preschool teacher for about 20 years and also has experience as a Speech

Language Pathologist. She attended college at the University of Florida and received a master's degree from the University of Central Florida.

Sarah Linke, Kindergarten Assistant Teacher – Mrs. Linke grew up in Waldorf, Maryland and has an extensive background working as a Registered Nurse at Charles Regional Medical Center, supporting children with special medical needs. She enjoys serving her community as a volunteer.

Sharina Hunt, Kindergarten Teacher – Mrs. Hunt grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland and now lives in the North Potomac area. She has taught kindergarten in the county for 18 years.

OPT



Mercy middle school students will enjoy brand new lockers this year!

Facility Updates at OLOM

Mercy's hard-working facilities crew, led by German Lopez, has been busy renovating many areas of the school campus this summer. Vinyl tile was installed throughout the hallways and every classroom now has new carpeting. New lighting, fresh paint, and new middle school lockers will greet students when

they return in September! Continuing to prioritize school safety and security, Mercy has installed safety film on all building windows and door glass. Additional safety measures such as enhanced outdoor lighting and upgraded safety doors are also planned.

OPT

Growing Minds

One of our new Educational Extension Program offerings, "Growing Minds" will provide an opportunity for K-1 students to explore the world of STEM in an exciting way. Participants will learn how engineers influence our lives; how everything around them was created by an engineer, and how something's structure directly impacts its function. Using the design process, students will build a beanstalk, a house for the three little pigs, and a paintbrush that they will use to paint a picture. Mercy's new Kindergarten teacher, Theresa O'Connell, will partner with third-grade teacher Mrs. Maribeth Hayzlett to bring this program to life. Both instructors are certified in STEM Education.

OPT

Learning Goes Beyond the Mercy Classroom!

A unique feature of Mercy's curriculum is our Educational Extension Program. The goal of this program is to provide a wide variety of extended learning opportunities for students of all ages. The fall semester offers more than 15 unique activities for students in PreK 4 through eighth grade including STEM, Lacrosse for Girls, Computer Club, Hands on Science, Chess, Art Studio, Spanish Enrichment, French Enrichment, Interscholastic Sports, and many more! This year, the Middle School Drama Club will be presenting the Roald Dahl musical "Matilda, Jr." with shows on December 1-2, 2023.

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Fr. Charles Antonicelli, Pastor
301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School
Mrs. Christine Green, Principal
301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 18

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School

A 3-TIME BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL!



OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

8:30 - 10:00 AM

PRE-K 3 THRU 8TH GRADE



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



Empowering leaders to serve with faith, intellect, and confidence.

OPEN HOUSES

UPPER SCHOOL (Grades 9-12) • Sunday, October 15, 2023
MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5-8) • Friday, November 10, 2023
LOWER SCHOOL (Grades PK-4) • Gator Gathering, October 26, 2023



We are an all-girls grades 1-12, Catholic, independent school, (co-ed program Pre-K through Kindergarten) located in Bethesda, Maryland.

Bus transportation is available throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG

Welcome to The Woods Academy, Dr. Jessica Palladino!

On July 1, The Woods Academy community welcomed our new Head of School Dr. Jessica Palladino. Below is an excerpt from her welcome letter to our beautiful community.



The Woods Academy is pleased to welcome Dr. Jessica Palladino as our new Head of School

Greetings Woods Community,
I am honored and excited to join The Woods Academy as the new Head of School. In the short time that I have spent at The Woods, it is clear that this is a strong community that is dedicated to the growth and development of the whole child - academically, spiritually, and emotionally.

I want to acknowledge and express my gratitude to Joe Powers for all he has done to make The Woods a place where students develop confidence to lead and have endless opportunities to learn. He has been a strong partner in this transition, and I appreciate his dedication to this wonderful school.

I would also like to thank the Search Committee and Board of Trustees for their time and thoughtfulness to ensure that the transition has been smooth. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from The Woods community and I am looking forward to connecting with each of you as we begin our partner-

ship.
The Woods Academy is well-positioned as we transition into a new chapter in our innovative new learning spaces. I look forward to honoring the traditions and foundations that make The Woods a treasured place while nurturing a spirit of joy, innovation, and collaboration.

I hope you are having a summer filled with reading, adventure, and rest. I look forward to meeting you all and getting to know you better in the coming school year!

Warmly,
Jess Palladino

OPT

How do teachers at The Woods help students in their classroom lead a life of significance?



Capri Coleman - Second Grade

I instill leadership in my classroom. They all have jobs and responsibilities around the classroom. Students are able to become managers and have the opportunity to understand what leadership and responsibility truly is.



Meghan Mullally - Fifth and Sixth Science

In fifth grade advisory, I get the opportunity to empower, educate, guide, and support an amazing group of girls every year. We discuss topics such as gratitude, communication, kindness, mindfulness, and respect then put these into practice through a variety of activities. It is my hope that they carry these lessons with them as they move through their lives.



JP Clubbs - Seventh and Eighth Grade Social Studies

I try to set an example of how family is the center of life. Being with and seeing Coach [my father], giving him a hug, chatting with him and students, it shows that a parent is so much more than just a parent - a hero.



Stephanie Rocco - Third Grade

There are two things that I like to emphasize in my classroom: Mistakes help us learn and grow and to THINK (Is it true? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?) before you speak/act. Being able to self-regulate and self-reflect are skills that help you become a better learner, friend, and family member. Being able to understand yourself helps you have more meaningful relationships with the people around you.

Leading a Life of Significance



Woods Academy students learn to live lives of significance

By Caitlin Chalke, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Alumni Relations

The Woods Academy's mission is to be an inclusive Catholic community preparing boys and girls to lead lives of significance. In an ever-changing world, what would we consider a significant life?

I stumbled upon a beautiful reflection on LinkedIn where a daughter wrote about her late father and how he lived a significant life. She describes a "life of significance" perfectly:

"It is that hug just at the right moment of a really bad day. It is the joke at just the right moment that relieves the stress of a job. A significant moment is taking responsibility for an unpleasant task, especially when it is not your responsibility. A significant moment is making sure someone takes a break for a few minutes so that they can just catch their breath, or get off their feet for a moment before returning to work. A significant moment is making sure to smile or making someone else smile

Continued on page 30

Trust the NALLS with your real estate needs from Start to Finish.



Find Your Home with...

Tom Nalls, REALTOR®
301-237-5170, O: 301-340-8700
Georgetown Preparatory School, Class of 1978



Get Your Money with...



Joseph Nalls
HOME MORTGAGE CONSULTANT
NMLS ID#: 330614
301-529-8611

Gonzaga College High School
Class of 1983



Settle Your Home with...

John Nalls, Attorney at Law
202-686-0100

Gonzaga College High School, Class of 1982



The Woods Academy
6801 Greentree Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
301-365-3080
Head of School, Joseph E. Powers
OPT Editor, Caitlin Chalke
Director of Marketing and Communications
www.woodsacademy.org



More Woods Academy News on Page 25

Holy Cross School Spirit Doesn't Take a Summer Break!

One of the best things about Holy Cross School is its tremendous school spirit! Enthusiasm for our school aligned with our Catholic identity creates a warm, welcoming, and supportive culture as evidenced by the many spirit-filled summer activities at Holy Cross. The Buddy Family Program is just one of the ways this culture is sustained and shared with new families. The year-long program matches returning school families with new families who have children in the same grade. Buddy families roll out the welcome mat to new families, connecting over the summer so new students can meet classmates ahead of the first day of school. Families enjoy getting together at local parks, pools, and even aboard a boat in Annapolis! Buddy families continue to serve as an additional point of contact through the school year to help ensure a smooth transition to Holy Cross School.

School spirit continued to shine with the summer social media program, again proving to be a wonderful way to stay connected and have fun over the summer months. Families and faculty members used a large, laminated school logo emblazoned with the words *Always Be Kind!* as a special prop to take and share photos on social media of their summer adventures. Our community relished seeing a variety

of photos, including Resource Teacher Mrs. Shaffer's exploration of the Grand Tetons in Wyoming; students engaging in summer service projects; families savoring trips to sunny beach locations and European destinations, and being a tourist in our own backyard of the Nation's Capital. Photos were displayed on the school's social media accounts for all to enjoy! Christine Zalewski, Director of Development and Admissions stated that "social media plays an important role in telling our school's story and engaging our amazing community. It was fantastic fun to see students and faculty sharing their school spirit over the summer!"

Holy Cross School also organized several campus playground playdate events over the summer. The events offered new and returning families an opportunity to connect while school is out of session in a warm and welcoming environment. Both parents and students enjoyed seeing old friends and making new friends at the playground

Continued on page 12



Above: Siblings show their school spirit while serving others by packing backpacks & toiletry packs at Comfort Cases, an organization that provides backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system.



Right: A new family is welcomed at a school Playground Playdate event!

Holy Cross Welcomes New Faculty

"A new school year is always an exciting time for the faculty and staff," said Holy Cross principal, Lisa Kane. "This year, we are delighted to welcome several new and one returning member of the team. I have every confidence that their contributions will enrich our school community."

The Middle School team welcomes Mr. James Mitchell as the Middle School Social Studies teacher and Grades 7 and 8 Religion teacher. Mr. Mitchell is a parishioner at Holy Redeemer where he teaches CCD. Mr. Mitchell earned his Bachelor of Arts in History from UMBC and his Master of Arts in

Special Education from Towson University.

Ms. Gail Zik joins the faculty as our new Spanish teacher for Kindergarten through Grade 8. Ms. Zik previously taught Foreign Language for Howard County Public Schools. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in German and Spanish from GBMC.

Patty Sergi will be our new Art teacher, replacing Betsy Foley who retired in June. Patty holds a BS from University of Massachusetts and an MBA from Bentley College.

Ms. Jeremie Lipczenko has joined our faculty as the new Grade 3 Teaching Assistant.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and American Literature from Brandeis University and her Master of Education from Lesley University.

Ms. Francesca Russo returns to Holy Cross as the Business Manager; she will also lend

support as a part-time teaching assistant. Ms. Russo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Mount Saint Mary's University and a Master of Education from Marymount University.

OPT

A Warm Welcome to Father Stephen Wyble

It was with great pleasure that Holy Cross parish welcomed Father Stephen Wyble to his new ministry on Wednesday, July 5. Before coming to Holy Cross, Father Wyble, a native of Kensington, Maryland, served as the pastor of two churches in Saint Mary's County: Holy Angels and neighboring Sacred Heart. Previously, Father Wyble served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac. He received his seminarian formation from the Pontifical North American College in Rome.



Holy Cross Church and School extends a warm welcome to Father Stephen Wyble.

to Holy Cross of Father Perkins, Father Mathias, and Father Hughes. He thanked the clergy, rectory staff, and school community for their help and kindness during the transition to his new role.

In return, we thank God for the blessing of Father Wyble to Holy Cross Church and School. We look forward to his pastoral leadership for our school and parish family.

OPT

Holy Cross Parish
4900 Strathmore Avenue,
Garrett Park, MD
301-942-1020

Holy Cross School
Lisa Maio Kane, Principal
301-949-0053

Lurana Hogan, Parish Editor
l.hogan@hcross.org

St. Anselm's Abbey School.

Where a **rigorous curriculum** keeps students challenged and engaged.

Where a **warm community** encourages every boy to be himself.

Where dozens of sports, arts, and clubs give rise to **confident leaders**.

Where a strong **Benedictine tradition** grounds values and inspires faith.

Where Bright Boys Become Exceptional Men.

Fall Open House
Sunday, November 12 • 12 - 3 pm

Join Us!

Grades 6-12 | 40-Acre D.C. Campus | www.saintanselms.org



Be a Cub for a Day

The best way to get to know Visi is to spend a day with us!



Georgetown Visitation
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

8th grade girls are invited to register:

www.visi.org/cub4aday

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

An all-girls Catholic high school in Washington, DC
www.visi.org 202.337.3350



@visidc



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



MATER DEI SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, October 25th
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

Mark Your Calendars for St. Bart's Day

St. Bart's Day is an annual parish celebration of the Feast Day of St. Bartholomew (August 26) and will be held this year on Saturday, September 9. The Home & School Association and various parish ministries invite all parish members to a fun evening of food and fellowship for all ages.

The event kicks off with Mass at 5:00 pm followed by a barbeque and potluck dinner in the courtyard. Adults can enjoy a professionally hosted trivia contest inside, while children and young families will rock the night away with DJ and dancing outdoors. Visit us online to RSVP.



Parishioners help to celebrate last year's fun.

OPT

Getting to Know Fr. Alex, St. Bartholomew's New Parochial Vicar

St. Bartholomew's welcomed its new parochial vicar, Fr. Alex Wyvill, in July. "Fr. Alex" as he is referred to, grew up in Saint Mary's County, way in the countryside. His parents grew up in farming families, so he learned to be pretty handy thanks to them.

Fr. Alex tried many different schools growing up, settling on Father Andrew White in Leonardtown for grade school. He attended



Welcome to Fr. Alex Wyvill!

St. Mary's Ryken for high school, where he participated in musical theater as well as the sailing and ice hockey teams.

Interestingly, Fr. Alex did not always want to become a priest. At one point, he even rejected his faith until a special teacher at Ryken really listened to his questions and doubts and helped him to reclaim the faith that his parents had given him.

Continued on page 34

St. Bart's Welcomes New Principal, Kevin Giblin

There are a few names in the Archdiocese of Washington that make an immediate impact when spoken – individuals who have had a tremendous influence on the lives of students and families, who have helped shape schools and programs in our area. Without question, Kevin Giblin is one of those names – a seasoned administrator, an esteemed educator and a legendary coach.

St. Bartholomew School is thrilled to welcome



St. Bart's is thrilled to have Kevin Giblin as its new principal.

Giblin as the school's new principal for the 2023-24 school year. Giblin is stepping into the role following the retirement of Frank English, the school's beloved principal for the past 6 years. Giblin comes to St. Bart's by way of Mount St. Mary's, where he most recently worked in the University's Advancement and Development

Office while also serving as Assistant Coach and Defensive Coordinator for their men's lacrosse team.

With his neat-as-a-pin office decorated with lacrosse helmets on the shelves, it's clear that the sport has been a common thread throughout Giblin's adulthood – not only as a coach at Georgetown Prep and Bishop O'Connell, but as a sideline fan cheering on his four children, Liam, Colin, Dempsey and Cormac.

Giblin truly transformed Georgetown Prep into a powerhouse program, and to honor his legacy, was inducted into the National Interscholastic Lacrosse Coaches Association

Continued on page 9

St. Bartholomew Parish
6900 River Road Bethesda, MD 20816
Rev. Mark Smith, Pastor
301-229-7933
St. Bartholomew School
Kevin Giblin, Principal
301-229-5586
Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
202-512-8226

Corpus Christi Catholic Feast Day Celebration



On June 11, the priests and parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes led a Eucharistic procession through the streets of East Bethesda to celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. This was a beautiful and public way to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The street was filled with families prayerfully walking under the warm June sun. The procession was also held last year, but Good News spreads

quickly, and there were even more participants this year. As pastor Father Rob reminded the faithful from the ambo, "There is literally nowhere better to be!" In true Our Lady of Lourdes fashion, there was a celebration to follow the procession. Music, dancing, ice cream, and fellowship were enjoyed by all. What an inspiring sight of faith in action for the neighbors of Our Lady of Lourdes to witness!

The OLOL Faithful process up Pearl Street on the Feast of Corpus Christi

The Our Lady of Lourdes Corpus Christi Procession

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Fr. Walsh, Pastor
301-654-1287

Mr. David Long
Principal
301-654-5376

OPT



A Long Summer Camp is a longstanding Our Lady of Lourdes tradition. Here, campers and counselors enjoy slurpees on a perfect July day.

GIBLIN

Con't from page 8

Hall of Fame last winter. Giblin's longest tenure was at Mater Dei School in Bethesda, where between 1987-2015, he taught Algebra and eighth-grade Theology and served as Assistant Headmaster. Middle School was a great fit for Giblin, as he felt that was a great opportunity to make a lasting impact on the boys and to set them up for success in the future.

Perhaps this was an added draw for Giblin to St. Bart's. Giblin's wife of 33 years, Karen, has been an adored Kindergarten teacher at the school for five years, but Giblin admittedly had not spent much time on campus until last Spring when the prin-

icipal opportunity arose. When he saw the school's beautiful 11-acre campus, met with the incredible faculty and staff, and got to know the students, he felt what he described was "a calling" and saw an opportunity to build something truly great. Needless to say, the feeling was mutual, and St. Bart's was very lucky to lock Giblin in as its next leader.

Giblin joins St. Bart's with great energy, exciting vision, and a true passion for helping children to realize their potential. Ever the coach, Giblin is bringing action-oriented leadership and a true growth mindset to the school. "As a coach, it is my job to put a player in a position to be successful. It's the same with students. At St. Bart's, the bones here are good – the people, the students, and the campus—and it's all about enhancing what's in place."

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School **OPEN HOUSE**

October 12, 2023

9:30 am - 11:30 am & 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Join us and learn why OLOL would be a great school for your child!

Please call (301) 654-5376 for more information.



At Our Lady of Lourdes, the door to a Catholic education is always open. Come in and see the difference traditional Catholic values, a strong, inclusive community, and an exceptional faculty and staff can make in your child's life.

- Since 1941, proudly providing Catholic faith-based education and curriculum for students in Elementary and Middle school.
- Our Discovery Center provides opportunities for hands-on experiences with open ended-materials that integrate STEM components and correlate to our standards.
- Resource center and support programs
- Extracurricular activities include: CYO sports, drama club, band program, children's choir and more!
- Licensed after care program

7500 Pearl Street, Bethesda, MD 20814 ~ (301) 654-5376 ~ www.bethesda-lourdes.org



Our littlest campers show off some of their original artwork.

Happy Campers!

It was wonderful to see our students attending camps this summer – especially the newest Saints who will join us for the first time this fall! Campers enjoyed the opportunity to bake, use their creativity, read books, and for our youngest students, become familiar with what a school day feels like. We are busy preparing for the beginning of the school year and can't wait to see everyone!

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
 301-881-1824

Our Parish
Times Online

Rex Reed Truck Touch

One of the most treasured traditions at St. Elizabeth School is the Rex Reed Truck Touch. Every type of transportation imaginable is gathered for our students to explore. A Model A from 1927, horses, big rigs, tractors, emergency vehicles and more! A BIG thanks to the Reed family for always making this day a special one for the St. E's students.

OPT

Below: Our students look great in their St. E's gear in front of a massive truck!
 Right: The vintage cars provided lots of fun for all our students.



COMPETITIVE SHOPPING IT'S WHAT WE DO

As an independent insurance agency, we have more options available to you. We can competitively shop to put together a plan that suits both your needs and your budget.



AUTO | HOME | LIFE | BUSINESS

JWM

JOSEPH W. McCARTIN
INSURANCE, INC.

Providing trusted advice since 1967

301-837-1095 | mccartin.com

Follow & Like Us



Independent Insurance Agent

Contact us today for a quote | info@mccartin.com

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

begin with Mass at 7 a.m., followed by time in the counseling office and wherever else I am needed.

This new role is in many ways an old one. I have always loved teaching and working with young people, and I was blessed to be able to do that at St. Jane de Chantal as a deacon, as head of CYO for the archdiocese, and at several parishes with schools – Little Flower, Our Lady of Mercy and Blessed Sacrament.

It is always a joy to work closely with our young people. I grow from their enthusiasm and excitement about life itself, and I hope that I help them know God better and am a resource in times of struggle. I've found that adolescents often need some extra help dealing with things because they are still developing the gifts and tools that they need to handle the struggles that come their way. There's no question that today's world is difficult for many adolescents.

In addition to my calling to work with young people I also bring 12 formative years at Catholic Charities with me. I have experienced the importance and fulfillment of caring for the poor. Helping those in need is a bigger part of who I am now, and I hope to share with students the wonderful principles of Catholic social teaching that guide who we are and how we live in the world today.

Another goal is to spend time with those who are thinking about becoming Catholic. I think it would be great to have a high school RCIA program for those who have been impacted by the good environment and education at St. John's and might have a desire to join the Catholic Church.

I must admit that I look forward to fol-

lowing a school calendar, which includes a number of holidays throughout the year and extended breaks at Christmas and Easter. Christmas will be a very different experience for me this year. I am still at St. Bartholomew's and look forward to celebrating the season there, but I will also have a chance to relax and enjoy the holidays in ways my schedule has never allowed.

And then there's summer break, which most of us never stop longing for when we're finished school. Summer vacation is one of the gifts of education, allowing students to catch their breath, have some fun, and recharge after their efforts the previous nine months. These breaks will help me keep my balance as I get older.

I have stayed involved with St. John's through the years, but now I get to be back on campus nearly every day. When I attended, it was all boys, but now it is a vibrant coed school of roughly 1,200 students with a chance to grow and excel in academics, athletics, drama, science, leadership and many other areas. I have no doubt the students will keep me feeling young.

Let us pray for students, teachers, school employees and administrators as we get ready for a new school year. Let us pray, too, for all parents and guardians, who are always the first teachers in the ways of faith. We are blessed to have many wonderful Catholic schools in Montgomery County and throughout the archdiocese to help teach the faith, to reinforce the values they want to instill in their children, and to prepare them academically for the future.

I know some of the older kids may not be excited about going back to school. But as the oldest kid of all, I sure am! May it be a great year for all of us!

OPT

St. Patrick's Educates Parishioners about Pro-Life issues in Weekly Bulletins "Something to Consider" Column

Each week the St. Patrick's bulletin offers its readers "something to consider". This something is always related to pro-life issues, ranging from local topics all the way up to international trends. While the column focuses on elements of the pro-life cause related to abortion, it also touches on other matters related to the sanctity and dignity of human life.

For example, one recent column expounded upon the increasingly permissive euthanasia policies in many European countries, particularly Belgium and the Netherlands, explaining how these policies are coming closer and closer to home.

Canada, "who used to limit MAiD to those over 18 with a terminal illness. They have now amended the law to allow euthanasia for patients with intellectual disability or autism, social isolation, a lack of coping strategies or an inability to adjust their thinking."

Another column described how abortions are used to target babies with genetic conditions and intellectual disabilities, mirroring eugenicist policies used by the Nazi regime in the last century.

Each week offers a substantive, researched overview that are essential for Catholics to know. A column from earlier this summer provided

an in-depth history of abortion pills in the United States and their dangers. The column explained that, "Knowing the risks involved in using drugs to cause a miscarriage, initially the FDA required the abortion pills to only be dispensed in clinics, medical offices, and hospitals under the supervision of a certified healthcare doctor. These medications come with a "Black Box Warning," the highest label of warning that the FDA uses for serious safety risks. Now many of these safeguards have been removed because they interfered with the mother's "freedom to choose." The article even included information from Planned Parenthood's website

that listed many of the troubling side-effects of taking abortifacients.

"Something to Consider" also presents important local information, such as explaining relevant Maryland laws that offer support and protection for expecting mothers in difficult situations and their newborns.

Finally, the column also highlights the many ways that St. Patrick's serves the unborn throughout the year through initiatives such as the Mother's Day Flower Sales to benefit area crisis pregnancy centers, participating in 40 Days for Life, and providing direct support for the Gabriel Network's "Angel Friends" program. St. Patrick's parishioners

may also be interested in getting involved with the area crisis pregnancy centers, the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Centro Tepeyac, and Rockville Women's Center. The bulletin from August 13 includes contact information for each of the centers.

"Something to Consider" is an excellent resource to keep the parish community informed about the realities of abortion, other important pro-life issues, and providing suggestions for how to get involved and support the dignity of human life from conception until its natural end.

OPT

St. Patrick's enjoyed a spirit night at a Cropdusters game up in Olney back in June. Miss Short threw out a perfect first pitch right over home plate!



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
Contact parish office

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL | OPEN HOUSE

A Marching Band, Cheerleaders,
Robotics Experiments, And Coaches
From More Than 40 Teams

**But Open House Isn't About All
Of Them. It's All About You.**

Sunday, October 22nd, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
17301 Old Vic Blvd. Olney, MD 20832

Inquire today to learn more
www.olgchs.org/inquire

At Good Counsel's Open House you'll find a Catholic, co-ed high school focused on continually meeting students' needs to help you grow academically, personally, and spiritually. **And you'll meet caring teachers (88% of which hold advanced degrees)**, who helped our most recent graduating class earn a school record of **\$40 million in college scholarships**, as well as current students who are on their way to top 100 universities.



SCHOOL SPIRIT

Con't from page 7

playdates!

The Home and School Association continued its work fostering school spirit and creating a welcoming community by hosting a free 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 ward-

robes. Principal Lisa Kane stated, "Holy Cross School is blessed to have a marvelous school community of enthusiastic families that are filled with school spirit and a shared purpose. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!"

OPT



Seventh-grade boys organized a fun get together at the pool to welcome a new student to the class!

SHORT

Con't from page 1

chapel, is a holy one deep in prayer and worship. The other person is sitting in the first pew as close to the exposed Lord as possible. The one in the first pew is the Evil One searching a favorite area to find a vulnerable soul.

The Evil One rises and walks back to the worshiper and asks, "Excuse me, because you are holy would you enlighten me? Is the adoration of Jesus more important than service to others?" Comfortably, the holy one replies, "Our Lord is clear on this question. We must love God with our whole mind, body and heart and we must love our neighbor as ourselves". The Evil one

replies, "thank you, holy one, you know your Scripture well." Both return to their purposes.

A few moments later, the Evil one returns with another question. "Since you are pious and learned in your faith, may I ask another question? Is it more important to give money to those who beg; to clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned than to pray for their eternal souls?" This question is a bit more challenging for the worshiper. After a moment of thought, the holy one responds, "The New Testament teaches that faith without good works is dead". A good Catholic should do both. Satisfied with the response, the Evil one returns to the front place in the chapel. "Now", thought the Evil One, "is the time

to lay the trap".

One last time, the Evil one approaches the last pew and asks, "Dear friend, help me understand this matter of faith. Is it more important to assist those who are marginalized in our community with alms and services to help them advance themselves to self-sufficiency and dignity or to seek justice among the community's laws and practices to prevent their marginalization in the first place?". This question disrupts and troubles the confidence of the holy one, as the answer is unclear. With discomfort, the holy one responds, "I don't know the answer. In fact, your question makes me quite uneasy. Among Catholics of good will, some emphasize justice, others charity. It is a troubling matter of great debate, often a source of judgment and animosity. I am at a loss for the answer and don't know what the right thing is. I have sought advice from many and found intolerance and division. Might you guide me?"

With satisfaction, the Evil One responds, "Come, follow me, I will ease your confusion with a comfortable response". Together, they leave the church.

As they leave the chapel, a stranger approaches and asks the holy one, "Clearly, you are a true believer in Jesus. Would you please spare a few moments with me in prayer and advice?" The holy one replies, "But you are a stranger to me. I don't know how I can possibly help." The stranger replies, "The comfort of your presence and an unjudging ear will ease my suffering."

Sending the Evil one away, the two enter the chapel.

Parables help us to understand complex moral and ethical issues. Often, they contain multiple messages. I hope that this parable will help us reflect on the grave danger to the Church and our spiritual lives that intolerance and dissension play. Pope Francis addressed this issue, in his October 2022 homily on the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, "A Church in love with Jesus has no time for quarrels, gossip and disputes. May God free us from being critical and intolerant, harsh and angry! This is not a matter of style but of love."

The Word we read at Mass clearly summons us to a united Body of Christ, welcoming all with love and assigning judgment to Himself.

In this column, we have reflected on many matters important to our parishes and communities. Together we have addressed hunger, homelessness, unkindness, Catholic education, volunteerism, community health, the dignity of life, immigration, the Catholic role in the public square and many other matters of faith, advocacy, and service. We have honored exemplary Catholic leaders and organizations and declared "Street Saints". In this coming OPT year, I pray the good work of our parishes will flourish and grow in the spirit of unity and love.

God Bless!
Chuck Short
Cshort52verizon.net

OPT

Transparency and Trust.

That's Our Commitment to You.



As a Leader in Community Service, We Believe in Giving Back.

**YELLOW RIBBON FUND | PET ADOPTION PROGRAM
CHILD SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM**

Our Commitment to the Environment:



- 100% Wind Power at All Our Locations
- Solar Power at Selected Locations
- Solar Power | All Stores Use Wind Power
- Parts, Fluids, and Waste Recycling
- Recycle Over 80% of Solid Waste Stream

Our Commitment to Quality:



ISO 9001/14001 Certified,
Fitzgerald AutoMalls is
the ONLY dealer group in
North America with this
distinction.

That's the FitzWay. There's Just No Better Way to Go!

www.FitzMall.com



Fr. James Glasgow uses YouTube as a tool to reach his flock.

Friday Video Series Enriches St. Mary's Understanding of the Mass

Fr. James Glasgow, parochial vicar at St. Mary's, is using all the tools of the 21st century available to him to help teach his parishioners the fundamentals of the Catholic Mass. Each Friday he posts a new video, available on the parish website, in the parish Flocknote emails, and the parish YouTube channel, that explains a different part of the liturgy, breaking it down step by step and piece by piece.

The first introductory video, posted nearly a year ago, provided the framework for the series. In the introduction, Fr. James explained his desire to help members of the St. Mary's community better understand the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and "how this particular act of worship that we do as the people of God can draw us into a deeper unity with God by rendering Him this perfect act of worship and by being with one another communally and collegially in the same act of worship". It was this desire that

led to his idea to break the Mass down into 52 parts that he would explain in a year-long video series. Fr. James went on to describe his hope that by knowing more about the Mass, the community would be able to pray better and to "recall the beauty of the Mass and the way that this sacrifice allows us to be in communion with God the Father in and through Jesus Christ".

Videos range from two to eight minutes in length and cover topics as granular as the genuflection and the sign of peace as well as going more in depth explaining the various Eucharistic prayers over the course of several videos. The most recent videos offer an explanation on how to receive Holy Communion.

There are a few more weeks to go to finish out the year-long series, but certainly the fruits of Fr. James's efforts will be seen for a long time to come!

OPT



St. Mary's School installed new windows for its classrooms this summer, getting the building ready to welcome back students!

St. Mary's School Prepares for an Upcoming School Year Full of Prayer

A quick glance at the St. Mary's Rockville school blog and Facebook page offers quick reminders about how families should prepare for the upcoming school year. Parents ought to be thinking about ordering school lunches and buying school supplies. However, more importantly, students and their parents are also encouraged to learn different prayers, depending on their grade levels. For example, third graders will be expected to know the Morning Offering and Prayer to St. Michael, while fifth graders are asked to concentrate on the Memorare and the Stations of the Cross. By fostering a shared commitment to prayer across each grade level and in each classroom, St. Mary's

helps to fulfill their mission of Christ based education to their students.

OPT

St. Mary's Parish
520 Veirs Mill Road Rockville, MD
Msgr. Robert Amey, Pastor
301-424-5550

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

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

A GREAT PLACE TO GROW!

EVERYDAY IS OPEN HOUSE AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL PROVIDES EACH CHILD A FAITH BASED, ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS CURRICULUM. SEE WHERE FAITH, KNOWLEDGE, AND SERVICE COME TOGETHER TO FORM RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS IN OUR EVER-CHANGING WORLD

600 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville, MD 20852
301-762-4179
www.stmaryschoolrockville.org/admissions

CALL FOR YOUR PERSONAL TOUR TODAY!

GEORGETOWN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Forming Men of Faith and Men for Others

Top 5 Reasons to attend Prep

- Global Community
- Excellence in Curriculum and Teaching
- First-Class Facilities
- Lifelong Bonds of Prep Brotherhood
- America's Oldest Jesuit Boarding and Day School

Open House • October 15, 12:00–3:00 p.m.
North Bethesda, MD • www.gprep.org

New Year, New Lobby

Mary of Nazareth is constantly finding ways to improve, and summer is the time to do it. Along with key fob installation, new additions to the playground, and other summertime upgrades, the lobby is getting a new look.

This past year's Raise the Paddle campaign, focused on the lobby's renewal and renovations have been in full swing. The goal: to create both a visually captivating and secure environment.

This summer's enhancements not only usher in a more visually appealing atmosphere but also embrace the imperative of security. As we prepare to unveil this revitalized lobby, we



Our Mustangs will enjoy new basketball hoops during recess this year!

extend our gratitude to all who contribute to our Raise the Paddle campaign.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth says Goodbye to Cherished Faculty and Staff

As Mary of Nazareth Catholic School prepares to open its doors for the upcoming school year, it will be without several of our long-time members of the faculty and staff.

Rich Huelbig served for many years as our Athletic Director, helping many MoN students to live the mission of our sports program, "to provide quality sports programs which include the development of individual players and teams that safely demonstrate, in practice and in play, the honor, respect and dedication that is central to the Catholic faith." Mr. Huelbig will be retiring after nearly 20 years at Mary of Nazareth. Parents and former Mustangs recall his commitment and spirit, inspiring generations of student athletes. We wish him



Mary of Nazareth says goodbye to long-time Athletic Director Rich Huelbig

many blessings as he embarks on this new chapter in his life!

We also said goodbye to Mrs. Wenzlaff, Mrs. Scherer, Mrs. Godfrey, and Mrs. Finucane at the end of the school year. Thank

you to all for their commitment to the Mary of Nazareth. Each departing teacher has made a lasting impact on our community and will be missed.

OPT



It was a bittersweet goodbye at the end of the year celebration this past June as we said farewell and good luck to departing faculty and staff. From left to right: Kara Wenzlaff, Sarah Scherer, Richard Huelbig, Molly Godfrey, and Theresa Finucane

<p>Mary of Nazareth Roman Catholic School 14131 Seneca Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20874 Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel Assistant Principal: Katherine Schultz 301-869-0940 (tel) 301-869-0942 (fax)</p>	<p>Development Director Sarah Muir OPT Editor: Katherine Schultz, kschultz@maryofnazareth.org Website: www.maryofnazareth.org Affiliated with the following parishes: Mother Seton, Germantown; St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine, Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg; St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the Visitation, Darnestown.</p>
---	--



Mary of Nazareth
 Catholic School

Our Mission

LIVES OF SERVICE
 RIGOROUS ACADEMICS
 ROOTED IN FAITH

14131 Seneca Road
 Darnestown, MD 20874
 www.maryofnazareth.org

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter icons

Welcome New MoN Faculty and Staff

Mrs. Susan Brake is joining us to teach fourth and fifth-grade religion, as well as fourth-grade math. With a strong connection to St. Rose of Lima Parish and an impressive background in youth ministry, she brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She holds degrees in Economics and Therapeutic Recreation, and has five years

experience as a media specialist. Ms. Mary Glynn is a dedicated and respected educator holding a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Maryland, College Park. Ms. Glynn taught previously at St. Mary School in Rockville and St. Peter School in Olney. Mr. Dan Prete is our new Athletic Director. Coming from Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland,

MD, Mr. Prete has an extensive coaching background in basketball spanning over three decades, including international coaching experience. Ms. Alexis Rivero, is joining the first-grade team as their new teacher. A recent graduate with a BS in Elementary Education, her energy promises a positive impact on our first graders.

OPT

Grandparents Day at Christ the King

By Liz Weiss, Parishioner

On July 23, Christ the King Parish celebrated Grandparents Day. Parishioners lit candles in honor of their living or deceased grandparents. Special prayers were said for grandparents during Mass. At the end of the Mass, grandparents were invited to the front. Father Steve gave them a special blessing. During the sermon, Father mentioned how much he was influenced by his grandmother. She helped instill in him the importance of God in his life. We all thank God for all grandparents and the special love they bring to families.

OPT



Father Steve blessing the grandparents at Sunday mass



Candles lit to honor our grandparents.

Registration for Religious Education Program

By Liz Weiss, Parishioner

In September, the Religious Education program begins another year. Registration will start soon after Sunday Masses. Katie Ward is in charge of the English program. Mrs. Isidra Molina is our Director of Religious Education. She coordinates the Spanish speaking program. Please register your children for the 2023-2024 school year.

Last year well over 100 children participated in the programs. Preparation for First Communion and for Confirmation were some of the highlights. Also, during Lent many children participated in the Living Stations of the Cross. The volunteer teachers did a great job in teaching the children the concepts of the Catholic Faith. We are asking parents to register their children as early as possible. Thank you.

OPT

McGANN

Con't from page 1

at a time, you pray, and you pay close attention. You trust teachers and administrators, and you trust your instincts. You hope that this Catholic school, and these Catholic educators believe that all children deserve the best education, and that all children deserve multiple opportunities to succeed.

Catholicism is a religion of second, third and fourth chances. As long as we are trying our best, and as long as we commit to doing better when we go wrong, God always gives us another chance. We can and should expect the same for our children from Catholic school teachers and leaders.

Some of the best teachers I have known have terrible memories. No matter how rambunctious or difficult their student (students) might

be on Monday, those teachers open the classroom door wide on Tuesday - expecting it to be a great day and expecting their students to be excited and enthusiastic about learning. Those teachers never hold a grudge. They never think that what is happening in the classroom or on the playground is about them. They know that the young people in front of them are experiencing it all - the wonderful and the not-so-great. They understand that a

teacher is called to be a coach, an optimist, sometimes a crazed cheerleader, and always a believer in second (and third and five hundredth) chances.

As the new school year begins, if teachers, leaders, and parents will take a minute to let everyone settle into one another and give everyone one chance or three to make a few adjustment mistakes along the way, by October things will be rolling along beautifully.

OPT

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

Fr. Stephen J. Carter,
Pastor

Paul Lamoreaux,
OPT Editor

BE READY...

...for a new chapter.



SJC ST. JOHN'S
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL | Est. 1851
www.stjohnschs.org

SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	28	29	30	31	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	14	15
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

These are some of the fun things you can look forward to as a St. John's student. Please make plans to visit our 30-acre campus and see all that we offer.



The eighth-grade class of 2024 played on the field their last day of school in May. All the students will get to enjoy the field this September.

DeChantal School Celebrates its 70th Year

Students, faculty, and alumni will celebrate their beloved school all year long

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

By Catherine Tomscheck

The 2023-24 School Year is the 70th year at St. Jane de Chantal School. The celebrations will begin on August 29, the first day of school. Throughout the school year, current students will learn more about the history of St. Jane de Chantal through first person accounts from alumni, teachers, and students as well as archival photo displays. De Chantal Historic Trivia will become part of morning announce-

Continued on page 33

Welcome Fr. James Morgan!

St. Jane de Chantal Parish sadly says goodbye to Fr. Clyne, but enthusiastically welcomes Fr. Morgan

By Mae Villa-Agustin

During announcements at all masses in May, Father Giese congratulated Father Andrew Clyne, who had just received his new appointment from the Archdiocese of Washington. Cardinal Wilton Gregory has chosen Fr. Clyne to be the Pastor at Saint Edward the Confessor Parish in Bowie, Maryland beginning in July. The parish was blessed to have Fr. Clyne here, even for such a short time.

Coming to take his place as Parochial Vicar of the parish is Father James Morgan. A Baltimore native,



St. Jane de Chantal Parish is Fr. James Morgan's first assignment as Parochial Vicar.

Fr. Morgan was ordained last year in June of 2022, and joined the parish on July 5 after completing his studies in Pontifical North American College in Rome. Fr. Morgan also studied at Saint John Paul II Seminary and received his bachelor's degree from Mount St. Mary's University. He sees his experiences in serving the poor and youth as a missionary in helping his decision to answer the call to give his life to Christ. Fr. Morgan loves sports and exercising, and cooking and trying new foods, especially from other cultures. Welcome Fr. Morgan!

OPT

Fall is Packed with DeChantal Community Fun

Adult and family friendly activities make the parish the place for fun this fall

By Michelle Flynn

August at St. Jane de Chantal parish is quiet. Many parish families flee to the ocean to cool off, the school is quiet inside as their fantastic maintenance crew and faculty prepare for the children to return, the parking lot is empty except for the construction crews finishing the final touches, and parishioners who usually gather after mass to chat hustle to their air-conditioned cars instead. But this will all change with the seasons.

This Fall is not just the return of *Donut Sundays*, St. Jane de Chantal parish and school have a ton of fun activities. First on the list is the Outdoor Mass and Movie. On Saturday August 26th, parishioners are invited to Vigil Mass at the DeChantal Outdoor Chapel at 6:30pm. After mass, all are welcome to watch a family friendly outdoor movie on the 20 foot tall movie screen. The High School Youth Group will be selling popcorn and candy to help raise funds for their charity work and a collection will be made to help the victims of the wildfires in Hawaii.

The school will have its annual Family Fun night in the few weeks that follow, which is always a hit for the students. The following afternoon, September 10, the parish will dedicate the field which is a long-

awaited improvement to our parish grounds. On September 30 in the church parking lot, the adults will have their chance for fun with the Cornhole Tournament. For over a decade, dozens of teams of two adults compete in a battle for the much coveted cornhole trophy. Food trucks and frosty beverages will be sold to participants and their cheering squads. All skill sets are welcome to sign up. Please look at the parish and school website as the dates get closer for registration details.

Our Men's Ministry will gather at the rectory fire pit when the weather cools for fellowship, fire, and whiskey with Fr. Giese and Fr. Morgan as hosts. Look for details to come via email and on their page in the parish website in September.

Lastly, the parish is excited for the return of *Children's Liturgy of the Word* this October. During 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass, before the Liturgy of the Word, children attending the mass (ages 5-8 recommended) will be called to gather at the foot of the sanctuary and they will be escorted by adult volunteers and teen helpers to Caulfield Hall. There they will hear the readings and gospel and enjoy kid friendly lessons including crafts and music. They will then return to their parents before the presentation of the gifts. The parish hopes to see everyone on campus this Fall.

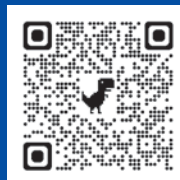
OPT

ST. JANE DE CHANTAL SCHOOL
FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 11th
November 10th

Please register via email:
CTOMSHECK@DECHANTAL.ORG

DECHANTAL.ORG



Our Parish Times Online



Faith McLuckie (left) and Meghan Jones (right) with an image of Mattie Stepanek. Photo courtesy of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild.

Holy Redeemer Hosts the Mattie Stepanek Memorial Mass

Holy Redeemer had the opportunity to host the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild on Thursday, June 22 for their Memorial Mass remembering the 19th Anniversary of the Mattie's death. Msgr. John Enzler presided over the liturgy, sharing his thoughts and reflections on the exceptional life of Mattie Stepanek.

Mattie was a young teen from Rockville known for his deep faith and spiritual poetry. He passed away back in 2004 at the age of 13 after a long battle with a rare neuromuscular disease. During his short life, he lived each day as a faithful witness to hope to God's enduring love. According to the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild's website, "Mattie believed that his purpose was to be a 'messenger' shaping with words what God placed in his heart for the good of our world". He went on to write six books of poetry, known as his "hearts songs" and one book about peacemaking. His life and faith were a constant validation of Mattie's own words, that "life is worthy, hope is real, peace is possible and prayer is powerful". Despite the deep suffering that Mattie experienced, he always said "yes" to anything that God put in his path.

Msgr. Enzler shared his reflections on Mattie's life in his hom-

ily, telling all those in attendance that, "Being here tonight it is a privilege for all of us to think about a young man who truly was wiser than most of us are older. He had a sense of God, a sense of love, sense of what's important." He continued that what made Mattie special was "gift of faith. This unbelievable faith. This trust in God; a sense that God was with him; God would always watch over him; that God was part of his life. Even though he suffered and his struggles were so difficult."

His homily also offered a reminder that through the communion of saints, Mattie is still with us. "We celebrate tonight the gift of a young man, who was truly holy. From my perspective, a saint. A saint we can pray to, we can ask for God's gifts through him. So today we pray that Mattie help us to be renewed in the Eucharist, which was his great love. It has been 33 years since Mattie was born and we celebrate the fact that Jesus also lived 33 years and together may they bring us back to a greater sense of Jesus coming to us every time we go to church".

More information on the exceptional life and legacy of Mattie J.T. Stepanek can be found on the Guild's website at MattieMatters.org.

OPT



Msgr. Enzler presiding over the Memorial Mass. Photo courtesy of the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Guild.

HR Monday: a Simple Reminder that "All is Gift"

A walk around to the back parking lot of Holy Redeemer on Monday evenings in the summer reveals a flurry of activity. Dozens of kids can be found playing on the playground or organizing a quick game of pick-up soccer on the field. Men work to set up folding chairs in circles and women cover folding tables with linens and set up contributions of pasta, fruit, main dishes, and desserts.

The weekly event, known as "HR Monday" is organized by members of the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation, which has a strong presence at Holy Redeemer. However, everyone in the parish community is more than welcome to join. Modeled after the concept of an oratory in the tradition of St. Philip Neri, HR Monday offers a convivial moment of sharing a meal, playing together, and prayer.

Suzanne Tanzi, parishioner at Holy Redeemer and member of Communion and Liberation, describes the reason she attends



Friends gather in the back parking lot after the conclusion of mass, waiting for the potluck dinner to be served.

each week, saying, "HR Monday" -- which includes Mass, potluck dinner, and rosary -- provides an opportunity to remain connected to the Catholic community and to meet new friends in the faith. It is a stress-free "come as you are" and "bring whatever food is handy"

occasion, that never fails to disappoint: there is always a new person to meet, an old friend not seen in ages, a tidbit of good advice, a tasty recipe, a book swap, or another surprise that reminds me that «all is gift.» Reviving this awareness is a great way to start the week!"

While HR Monday is wrapping up its 2023 season, everyone can look forward to its return next summer.

OPT



Holy Redeemer parishioner Maria Chiara Kushner catches up with friends while supervising kids on the playground.

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

When your home needs improvement I CAN HELP.



I am Dan Gannon, and my company is

Gannon Construction & Improvements, Inc.

- Like you, I own a home and know that something always needs to be done.
- I own a company that values its clients.
- We have been helping your neighbors with their needs and would like to help you with yours.
- We take care of windows, roofing, siding, kitchens, and other projects.
- You are invited to look at our jobs in your neighborhood.
- Hope to hear from you.

Call me at 301-455-8626 for a FREE estimate
Gannon Construction & Improvements, Inc.

Licensed, bonded and insured by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC#66333).

All labor is guaranteed for a minimum of one year and in most cases two to five years.

541 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850

The St. John the Evangelist Community Welcomes Father Pablo Villa-Jaramillo

Fr. Pablo Villa-Jaramillo, one of the newly ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Washington, joined the St. John the Evangelist community earlier this summer. He will serve alongside Fr. Calis as our parish parochial vicar.

Fr. Villa-Jaramillo grew up in a Catholic household in Colombia and was particularly formed by his fam-



The newly ordained Fr. Pablo Villa-Jaramillo

ily's involvement in the Neocatechumenal Way. It was on a pilgrimage as a high schooler with the Neocatechumenal Way that he first began discerning the priesthood.

St. John the Evangelist is his first parish assignment, and we look forward to his presence as a spiritual father as he leads us in our sacramental life both in the parish and in the school.

OPT



We had a wonderful time celebrating the last day of school back in June and now we can't wait to see all our SJE students back for another year of inspiring hearts and minds!



Above left: Early stages of the building process

Above right: Scouts help to install the castors on the bottom of the backdrops to make them mobile.



Left: One of the final steps of the process was to paint each of the backdrops.

Eagle Scout Project Benefits the SJE School Community

St. John the Evangelist Parish
10103 Georgia Ave.
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
bradfordsm2@comcast.net

Our very own Scout Troop 446 used a summer Eagle Scout project to help benefit the St. John the Evangelist school. Under the direction of Life Scout Luke P., three mobile backdrops were constructed for use in the school this past June. The project brought together several scouts from Troop 446 as well as some additional adult help. The backdrops can be used for photo opportunities around the school to help bring together and capture the spirit of the SJE community.

Eagle Scout Projects are considered a culminating experience in Scouts. Life Scouts are expected to plan, develop, and lead every stage of the project. Luke did a great job bringing his vision to fruition!

OPT

GROW WITH US

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL

INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS' FUTURE

- New HVAC system provides a comfortable and healthy learning environment for all students.
- Enhanced security and fire alarm system keeps our students safe.
- Library is stocked with the latest textbooks and library books to support your child's learning.
- And so much more!

SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY

See how we are helping students grow and succeed

301-681-7656 office@sjte.org

Our Lady of Mercy



Above: Mercy "Angels" surprised every new family with a special yard sign before the first day of school.

Left: Over 300 Mercy students, staff, parishioners, and extended community members participated in the 3rd Annual 5K Race and Kids Dash.



Brookewood
SCHOOL
the
Avalon School

OPEN HOUSES

for girls
Brookewood School
Saturday, Oct. 28
1-3 pm

for boys
The Avalon School
Sunday, Nov. 5
2:30-4:30 pm

Register at
brookewood.org
avalonschools.org



HOLY CROSS

Join us to meet our community, tour our campus and learn more about our empowering college-prep education.

For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@academyoftheholycross.org.

All-Girls, Grades 9-12 • www.AcademyOfTheHolyCross.org • 301-929-6442/6477

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 5
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

4920 Strathmore Ave.
Kensington, MD 20895

Archbishop Carroll
 Larry Savoy '93, President
 Elana Gilmore, Principal
 Judith Condezo, Director of Admissions
 admissions@achsc.org
 202-529-0900 ext 135
 4300 Harewood Road, NE
 Washington, DC 20017

CO-ED
 Highly competitive athletic programs: Football, Basketball, Track & Field, Soccer, Volleyball and Baseball
WCAC
LIONS Green & Gold

SPECIALIZED Educational Programs
 Jim Vance
 Media Program
 Project Lead the Way
 STEM/Engineering
 Fine Arts

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday
October 29
 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Early Application Deadline **DEC 8, 2023**
 Financial Aid Application Deadline **DEC 2023**
 Early Admission Notification **FEB 16, 2024**
 Registration Deposit Due **March 15, 2024**

Freshman Class Size: 130 • Tuition: \$17,463 • PRO DEO ET PATRIA • www.archbishopcarroll.org

the Avalon School
 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 www.avalonschools.org

Boys Grades K-12
 Baseball
 Basketball
 Soccer
Exceptional Faculty

Small Classes • Personal Attention • Content-Oriented Curriculum • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Latin • Spanish • Advanced Mathematics Program • Full Religion Program • Actors Guild • Poetry • Journalism • Dress Code • Interscholastic Sports

Open House
Sunday, November 5
 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Steps to Admission:
 • Application
 • Shadow Visit
 • Teacher Recommendation
 • Transcript
 • Family Interview

Priority Freshmen Application Deadline **Jan. 19, 2024**
 Freshmen Notification **Feb 16, 2024**
 Rolling Admission for all other grades
 Financial Aid Deadline, **Jan. 31, 2024**

Avg. Class Size: 13 • K-2 Lower \$9,900 • 3-5 Elementary \$14,975 • 6-8 Middle \$16,530 • 9-12 Upper \$19,255 • For information: Istvan Teleki 301-963-8022

Brookewood School
 R.J. Hawley Executive Director
 Richard B. McPherson President and Head of School
 Helen Williams Director of Admission
 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD
 301-949-7997 www.brookewood.org

Girls Grades K-12
 Basketball, Cross Country, Field hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Volleyball
Bengals Blue & White

College Prep • Small Classes • Personal Attention • Experiential Learning • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Actors Guild • Diverse Student Body • Fine Arts • Engaging Religion Curriculum

Open House
Brookewood's Open House is Saturday, October 28 from 1-3 p.m.

Steps to Admission
 Shadow Visit
 Application
 Transcript
 Recommendation
 Family Interview

Freshman application deadline **Jan. 12, 2024**
 Admission Notification **Feb. 23, 2024** by email
 Rolling Admission for all other grades
 Financial aid deadline of **Jan. 31, 2024**

Average Class Size: 14 • Tuition: Grades K-2 \$9,900 Grades 3-5 \$14,975 Grades 6-8 \$16,530 Grades 9-12 \$19,255 • For more information: Helen Williams 301-949-7997

DeMatha Catholic High School
 Fr. James Day, O.S.T., President
 Dr. Daniel McMahon, Principal
 Mr. Brendan Shea, Admissions Director
 www.dematha.org • 240-764-2210
 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Boys
 15 music ensembles, 45 athletic teams, dozens of clubs, and the new Cross Center for Engineering, Arts, and Robotics.
Stags Red, White & Blue

Curriculum
 College Prep, Honors, Advanced Placement level courses to meet needs of a diverse student body.

Open House
Sunday, Nov. 5
10:30 a.m.

Entrance Exam:
 Archdiocesan HSPT required

Freshman Application Deadline **December 15**
 Financial Aid Application Deadline **December 15**
 Freshman Notification of Admission **Feb. 2024**
 Registration Deposit Due **Mid-March 2024**

Freshman Class Size: 230 • Tuition: \$21,950 • Application / Financial Aid: Admissions Office 240-764-2210

ES Elizabeth Seton High School
 Dr. Lisa Grillo '89 President
 Rosalyn Cruz Director of Admissions
 5715 Emerson Street
 Bladensburg, MD 20710
 301-864-4532 www.setonhs.org

Girls
 Our athletic program fields 22 teams in 13 interscholastic sports. We offer over 30 clubs for extra-curricular participation.
 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference
Roadrunners Scarlet, Gold, and White

Pre-Career Programs
 Pharmacy Technician, Agnes M. Brown Law Program, LEAD (Engineering Program), Young Women's Entrepreneurship Program
 • AP & Honors Courses
 • Scholars Program
 • Small classes and personal attention

Open House
Sunday, November 5
11-2 pm

Entrance Exam
 Archdiocesan test results required.
 Schedule a student visit at setonhs.org/visit

Application Deadline **December 8**
 Archdiocesan Financial Aid Application Required
 Notification of Admission **February 16**
 Registration **March 8**

Total Enrollment 530 Students • Tuition \$19,077

Georgetown Preparatory School
 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD
 www.gprep.org 301-493-5000
 Rev. James R. Van Dyke, S.J., President
 John Glennon Jr., Headmaster
 Brett Graham '92, Admissions Director

Boys
 500 students
 28 AP Classes
 9 Honors Courses
 16 Different Sports
 80 Clubs and Organizations
Hoyas Blue & Gray

Global Boarding School
 120 Residents
 6 Continents
 19 Countries
 14 U.S. States
 Immersion Trips
 Language Trips

Open House
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2023
 12 - 3 p.m.
 Grades 6-8 Welcome

Admissions Process Visit www.gprep.org/steps to learn about admissions and register for Hoya for a Day

Application Deadline **Dec. 15, 2023**
 Supplemental & Aid Deadline **Jan. 19, 2024**
 Notification of Admission **February 2024**
 Registration Deposit Due **March 2024**

Forming Men of Competence, Conscience, Courage & Compassion; Men of Faith, Men for Others since 1789 • Tuition: Day: \$42,190 Boarding: \$69,365

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
 Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson, President
 Leonor Ponzio, Principal
 Janet Donnelly Keller, Director of Admissions
 202.337.3350 • www.visi.org
 1524 Thirty-fifth Street NW
 Washington, DC 20007

Girls 9-12
 A Catholic High School in the Salesian Tradition Educating Women of Faith, Vision, and Purpose Since 1799 • Small Class Sizes • 100% College Acceptance • Bridge Program at Georgetown • AP & Honors • Extensive Service Program • ISL Champion Athletics • Dynamic Performing and Fine Arts • Strong STEM Focus • More than 50 Clubs
Cubs • Gold, White & Green

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday
Oct. 14, 2023

Learn more about the admissions process at www.visi.org

Freshman Application Deadline **Dec. 1, 2023**
 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline **Jan. 8, 2024**
 Freshman Notification of Admission **End of February**
 Registration Deposit Due **Mid-March 2024**

Freshman Class Size: 126 • Tuition: \$35,450 • Financial Aid: Janet Keller @ 202.337.3350 ext. 2241

CONNELLY SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD
 Shannon Gomez, Ed.D. Head of School
 Julie Connelly, M.A. Head of Upper School
 Meghan Burke Cross Director of Enrollment Management
 9029 Bradley Boulevard, Potomac, MD 20854
 www.holychild.org | admissions@holychild.org
 301-365-0955 • Average Freshman Class Size: 70 • Tuition: \$40,830 • Financial & Merit Aid Available

Girls 6 - 12
 • 350+ young women of all faiths and backgrounds • 6:1 student/teacher ratio • 15 students per class, on average • 100% College Acceptance • Independent School League Athletics • Dual Enrollment with Marymount University • 40 AP & Honors Courses • Fine Arts & Performing Opportunities
Tigers • Blue & Gold

Open House
Saturday
Oct. 28, 2023

Application & Financial Aid Deadline: **December 8**
 Notification of Admission: **End of February**
 Reg. Deposit Due: **Mid March**
 Learn more about the admissions process at www.holychild.org

High School Open House Dates

The Academy of the Holy Cross
 4920 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, MD 20895
 Kathleen Prebble, President
 John Sullivan, Principal
 Barbara Murray & Nancy Salmerón, Admissions
 www.academyoftheholycross.org
 301-942-2100 • admissions@academyoftheholycross.org • Tuition: \$30,450 • Financial Aid Available

Girls
 17 AP Courses
 Vast Performing/Visual Arts
 30 clubs and activities
 17 Varsity Teams
Washington Catholic Athletic Conference
 Tartans • Lavender & White

Special Programs
 Sancta Crux Scholars
 Madeleva Scholars
 Gillespie STEM Scholars
 Project Lead the Way Engineering
 Dual Credit/Enrollment
 Senior Project Internship

Open House
Sunday, Nov. 5
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Scholarships Available
 Merit
 Performing Arts
 STEM
 Visual Arts

Application Deadline **Dec. 8, 2023**
 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline **Jan. 8, 2024**
 Notification of Admission **February 2024**
 Registration Deposit Due **March 8, 2024**

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL
 A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School
 17301 Old Vic Boulevard
 Olney, MD 20832
 John Ciccone, President
 Thomas Campbell '93, Principal
 Maria Nichols '04, Executive Director of Enrollment Management
 Admissions@olgchs.org • www.olgchs.org

COED
 Offering a comprehensive college prep curriculum including the IB Program, AP and Honors courses, the STEM Program, and the Ryken Program.

Home of the Falcons
 Extensive co-curricular activities, 40+ sport teams, Performing Arts, Speech & Debate and over 50 cultural and academic clubs.
 Member of the W.C.A.C.

Open House
Sunday
October 22, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Prospective Parent Information Night
 Tuesday
 Sept. 26, 2023
 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Freshman Application Deadline **Dec. 1, 2023**
 Freshman Financial Aid Appl. Deadline **Dec. 1, 2023**
 Notification of Admission **Feb. 22, 2024**
 Freshman Registration **Friday, March 8, 2024**

Tuition \$29,350

ST. ANSELM'S ABBEY SCHOOL
 4501 SOUTH DAKOTA AVE, NE
 WASHINGTON, DC 20017
 Mr. John Corrigan, '83 Interim Headmaster 202-269-2350
 Mr. Brian Gilbert Director of Admissions 202-269-2374
 admissions@saintanselms.org
 www.saintanselms.org

Boys
 Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling, Tennis, Baseball, Track, Golf, Fencing
Potomac Valley Athletic Conference
Panthers

Special Programs
 Challenging academic program for students of above average ability in grades 6-12

Open House
Sunday
November 12
12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Benedictine School

On the grounds of St. Anselm's Abbey on 42 acres in NE Washington
 Entrance Exam: Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, Apr. 20
 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline **Feb. 3, 2024**
 Application Deadline **Rolling**
 Notification of Admission: **Feb. 23** for Upper School **March 3** for Middle School
 Registration Deposit Due **March 3, 2024**

Freshman Class Size: 35 • Tuition: \$34,000 Middle; \$35,000 Upper • Financial Aid: Mr. Mark Commins mcommins@saintanselms.org

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL | Est. 1851
 Mr. Jeffrey W. Mancabelli, President
 Mr. Christopher J. Themistos, Principal
 Mrs. Susan Hinton, VP of Enrollment Management and Administration
 202-363-2316 • www.stjohnschs.org
 2607 Military Road, NW, Chevy Chase, DC 20015

COED
 24 AP Courses
 16 Honors Courses
 29 Varsity Teams
 60+ Clubs and Activities
 1:1 iPad Program

Special Programs
 Scholars Program
 Benilde Program
 Cadet Corps
 Entrepreneurial Center for Innovation & Social Impact
 Center for Performance & Leadership
 Visual & Performing Arts Wing

Open House
OPEN HOUSE
Oct. 22, 2023

Entrance Exam
 Archdiocesan HSPT results are required.

Application Deadline **Dec. 8, 2023**
 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline **Jan. 29, 2024**
 Notification of Admission **Late Feb. 2023**
 Registration Deposit Due **Mid-March 2024**

Tuition: \$23,950

SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP
 Will Knotek, Head of School
 Mary Catherine James Director of Enrollment
 3989 Buckeystown Pike
 Buckeystown, MD 21717
 E-mail: MJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org • 301-662-4210

Special Programs
 Frederick County's Only Private Catholic High School • Founded in 1829 • 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 • 20+ Student-Run Clubs • Student Support Center including School and College Counseling and Academic Support

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday
Nov. 5, 2023
12:00-2:30PM
 Optional Mass at 11:00

Schedule your Private Tour and Shadow Visit

HSPT or Institutional Testing Required
 Priority Application Deadline **Dec. 15, 2023**
 Financial Aid & Scholarship Deadline **Feb. 1, 2024**
 Notification of Admission **Feb. 15, 2024**

VIKINGS Green, Gold & White
 School Size: 280 • Tuition: \$19,775 • Financial Aid: MJames@SaintJohnsPrep.org • www.saintjohnsprep.org

ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI HIGH SCHOOL
 Mr. Jeffrey Palumbo, President/Principal
 Mrs. Stacy Springer, Director of Enrollment Management
 113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel, MD 20707
 301-725-3228 Ext. 2202 • www.pallottihs.org
 Tuition: \$19,300 Variable Rate / \$20,600 Locked In Rate

Coed
 Over 25 varsity athletic teams; Maryland Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)-Boys; Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM)-Girls

College Prep Curriculum
 Honors & AP Courses
 96% College Placement
 Accelerated Science & Engineering Programs
 Visual & Performing Arts Program
 Learning Center

Open House
Sunday, Nov. 5
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Visit the web site for 2024-2025 application!
 410 Students • admissions@pallottihs.org

Admissions Application Deadline **Dec. 15, 2023**
 Financial Aid Application Deadline **Jan. 3, 2024**
 Notification of Admission **Feb. 15, 2024**
 1:12 Teacher Student Ratio

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
 Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, Head of School
 9101 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814 • www.stoneridgeschool.org
 301-657-4322 • Average Freshman Class Size: 95 • Tuition: \$44,900 • Financial Aid Available

Girls Grades 1-12 (Coed PK-K)
 Basketball, crew, cross country, equestrian, field hockey, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, squash, swimming/diving, tennis, track & field and volleyball

Special Programs
 Honors /AP Courses
 Social Action
 Network Exchange
 STEAM Certificate
 1:1 Laptop

Open House
Upper School
Sunday
October 15, 2023

PLEASE VISIT www.stoneridgeschool.org to learn more about our admission process

Application Deadline **Dec. 1, 2023**
 Financial Aid Deadline **Jan. 15, 2024**
 Decision Notification **Feb. 23, 2024**
 Contract Due Date **March 2024**

THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL
 10400 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD
 POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20854
 Alvaro J. de Vicente, Headmaster
 Richard S. Moss, Director of Admissions
 301.365.0227 • ADMISSIONS@HEIGHTS.EDU
 HEIGHTS.EDU

Boys 3-12
 The Heights forms "men fully alive" through a rigorous curriculum implemented with a highly personal approach to education and character.
Cavaliers Red & White

Challenging liberal arts; innovative science and math; small classes; individual mentorship; WCAC Athletics; extensive extracurriculars; rich sacramental life.

Admissions
Fall Open House: October 21, 2023
 Contact us anytime at 301.365.0227 or visit heights.edu/process

Upper School Applicants Admissions Deadline **Dec. 15, 2023**
 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline **Dec. 15, 2023**
 Admissions/FA Notification **Feb. 15, 2024**
 Enrollment Deadline **Mar. 15, 2024**

Sacred Grounds Spring to Life

As part of the Our Lady's Next Step parish capital campaign, several improvements to the Our Lady of the Visitation parish grounds have been completed over the previous months: the Way of the Cross and the Prayer Garden and Grotto.

Way of the Cross

The walkable "Way of the Cross" includes a handicapped accessible brick walkway connecting a series of 14 prayer stations. These unique granite stations, each shaped as a large cross, were gifted to the parish by the Archdiocese of Washington.

The Stations of the Cross devotion commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. The stations are commonly used as a mini pilgrimage as the individual moves from station to station. At each station, the individual recalls and meditates on a specific event from Christ's last day. Specific prayers are recited, then the individual moves to the next station until all 14 are complete.



The faithful gather for the outdoor Stations of the Cross.

The primary installation of the "Way of the Cross" was completed in the Spring in time for Good Friday, thus allowing the first ever outdoor recitation of the stations at the Darnestown parish. A record prayer service crowd of approximately 150 people attended at 3:00 pm. After the completion of the service, which was led by Deacon Ted Dmuchowski, groups and individuals lingered to chat, meditate,

and pray.

Parish groups and individuals have sponsored the costs involved with moving and installing the stations as well as landscaping around the expansive prayer area. Final construction was completed over the summer. Plaques commemorating the sponsors were installed on each station, and gorgeous feature trees were planted.



Prayer Garden and Grotto overlooking the fields.

Prayer Garden and Grotto

The Prayer Garden and Grotto consists of a pergola with seating under a shade canopy overlooking a beautiful Lourdes Grotto. Built with layered thin slate slabs, the Grotto encloses a white Marian statue with a striking blue veil. The statue was the generous gift of a donor. A special feature of the Grotto is the cascading water

and pool of blessed, miraculous Lourdes's water. Design of this area was completed by the Sacred Grounds Committee led by parishioner Dean Graves.

The parish grounds now have inviting areas for prayer and meditation surrounded by the natural beauty of the rural property.

OPT

Tribute Walkway Brings Joy

A lovely brick walkway was donated to enhance the Our Lady of the Visitation parish grounds. The idea began when a founding parish family wished to make a gift in loving memory of their father, Joseph, who was devoted to his Catholic faith and his love for the Eucharist.

Built in 2000, the original access to the main church from the lower parking lot was provided via two options: entering the lower-level doors proceeding through the inside building or outside via a series of steps set adjacent to the side of the building. The family had witnessed years of the awkward outdoor access with parishioners walking through the grass and up the steep hill. They met with the pastor and facilities manager Tony Glander and the perfect path forward became evident. The family donated the funds for a gorgeous brick walkway which connects the lower parking lot to the upper church entrance. The path, which gracefully follows the curve of the hill, was immediately popular with



Daily mass goers stroll the new walkway

regular mass goers. It was installed during the spring in time to support the huge Easter crowds. Over the summer quotes were added onto the bricks. At the lower entrance to the walkway, the inscription reads "Let Us Go Up the Mountain of the Lord - Is 2:3". As parishioners leave the building, the upper entrance of the path states "Go Forth and Set the World on Fire - St. Ignatius".

The beautiful access to the church is a fitting tribute to the devout faith witnessed by this generous family and their father.

OPT

WORLD YOUTH DAY

Con't from page 2

by the tragedy of war, Mary shows to all of us, and especially to you, young people like herself, the path of proximity and encounter. I hope and I firmly believe that the experience many of you will have in Lisbon next August will represent a new beginning for you, the young, and - with you - for humanity as a whole."

Mary's total trust in God was central to her experience of rising up and making haste to visit her pregnant cousin Elizabeth, despite being pregnant with the Son of God herself. As Pope Francis said, "Mary becomes a temple of God, an image of the pilgrim Church, a Church that goes forth for service, a Church that brings the good news to all!" Mary brings the presence of Christ, alive within her, as she goes forth in joy and peace.

Pope Francis deepened many of these themes in his homilies to the faithful gathered in Portugal from August 1-6, 2023. At the Vigil mass on August 4, Pope Francis described the source of Mary's joy as she went to greet Elizabeth. "Mary's joy is twofold: she had just received the angel's message that she would welcome the Redeemer of the world, and she was also given the news that her cousin was pregnant." This reveals that joy is meant to be missionary and in its truest form, is always shared with others.

Young pilgrims from every corner of the globe discovered Christ as the source of all joy through many activities and encounters in Lisbon. There were opportunities for Catechesis in every language, music and dancing representing



Fr. Juan Pablo Naboia and many WYD pilgrims, including the group from St. Jude's.

hundreds of different cultures, communal prayer such as the recitation of the rosary and participating in the Stations of the Cross, participating in service projects, and opportunities to visit holy sites, such as the Shrine at Fatima. Attendees gathered in large parks and fields to participate in mass and share in the Eucharist together. Many pilgrims note that the most impactful part of World Youth Day was simply being overwhelmed by the enormous crowds, aware that everyone gathered there shared the same faith and was participating in the same vibrant life that the Church offers.

World Youth Day is a gathering of Catholic young people from around the world, held in a different location roughly every three years. It was initiated by Pope John Paul II in 1985, when he called for the first World Youth Day in Rome, Italy. Nearly 1.5 million pilgrims attended this year's edition, including nearly 30,000 young people from the United States. The Archdiocese of Washington sent a group of over 40 young men and women.

Clergy and young people from many of the Catholic parishes in Montgomery County. In addition

to the youth group members from Mother Seton (highlighted on the front page), other parishes shared images on social media of their pilgrims in Lisbon. The Shrine of St. Jude sent a group of young people with their parochial vicar, Father Juan Pablo Naboia. In addition to visiting Lisbon, they also made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg had strong representation amongst the crowds. Other parishes also participated in the Archdiocesan group or had parishioners attend individually.

Pope Francis distilled a specific message for the pilgrims during his final homily at the Sending mass, encouraging the young people to consider three things as they returned home from their transformative experience in Lisbon. "What will we take back with us? I would respond with these three words: *to shine, to listen, and to be unafraid*. These words will stay with young Catholics as they wait in eager anticipation for the next World Youth Day, to be held in Seoul, South Korea in 2027.

OPT

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

Fr. Greg Shaffer, Pastor
301-948-5536

Diana Hurley, OPT Editor
Hurley05@verizon.net

Right: Pool time is a favorite summer pastime for St. Raphael's students.



Left: St. Raphael's student, Liam, and Fr. Christian bump into each other "across the pond" in London's Heathrow Airport.

Right: The future is so bright at SRS that our students need some serious shades!

Above: Bethany Beach is just one of the popular summer destinations for the St. Raphael's community.



An Eventful End to the School Year and Summer at St. Raphael's!

By Catherine Pulse

Our school community enjoyed an eventful end to the 2022-2023 school year, in June, with many exciting events. Eighth graders celebrated their memorable journey at SRS, with a lively graduation dinner full of years of memories. Graduation followed the next day with mass and blessings from Father Mike and wise words from Teri Dwyer, principal of the school. Wishing them all the best on their new adventures, we still see their friendly faces at mass this summer, and we will cherish the beautiful tree in memory of Jody Bosnick that they gifted to the school. We will remember them each day in future school years.

Field day brought lots of fun, despite the smokey air. The students enjoyed races, games, and all sorts of enjoyable activities with their classmates. The traditional event brings together students of all ages for a lively day, just perfect to welcome the summer break.

Our community celebrated mass together and a moving up ceremony, advancing students to their next grade level on Friday, June 9. Our beloved St. Raphael administrator, Gerri Stoner, who is retiring after sixteen years, was presented with flowers and kind words from Teri Dwyer. The hugs from the students as she walked back to her pew evoked tears from many parishioners and school families alike. We wish Gerri all the best and hope she visits often! At that mass, we also said goodbye to each other for the summer, but just briefly, as a new school year is soon approaching.

Several rising third graders participated in camp at the Amazing Art Studio, creating lovely artwork and enriching their SRS friendships. Preschoolers joined together

for a play date at the playground to meet new friends and visit with classmates to stay connected, in July. Liam, rising eighth grader, connected with Father Christian in Heathrow airport over the summer—what a coincidence! Many families traveled to various lakes, beaches and some even went all the way to Hawaii.

Students participated in swim team activities and went to sports camp together. A few rising sixth-grade girls attended basketball camp in preparation for the coming CYO season. Mrs. Chongpinitchai and Mr. Pullano hosted a summer basketball gathering in July, and many middle schoolers had a wonderful time challenging their teachers to keep up with their skills. Middle schoolers gather at Potomac Woods pool at the end of August for the annual middle school party, to reconnect and celebrate the start of an exciting new year. With their IXL math and summer reading work complete, students will celebrate opening day and mass very soon and await a new year of learning and memories in the 2023-2024 school year.

OPT



THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL

THE HEIGHTS IS A PRIVATE, INDEPENDENT, PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR BOYS IN GRADES 3-12 LOCATED IN POTOMAC, MARYLAND.

10400 SEVEN LOCKS ROAD ■ POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20854 ■ 301.365.0227 ■ HEIGHTS.EDU

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

Laura Magafan, OPT Editor

301-762-2143

www.straphaels.org
www.straphaelschoolmd.org
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:
@SRSrockville



FALL OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Explore The Heights at heights.edu

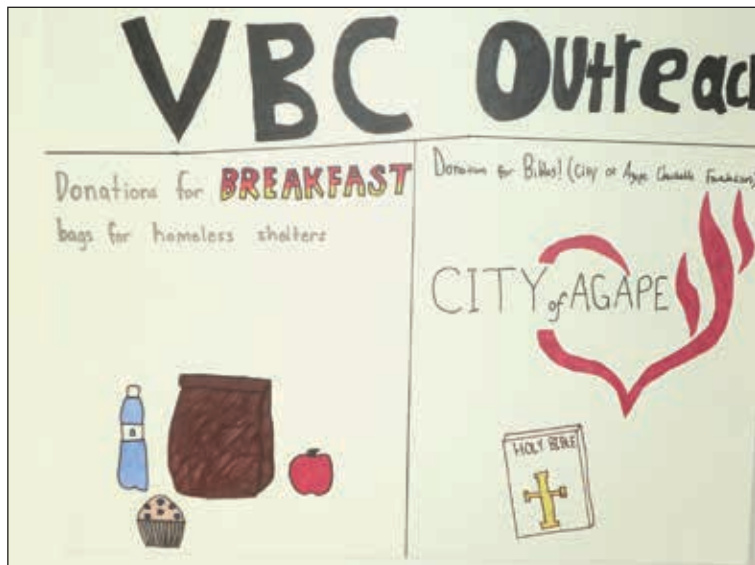
It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

Vacation Bible Camp Participants Receive Two Hands-on Lessons in Catholic Social Teaching

As the 55 campers and 48 teen volunteers who attended St. Francis of Assisi's Vacation Bible Camp from June 26-30 sang, danced and learned about their faith alongside their peers, they also gleaned how to shine Jesus' light in the world through two service projects instructing them in Catholic social teaching.

This summer, the youth raised \$443 for the City of Agape Charitable Foundation, which provides Bibles in English and Spanish to prisons, nursing homes, homeless shelters, counseling/emergency centers, and parish-based retreats. They also raised \$633 for food supplies bought for "breakfast bags" shared with area homeless shelters. The campers and teen volunteers prepared 334 breakfast bags, as part of their Day 5 art project, which were distributed by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington.

"Service opportunities in general, and these in particular, demonstrate faith in action, encouraging youth to be mindful of the needs of oth-



A poster depicting the community service projects worked on by Vacation Bible Camp campers and teen volunteers.

ers and to respond generously by offering time and talent, as well as treasure," said Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson.

Catholic social teaching encapsulates the importance of building

a just society and living lives of holiness amid the challenges of modern society. Incorporated in all aspects of catechesis for Catholics of all ages, the catechetical goal of imparting the Church's teachings

on social justice to children is to help inform their choices and form their consciences.

Religious Education art catechist Jane Tom proposed the concept for the breakfast bags to Anderson after brainstorming ideas for art projects to amplify the Bible point of the day. Since the Bible verse for Day 5 was "When people need help, shine Jesus' light!," the idea seemed to fit. As the art project, the campers made homemade cards to include in each kit.

Tom said she believed the project helped the youth think of others, but that they also enjoyed sharing their artwork with the beneficiaries. "The campers knew they were doing this project to help others, but the snack items were tempting to some of the younger campers," Tom said. "Their group teen leaders helped to remind them that the food was going to people who didn't have anything to eat and to reinforce the teaching of the Bible point."

Claire Barbehenn, team leader for the art station, said the campers and teens alike enjoyed making

the cards and assembling the bags, consisting of a juice box, Goldfish crackers, a spoon and a package of cookies. "They really did enjoy it, particularly the fifth graders who made over 100 of the bags," said the rising high school senior.

On the weekend following Vacation Bible Camp, teen and adult volunteers spoke at some Masses to detail their efforts in service and to invite the general parish to support the projects. Anderson shared that she hoped the youth's service will make an impression on them.

"I hope that our youth will continue to be inspired by the themes of Catholic social teaching and that what they learn will take root in their hearts," Anderson said. "I hope that they will continue to be mentored and supported by the witness of the entire Catholic community as we live our faith in all its dimensions, and especially as we allow our faith to inform our actions to 'shine Jesus' light' and make a difference in the world for the better."

OPT

Communal Conversation with Pastor Demonstrates Different Way to Build Body of Christ

After marking his Jubilee as an archdiocesan priest May 23 by preaching at a Mass for his fellow jubilarians and concelebrating a Confirmation Mass for his parishioners, Fr. John J. Dillon had an opportunity 18 days later to reflect with characteristic thoughtfulness and good humor on his 25 years in priestly ministry.

Approximately 50 parishioners attended "A Communal Conversation with Fr. John" on June 10 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, where Fr. John took part in an interview that touched on his upbringing in a large and tight-knit family in Butler, Pa.; his vocational discernment that took place over 23 years; his ministry at five parishes throughout the archdiocese; and his love of the classical languages and the experiences this scholarship has offered him. Attendees also had an opportunity to ask Fr. John live



St. Francis of Assisi Pastor Fr. John Dillon reacts to a comment by Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan during the "Communal Conversation with Fr. John" event on June 10 in the church.

questions as part of the event.

Sponsored by the parish Communications Ministry, the event incorporated the live dialogue that was simultaneously recorded by three members of

the Communications Ministry. As Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan interviewed Fr. John, three cameramen trained their lenses on different subjects while other parishioners staffed audiovisual

equipment, served as the microphone runner, welcomed attendees, and set up for a post-event fellowship.

Communications Ministry Member Guy Federico served as

the lead producer and editor of the shoot and was pleased with the outcome.

"It was [an opportunity] to celebrate a remarkable accomplishment but also for the parishioners to get to know him better," said Federico, a veteran video producer and editor. "...It was great for the parish to get to know and celebrate his Jubilee."

Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick introduced Fr. John at the onset of the event. Having known the Butler native since 1975 when both men were members of the young adult group in the Mother of God faith community, Bosnick was surprised to learn some new facts about his old friend.

"I think you could see how he values the joys, griefs, and anxieties you experience in daily life in a town like Butler," Bosnick said. "Also, the value and joy he had in some of his teachers was [evident]. Many of them had a profound influence in his life and he appreciated that."

Bosnick also said events like these are important in demonstrating there is more to church than going to Mass on Sundays. "All these relationships really reflect growing together as a body of Christ," he said. "That's really important -- it becomes part of our experience."

Watch the event at <https://youtu.be/IrUOXgdDSOU>.

OPT

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD

Rev. John J. Dillon,
Pastor

301-840-1407

Melissa M. Egan
OPT Editor

301-972-4844

melissa.egan74@verizon.net



Campers of different age groups play games together.

Camp Soubirous is a Success!

This year's edition of Camp Soubirous concluded earlier this summer in mid-July. Named for the patroness of our parish, St. Bernadette Soubirous, the summer camp provides opportunities for the youngest members of our community to grow in faith while

having lots of fun. The theme this year, "Parables of Jesus", helped to introduce campers to Jesus's teaching through Scripture and many enriching activities. Campers young and old will look forward to next summer's edition!

OPT



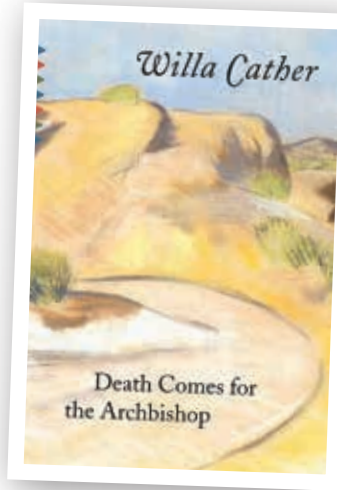
Outdoor water play was another highlight of Camp Soubirous!

Faith Formation through Reading

The St. Bernadette's parish offers faith formation in many forms, starting with the sacraments and the shared faith of a vibrant Catholic school and church community. Recently, they have also initiated opportunities for spiritual growth through reading.

Parishioners who both wanted to clear space on their bookshelves and to pick up quality of Catholic titles were invited to participate in the "Great Catholic Book Swap" from August 19-21. Donations of spiritual reading, theology and philosophy, fiction by Catholic authors, prayer books, and biographies of saints were all welcomed. Books were collected in the rectory and at the school from July 30-August 13.

Those who donated books were given "swap" credits that they could use to select new books. Books were also available for purchase for those who didn't donate texts to the



The Men's Book Club will kick off with this classic Catholic piece of literature.

event. Everyone was encouraged to come and peruse the titles available. The event concluded on Monday, August 21 with a \$1 fire sale of all the remaining books.

Men of the parish received a particular invitation to grow in faith through reading with the start of a new Men's Book Club. All men of the parish are encouraged to "feed your mind and soul while enjoying good conversation and fellowship with other men of the parish". The inaugural meeting took place on August 24 for a discussion of *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather. The book was described as "a classic American novel about faith and friendship that follows two missionary priests on their journey through the harsh landscapes of New Mexico Territory in the 1850s".

Information about future books and meetings will be available on the parish website and in the bulletin.

OPT

Religious Education and Young Adult Opportunities

Full marks the beginning of a new academic year, which also includes opportunities for all ages to continue learning about their faith. Registration for Religious Education began on July 31 and continues now. Religious education also includes sacramental preparation for those seeking to receive the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. More information about registration is available on the parish website.

Young adults in the parish are also encouraged to continue their own education in the faith through fellowship with other

area Catholics. The Silver Spring Young Adult Fellowship groups is ready to kick off a video series on Fulton Sheen. The series will take place on Monday evenings from September 11-December 4. Meetings will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the Religious Education building at Christ the King Catholic Parish (2301 Colston Drive). More information is available by emailing SSCatholicFellowship@gmail.com and on the group's Facebook page at [facebook.com/SilverSpringCatholic](https://www.facebook.com/SilverSpringCatholic) and Instagram account @SilverSpringYA.

OPT

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

The Woods Academy

Teaching Financial Literacy at a Young Age

By Caitlin Chalke, Director of Marketing, Communications, and Alumni Relations

Learning how to be financially literate at a young age is an important life skill that can have a lasting impact on children. Not only does it allow them to build good financial habits, but it will also help them prepare for the future.

At The Woods Academy, we begin to introduce the concept of money in our Montessori preschool. Students begin to learn about the different kinds of money through sensory activities and then use the money for counting in math. Montessori students have also done coin collections as a service project using the collection as an opportunity to count, roll the coins, and then, ultimately, donate the money.

Students in Ms. Coleman's second grade class are able to participate in a classroom economy where they have jobs and are paid for those jobs (with fake money, of course!), they pay rent for their desk, and help the classroom stay clean and organized. There is also the possibility of getting fined and



Students learn the ins and outs of financial literacy at an early age

students must also pay taxes - just like adults!

Mrs. Chrobocinski's seventh grade math class also does a classroom economy. In her classroom, each student plays a pivotal role in their classroom community with jobs like custodians, bankers, pencil manager, and, of course, class DJ. Students get paid for their jobs and can get fines, just like Ms. Coleman's class.

Seventh graders, however, have the chance to earn bonus money through extra-curricular activities

and getting "Chrobo Cash" for doing something in the classroom such as answering a tough question or being kind to a classmate. Every month, the seventh-grade math class then has a class auction where students can use their money to bid for items like using the teacher chair for a week, no homework passes, or a fun lunch treat. Students keep track of their money through an online banking system called "Mykidsbank.org" where they can see their balances and pay fines.

Mr. Powers' fifth-grade business class utilizes their time together to learn about the stock market and how to invest in it. They also learn how to start a company by looking at what's needed in their school community, they then have to figure out what they could charge for their certain service and how to pitch their service to investors to fund their startup.

It's not only important for students to learn financial literacy in school, but it's also important to implement something similar to a classroom economy at home. Here's how you can implement an economy in your household:

- Create your own house rules that your child must follow/help with. E.g. packing your lunch for the next day, make sure your room is clean, doing the dishes, being well mannered
- Review your rules with your kids and let them have input; do this together so it's collaborative
- Create a reward system together (e.g. money, fake money, extra time playing, etc.) and show how much your child can earn

for each task/behavior you'd like to see.

- Consider creating a form for your child to fill out and track their progress - what they did, how they want to spend the money, and so forth. Scan the below QR code to download the form The Woods Academy created.
- Each week, you can review what your child has done and confirm payments and fines.
- Then begin! You may need tweaking along the way, but doing it together will make it fun and motivating for your child.
- To take things even further, if you give your child an allowance for this activity, you could also review how they spent their money during a weekly meeting. This can help with overall money management.

Teaching money responsibility at a young age is essential for good financial habits, developing critical thinking skills, understanding financial decisions, and helping our children prepare for the future.

OPT

148th Annual Chicken Dinner

Parishioners welcomed guests from all over the state to our Annual Chicken Dinner. Each year those interested in a beautiful drive in the country with a destination for a home cooked 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.

Guests were able to order Take Out and enjoy their meal in our air-conditioned dining room, at a picnic table or under the tent. The menu includes barbecued chicken, potatoes,



Above: Bill Lynch, is the master behind the scenes. He spends months in preparation for the Chicken Dinner. The weeks leading up to the dinner he devotes hours to ordering food, supplies, and accepting the many deliveries. The 148th Dinner Head Tea and Water dispenser, Tony Silvia retires from his post after many years of service. Matteo Stohlman will now take the helm.



applesauce, green beans, coleslaw, and rolls. The event sold almost 900 dinners this year! Once finished, those who still had room, purchased dessert at the Baked Goods Stand.

Our own Pastor, Fr. Kevin, baked 90 cakes! He has quite a following, many even preorder his Chocolate-Chocolate Cake. It's definitely a favorite!

The venue also boasts a Country Store with fresh vegetables and canned jams, a Craft Stand, a 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.

Despite the high temperatures, both the food and the satisfied guests made for an outstanding event.

Our Parish welcomed a new opportunity for gathering this summer. The Stohlman Family organized Wednesday evenings for Parish Fellowship. The main part of the meal is provided and those in attendance bring side dishes and desserts to share. The evening concludes with the Holy Rosary. The beautiful grounds and people of St. Mary's create a perfect evening.

OPT



Above: Trish and Chip Dunn with the assistance of a dedicated crew keep that kitchen humming. Guests each year beg for extra applesauce to take home and ask for Trish's secret recipe!

Right: Linda Walker, and her many helpers, packed every take-out meal that was purchased. They kept the line moving without any delay, which is a mighty undertaking!



Above, top: The Chicken Flickers are skilled in barbecuing the perfect piece of chicken. They also have the hottest job of the day.

Above, bottom: JoAnne Parsley and an extremely dedicated group spent every day, in the heat, the week leading up to the sale, preparing an impressive display.



Joyce McCartin, the newly installed Prefect of St. Mary's Sodality, stands ready with her Executive Board to provide a year of spiritual and social events.



Director Terri Phipps and a band of adult and high school helpers provided a fun filled week for Vacation Bible School. The children enjoyed music and crafts all based on selected Bible stories.



Our Lady of Fatima Council's new officers continue to lead after their installation. The Council members are active in supporting the three parishes their council members represent.



Parishioners Laura and Barry Stohlman lead the way each Wednesday evening during the summer for a time of fellowship, great food, and prayer.

St. Mary's Parish
 18230 Barnesville Road
 Barnesville, MD 20838
Rev. Kevin O'Reilly,
 Pastor
 (301) 972-8660
 www.stmaryonline.com

See Parish Times Online
www.parishtimes.com

In 2022, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) launched a three-year Eucharistic revival, to foster a deeper love for the Eucharist among the faithful. So last year, Msgr. Filardi led a Corpus Christi procession at the church. This year, on Corpus Christi Sunday – June 11 – Fr. Gancayco and a large crowd of parishioners processed over the hill between the old and the new churches. (photo: MM)



The Priests Who Helped, Part 2

By John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

Making its way into August, St. Paul's Church still finds itself without a resident pastor. Msgr. Filardi's parking spot to the right of the shed by the rectory is still empty. But when Cardinal Gregory made his annual assignments, parishioners were relieved that there was no change for us: St Paul didn't get a new pastor because we don't need one. One wonderful pastor is enough. He is coming back, not in a Biblical sense with one day being about the same as a thousand years, but more like Gandalf time: expect him when he arrives.

During the interlude, the parish has experienced the unity of

the archdiocese; priests from all over showed up to help. The first group included Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Fr. Ricky Gancayco, and Fr. Ray Fecteau; the second crop has included one familiar Irishman, one familiar Irish-American, one brand new priest, and one Canadian.

Fr. Peter Sweeney (pastor, 1989-2004) still attracts kids like the pied piper. Each year when he was pastor, several priests would come to help when girls and boys finished sacramental preparation and made their first confession; each year, the little rascals would look around at the options and then get in one long line to see the big rascal. His prayers and petitions and sermons and chats are always joyful.

Fr. Kevin Kennedy (pastor 2004-2008) left St. Paul for Catholic University, where he taught management; now he teaches management to pastors throughout the archdiocese. He returned – still erudite but relaxed, observant but entertaining. He looked over his old parishioners, and blurted out what struck him: everyone he knew before has gotten so much older. He probably meant “more mature.”

Fr. Martin Begley was ordained about 1464 hours ago (June 17). He grew up in St. Peter's parish in Olney and is now assigned to St. John Neumann parish in Montgomery Village. But he has spent about one percent of his

Continued on page 33

Golf Is Good for You – and Others

By John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

About the tragedy of civil wars in Central America, and the challenge of surging racism in America, and the persistent poverty in native American communities, and a broken immigration policy in a divided nation, and vast disparities in income distribution and health care: LET'S PLAY GOLF!

What?

No, I mean it. Light a candle. Take a step. Do a small thing well, with love. Golf.

I am not the savior of the world, and neither are you. But we know who is, and we work for Him – in simplicity and joy. And right now, we just want to raise a few dollars for the medical clinic in Honduras that the parish has been supporting since Bernie Hughes laughed and launched charitable works.

Bernie who?

Hughes. He was a wealthy parishioner who laughed and made money and laughed some more and gave it away and kept laughing. Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between holiness and mischief: his eyes sparkled with holy mischief right through the cancer that tortured and killed him. One of the projects that his foundation funded was in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. That happened because a determined young woman from El Rosario, Joanie Figueroa, worked in Damascus for some years, doing home health care for some of our parishioners – hard and humble work, often left to immigrants. She per-

sueded parish leaders, including our own not-yet-canonized Sherrie Wade, to help out in her hometown. Joanie returned to Honduras and became a physician years ago, but the bond she begged to build between Damascus and El Rosario is still strong. Every year, teams of medical professionals from St. Paul – now joined by several other parishes – visit and help. And every Sunday, the parish offertory collects money for (1) regular ongoing expenses, and (2) building projects – AND (3) the medical clinic in Honduras.

So now, every year, St. Paul has some kind of smiling fundraiser to collect a pile of cash for the clinic. It used to be a gala, with gowns and auctions. But Covid drove everyone outside, so for three years now, it's been a golf tournament.

Come on out! September 18, you are invited to a golf tournament at the gorgeous – and prestigious and proud and historic – Bretton Woods golf course. The first year, we had an ambassador there; last year, we had the Cardinal. This year, who knows? Come see! Details online at <https://stpaulsclinichonduras.org>.

OPT

St. Paul Catholic Church
9250E Damascus Road
Damascus, Md.
Msgr. Edward Filardi, Pastor
301- 253-2027
John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe
OPT Editor
cavanaughokeefe@gmail.com

More St. Paul News on Page 39

OPEN HOUSE-SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023, 12:00-2:30 P.M.

A private Catholic co-educational experience for grades 9-12 located on MD-85 near I-70 just north of Montgomery County. Bus transportation available.

THE VIKING DIFFERENCE

Discover

SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP
CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT
FOUNDED 1829

www.SaintJohnsPrep.org/Admissions | (301) 662-4210



Maryland Senior Olympics

2023 Season

Calendar of Remaining Events

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

Event Date	Event	Registration Deadline
Aug 28-29	Bowling	Aug 24 @8am
Sep 2	5K Kentlands/Lakelands	per organizers
Sep 6-7	Racquetball	Aug 25 @8am
Sep 9	Swimming	Aug 31 @8am
Sep 9	Badminton	Sep 1 @8am
Sep 9	Horseshoes	Aug 30 @8am
Sep 9	Softball	Aug 20 @8am
Oct 1	Cornhole	Sep 25 @8am
Oct 5-6	Bocce	Sep 28 @8am
Oct 7	Shuffleboard	Sep 29 @8am
Oct 8	10K for Kids	Oct 8 @8am
Oct 13	Billiards	Oct 6 @8am

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

Reducing Exposure to Airborne Particulates from Agriculture and Open Fires May Decrease Dementia Risk

New NIH-funded study suggests air pollution from different emission sources is associated with incident dementia

Higher rates of new cases of dementia in a population over time – known as incident dementia – are linked to long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution,

especially from agriculture and open fires, according to a study funded by the National Institutes of Health and published in JAMA Internal Medicine. Scientists found that 15% of older adults developed

incident dementia during the average follow-up of 10 years.

“As we experience the effects of air pollution from wildfires and

Continued on page 36



Victory Housing Awarded the 2023-24 Best Senior Living Community

Victory Housing announced that 100% of its assisted living communities have been awarded the 2023-24 Best Senior Living Community designation by U.S. News & World Report. The Victory Housing assisted living communities which received this distinguished award for Best Assisted Living include:



- Bartholomew House
- Byron House
- Grace House
- St Bartholomew's Parish, Bethesda
- Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Potomac
- Our Lady of Grace, St. Patrick Parishes, Silver Spring

- Malta House
- Marian Assisted Living
- Raphael House
- Hyattsville
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood
- St. Raphael's Parish, Rockville

The publication rated senior living communities based on a comprehensive survey of 250,000 residents and their family members at nearly 4,000 senior living communities nationwide. Families ranked their experiences in critical areas that matter to them most, including kindness and responsiveness of associates, quality of food and dining, variety of activities, on-site caregiving, overall facility management, housekeeping, location and much more.

Continued on page 31

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.**



OUR ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

Bartholomew House
Bethesda • 301-320-6151

Byron House
Potomac • 301-469-9400

Grace House
Silver Spring • 301-924-4424

Malta House
Hyattsville • 301-699-8600

Marian Assisted Living
Olney/Brookeville • 301-570-3190

Raphael House
Rockville • 301-217-9116



www.VictoryHousing.org

A Non-Profit Organization



Saint Peter's School Welcomes Familiar Face as New Principal

By Erin Pant

Ms. Lauren DeZinno has been appointed principal of Saint Peter's School in Olney. DeZinno is a familiar face to the Saint Peter's community, she served as acting vice principal for the 2022-2023 school year and previously taught middle school Spanish.

"It has long been my dream to serve as the institutional and spiritual leader of a community such as Saint Peter's School," said DeZinno.

Ms. DeZinno joined Saint Peter's faculty in 2018 and in addition to teaching has been involved in many school programs and extra-curricular activities, including the drama program.

"Saint Peter's is a very special place," said DeZinno. "The Saint Peter's School community is truly committed to educating the whole child. The parents, families, faculty, and staff members are united in our mission to nurture the minds and hearts of our students."

DeZinno, a graduate of the Archdiocese of Washington school system, is looking forward to "everything" during her first year as principal.

"My experiences attending the Archdiocese of Washington's exemplary Catholic schools helped shape who I am. I hope our students will have similarly wonderful, faith-filled experiences during their time at Saint Peter's School," said DeZinno.

DeZinno earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Delaware and received her Master



Ms. Lauren DeZinno assumes principal role at Saint Peter's

of Arts degree from Notre Dame of Maryland University, where she majored in Leadership in Teaching.

"When I earned my master's degree in leadership in teaching in 2019, I began to think about pursuing a career in administration. After much thought and even more prayer, I decided to pursue it more seriously and applied for the principal position when the opportunity arose," said DeZinno.

DeZinno recently took part in the Leadership Academy sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools Office. Prior to Saint Peter's, DeZinno held teaching positions at The Academy of the Holy Cross and St. Jude's Regional Catholic School.

OPT

Fun and Friendships Blossom During Saint Peter's New Pre-K Summer Program

The youngest students at Saint Peter's had an opportunity to participate in a new program established by our longtime PreK team of teachers. Ms. Trotta and Mrs. Smith, who both teach the PreK-3 students, and Ms. Tina Cabbage, who teaches PreK-4, hosted four weeks of Summer Blossom Camp for students entering PreK-4 or Kindergarten. Activities for the students included art projects, science experiments, music, dance, and outdoor fun.

Incoming students mingled with returning students so that when the first day of school comes later this month, it will seem like everyone is greeting old friends, instead of walking into a new environment.

OPT



Above: Pre-K students show off their original artwork.

Left: Fun and games were part of every day at Summer Blossom Camp.

Summer at Saint Peter's

Left: Middle School students spent a week at the Youth Ministry's Edge Camp studying world hunger.

Below: Students participated in a hunger banquet, made sandwiches for SOME, and researched organizations that help the hungry that they then donated to.



Above: High School students participated in Impact, a week of service.

Right: Impact participants spent time making gifts for sick children at Children's Inn at NIH, served at Food and Friends, and made dinner for a women's shelter.



Welcome Fr. Magro

Saint Peter's Parish recently welcomed new parochial vicar, Father Emanuel Magro.

Fr. Mago was born on Gozo, the sister island of Malta. He was ordained a priest in 1979 and served several years in Malta and Germany before coming to the Washington D.C. area in 1986 to study at The Catholic University of America. Upon obtaining several advanced degrees, Father Magro taught at his alma mater for several years. In 2018, Fr. Magro felt the Lord was calling him to serve and minister to a parish here in the Archdiocese of Washington. Fr. Magro became parochial vicar first at Saint Bernadette's in Silver Spring and then at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Chevy Chase.



Fr. Emanuel Magro

OPT



Forty-two campers shined Jesus' light at Vacation Bible Camp. They enjoyed Bible adventures, games, imagination station, and snack. God's love is out of this world! Thank you to all the adult and teen volunteers who made this an outstanding week.

St. Peter's Parish

2900 Sandy Spring Road
Olney, MD

Rev. Thomas Kalita, Pastor

301-924-3774
stpetersolney.org

St. Peter's School

Ms. Lauren DeZinno
Principal

301-774-9112
stpetersschoololney.org

A New Chapter Unfolds: Ordination of Martin Begley and Clerical Reassignments

By Marisa Stoolmiller

In a momentous occasion that marked a significant milestone for both the clergy and the community, the ordination of Martin Begley brought forth an air of excitement and anticipation to St. John Neumann parish. The event not only symbolized the dedication and commitment of a young man to his faith but also signified a new beginning for the parishioners and the broader Catholic community. Alongside this ordination, the movement of Fr. Stefan Yap to St. Martin's parish marked yet another change in the ecclesiastical landscape, further underscoring the dynamic nature of pastoral assignments.

The Ordination of Martin Begley: A Journey of Faith

The ordination of a priest is an event that carries deep spiritual and emotional significance for the individual being ordained as well as for the community they will serve. Martin Begley's journey towards priesthood was one of dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering faith. From his early years, he exhibited a strong sense of devotion and a desire to serve the church and its people. As he progressed through his seminary studies, he honed his theological knowledge, pastoral skills, and a profound understanding of the challenges and joys of parish life.

The day of Begley's ordination was a culmination of years of preparation and prayer. Family, friends, fellow seminarians, and parishioners gathered to witness this sacred rite of passage. The solemn ceremony was a reminder of the rich traditions and rituals that have been carried forward through generations, binding the faithful in a shared history of faith.



Father Martin Begley's New Assignment to St. John Neumann Parish after his ordination in June.

A New Assignment: St. John Neumann Parish

The assignment of Martin Begley to St. John Neumann parish brought a wave of excitement and anticipation to the community. The arrival of a new priest signifies not only a fresh perspective but also a sense of rejuvenation for the parishioners. Begley's ordination and his subsequent assignment were not merely administrative decisions; they represented a continuation of the pastoral mission and a chance for the parish to grow and evolve under new leadership.

St. John Neumann parish, a close-knit community known for its vibrant spirituality and strong sense of fellowship, eagerly embraced their new pastor. Begley's youthful energy, coupled with his theological depth, provided a promising outlook for the parish's future. As he settled into his role, he engaged with parishioners, sought to understand their needs, and began crafting a vision for the



Saint John Neumann parishioners say farewell to Father Stefan Yap on Sunday, July 2, 2023.

community's spiritual growth and engagement.

A Farewell and Transition: Fr. Stefan Yap's Move to St. Martin's Parish

Simultaneously, as St. John Neumann parish welcomes the newly ordained Fr. Begley, we also bid farewell to Fr. Stefan Yap. Fr. Yap, who had been a pillar of support and guidance for the community, has moved on to a new assignment. The reassignment of clergy members is an integral part of the Catholic Church's structure, allowing priests to serve different congregations and bring their unique strengths to various contexts.

Fr. Yap's departure was met with mixed emotions. The gratitude for his years of dedicated service mingled with a sense of loss as we bid farewell. As Fr. Yap takes on his new role at St. Martin's parish, we wish him well, and send out prayers and support.

Embracing Change and Continuity

The ordination of Martin Begley and the reassignment of Fr. Stefan Yap exemplify the dynamic nature of the Catholic Church and its commitment to fostering growth and vibrancy within its communities. As the baton is passed from one priest to another, the underlying mission remains constant: to guide, support, and nurture the spiritual well-being of the faithful.

In the tapestry of faith, the threads of change are woven alongside the threads of continuity. The ordination of new priests and the movement of experienced clergy members underscore the Church's ability to adapt while preserving its rich traditions. These transitions invite the faithful to participate actively in the ongoing narrative of faith, embracing the opportunities for growth and renewal that each new chapter brings.

OPT

St. John Neumann Parish

9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Msgr. Robert Panke
Pastor

Kimberley Rice
OPT Editor

SIGNIFICANCE

Con't from page 6

even when you don't feel like smiling. It is taking the time to be a teacher, to be a mentor, and to be a friend. It is looking out for someone to make sure they make it to their vehicle at night, to make sure that they have what they need to do their job, to go just a little extra to make their job a little easier.

Living a life of significance isn't having just one, two, or three of these moments but rather a way of being. It is when your life is filled with a collection of small moments, that when strung and added together, you touch more than just the lives of those around you. It is when

your life inspires others to do the same, to share your kindness, and make it a part of their way of being as well.

A life of significance is when your moments impact the lives of dozens, and you inspire them to create moments of meaning in the lives of others. It may seem difficult to track the impact of such a life as it ripples out into the world and inspires moments for hundreds and thousands of other people."

At The Woods, we are committed to developing the minds, spirits, and bodies of our students from Montessori to eighth grade in a safe, caring community that honors each student as a child of God. Students learn habits of character including faith, morality, independence,

responsibility, loyalty, self-confidence, leadership, compassion, personal integrity, and, importantly, respect for others.

Respect for others and serving the community around them is an important trait for children to learn especially as we prepare them to lead lives of significance. This helps them to learn gratitude and understanding while helping others.

Service and respect to others can be seen in a variety of ways at The Woods Academy, including:

- Learning how to be a good friend and care for others through our guidance lessons in the Lower School
- Montessori students sorting and donating Halloween candy for our troops or gathering items to send to Ukrainian refugees, and

learning about those individuals in the process

- Third grade students donating shoes to The National Center for Children and Families in honor of Founders Day
- Eighth grade girls' advisory leaving notes of kindness around the school
- Prayer partner activities where our Upper School students share their knowledge and joy with our youngest students
- Students witnessing teachers caring for each other and vice versa
- Parents and students participating in Wreaths Across America giving thanks to those that have served our great nation

- And don't forget the simple thank yous, good mornings, and "how are you?" interactions - small, but mighty

Merriam Webster describes significance as implying a quality or character that should mark a thing as important, but that is not self-evident and may or may not be recognized. One could say these are little acts of kindness that go unnoticed - much like what the LinkedIn author wrote in her reflection.

I encourage you to show your children day in and day out what a life of significance looks like at home and on the weekends. I know we are trying to at The Woods Academy in more ways than one.

OPT

The Sounds of Summer

By Melissa Furman Sloan, Principal

The laughing in the breeze, the whip of a superhero cape, and the splashing of the slip and slide are just a few of the joyful noises heard around campus during Mother of God School's 12-month school option. Students in the Pre-Kindergarten 3 through rising second graders have the option of extending the traditional school year into a 12-month program. This allows the students to continue to learn but in mixed ability and mixed age groups through play, outdoor exploration, and weekly themes.

This summer, students took adventures to the nearby creek and learned more about the local ecosystem during the outdoor theme week. During the beach week, students learned about oceans and



Left: Mother of God School 12-month students have fun playing and splashing in the warm summer sun.

Below: Mrs. Sloan, the principal, joins the students in outdoor summer play.

beaches. One of the last weeks was spent learning about superheroes and making shields and masks to practice their new super-powers! Every day is filled with reading, activities, outdoor play, and of course, weather permitting, extensive water play! It is amazing how much students



can learn through guided play and exploration!

OPT



Winner of the 2023 Elizabeth Ann Seton Award, Fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Paula Halbach and her parents.

Fifth Grade Teacher is Honored with the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award

By Melissa Furman Sloan, Principal

Mrs. Paula Halbach, the fifth-grade teacher at Mother of God School, is known for her love of all things Disney, especially Nemo. She invests in each student who comes into her classroom by setting high expectations and providing all students with a challenging and engaging classroom. Sometimes her current students think that she gives a lot of homework or that she expects a lot from them. By the time the students reach eighth grade, Mrs. Halbach is remembered as a favorite teacher who is one of the most caring and loving teachers who really got them ready for middle school.

The Mother of God School Board has a prestigious award called the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award. This award is named after the first American saint, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the patron-

ess of Maryland and Catholic Education in the United States. Mother Seton sacrificed to provide a high-quality education to children in need and ensured that their education was infused with prayer, formation in virtue and character, and the spirit of the gospel.

From time to time, the school board recognizes an exemplary teacher who embodies the tenets of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. This year the board unanimously voted to award this high honor to Mrs. Halbach.

Mrs. Halbach has been teaching at Mother of God School for 15 years and has two sons who also attend Mother of God. She was presented with the award on the last day of school after the closing Mass and before the end-of-the-year picnic. Congratulations Mrs. Halbach, Mother of God School is a better place because of your loving example every day!

OPT

St. Raphael House Wins the First House Cup

By Melissa Furman Sloan, Principal

In the fall of 2022, Mother of God School instituted a new house system to create a school community where students work together and support each other as they grow in their Catholic faith. The purpose of each house is to guide and support the academic, spiritual, social, and personal development of each student during their time at Mother of God School.

The "house" system stems from British boarding schools, where students are divided into houses throughout the school. The houses help to create a sense of family. The students, along with the faculty and staff, are divided into three houses, which evenly divide students by grade level.

Due to the size of the student body, the school was divided into three houses. Each house was assigned an Archangel. Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael's houses take on the charism of their patron saint. Each member of the house receives a metal of their patron saint as a reminder of why the houses were created. All three houses have a faculty member, referred to as Dean, who leads each house through competitions during the year.

The yearly competition begins



Students cheer on housemates during the Fly-Off Competition. During the fly-off competition, students in grades 4-8 learn about aerodynamics and attempt to build the most efficient and effective paper airplane. The airplanes are flown in the gym while everyone cheers them on!

in the fall and concludes with Field Day at the end of May. There are various anchor activities throughout the year including multiple activities during Catholic Schools Week. These anchor activities happen yearly while the small activities and opportunities for house points vary each year.

It was a tight competition, but in the end, St. Raphael House won the house cup for the first ever Mother of God House Competition!

Through two of the competitions Mother of God School students were able to raise more than \$800 for Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, more than \$1,000 for the food pantry at St. John Neumann Parish, and packaged more than 650 snack and meal bags for people with food insecurities.

Watch out St. Raphael House, St. Gabriel and St. Michael houses are ready for a re-match!

OPT

VICTORY HOUSING

Con't from page 28

The national recognition as a top senior living provider further supports the confidence families can have in deciding on a Victory Housing community as the best solution to care for a loved one. Its highly rated communities provide a safe, welcoming, and purposeful life for all residents.

Leila Finucane, President and CEO of Victory Housing stated, "As an organization, we take pride in the care and services provided to our seniors. Our team, from housekeepers to cooks to executive directors, are committed to excellence and are passionate about what they

do. It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we thank our employees for their heart and dedication to serve our seniors."

For more than four decades, Victory Housing has provided assisted living and affordable housing to low- and moderate-income independent seniors and families. Victory Housing has more than 35 communities providing 2,800 units of rental housing. Today, Victory Housing continues to strengthen and expand its mission.

Victory Housing CARES: We lead with Compassion. We are Accountable for our work. We Respect everyone. We Excel in our results. We Sustain our mission.

OPT

Students try to pull their team over the victory line during the last house competition, Field Day!



Mother of God School
20501 Goshen Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Mr. Hall Miller
School President
Mrs. Melissa Sloan
School Principal

301-990-2088
www.mogschool.com

It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times

Vacation Bible School at Mother Seton Was Out of This World

Another year of Vacation Bible School in the books! A special thank you to all parents, we loved having your children join us for the week. We could not have done it without all the volunteers and staff who put in the time, energy, and love to make this VBS Stellar!

OPT



Far left: Vacation Bible School volunteers.

Left: Jane Rice VBS Space Explorer.



Above: Sophia Chaskes and Jane Rice kick-off VBS.

Right: Juliana Ordoñez, MaryBeth and Rebecca DeLuzio, VBS Coordinators.



Above: Vacation Bible School kids and crew leaders preparing for the day with prayers and songs.

Left, above: Campers enjoying snack time



Marian Consecration at Mother Seton Parish

By Dorrete Paulin

For several years, members of the Mother Seton Parish Legion of Mary have prepared for their Marian Consecration on the Feast of the Annunciation by doing a 33-day self-guided retreat. They have joined with other Legions of Mary throughout the Washington, DC area using both St. Louis de Montfort's book



Above: First row (l-r) Seminarian Marco Magpantay, Connie Chaskes, Ruth Zalewski, Faustina Baradwaja, Nancy Fazio, Joan Tapocik, Dorrete Paulin. Back row (l-r) Madeleine Castro, Berna Yuen, Laurie Cannevali, Barbara Anne Foster, Sylvia Harris, Marta Magaña, Rennie Okoh, Sophia Chaskes, Frannie Shoyer, Father Alberto Biondi

Left: Mirtha Montoya and Mary Kinler



and Fr. Michael Gaitley's book.

In 2017, the Mother Seton Parish Legion of Mary ordered copies of Fr. Michael Gaitley's book "33 Days to Morning Glory" in both English & Spanish and distributed them, inviting parishioners to join them in consecrating themselves to Mary. The following year, members of the Mother

Seton Sodality and their families joined the Legion of Mary in Marian Consecration. The Sodality members did their Marian Consecration the first couple of years on the Feast of the Annunciation, and in recent years on the Feast of the Visitation.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Women's Abiding Together Discussion Group formed, and began meeting virtually, using the "33 Days to Morning Glory" by

Fr. Michael Gaitley, watched his videos in the Formed App, and discussed each week's themes. In 2021, the Women's group said the consecration together via Zoom. Although the group continues to meet virtually, they have said the Consecration in person for the past two years for the Feast of the Visitation with other parishioners, and then went to breakfast for fellowship.

This year for the Feast of the Visitation, members of the Legion of Mary, Sodality, Women's Abiding Together Group & their families, along with many other parishioners, led by Fr. Alberto Biondi, continued to renew their Marian Consecration annually and throughout the year. Those who have done their Marian Consecration realize the great blessings they have received.

To Jesus through Mary!

OPT

Knights of Columbus Cash Bingo

By Christopher Sandeep

The Fr. Horace B. McKenna Knights of Columbus (Council #11024) at Mother Seton Parish, Germantown, conducted a successful Cash Bingo on August 4. The event was orga-



Above: Bingo!!

Left: Knights of Columbus Cash Bingo.



nized as a fundraiser to help seminarians at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. The Bingo event had

Continued on page 39

Knights of Columbus Annual Luau and Pig Roast

By Art Padama

After a pandemic-induced hiatus of over four years, the Father Horace B. McKenna Council of the Knights of Columbus resumed their annual Luau and pig roast on June 24, 2023. This annual event was very popular in previous years and this year was no different. Over 130 guests enjoyed the tropical themed event. Music, dancing, and prizes added to the

festive atmosphere. The center attraction was the whole roasted pig, hand carved, and served with all the trimmings. All the proceeds of this event went to supporting the charitable programs of the Knights of Columbus. If you would like information on future events of the Father Horace B. McKenna Council, you can email the Grand Knight at grandknight11024@gmail.com.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish
19951 Fr. Hurlley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer
Pastor
301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado
OPT Editor

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

Shrine of St. Jude Sodality Names Woman of the Year 2023 and Angel Award Recipient

By Clare Kuzma

Small and mighty are two words that can be used to describe Marta Custer, the Shrine of St. Jude Sodality's Woman of the Year 2023. On May 20, the Sodality had their closing luncheon and celebrated Marta for all that she has contributed to Sodality, including serving as treasurer since 2018. In addition, she brings energy and creative ideas to Sodality while keeping Sodality on track with all its money matters. The Sodality was also able to recognize Beth Wheeler and her mother Pat Wheeler (posthumously) with the Angel award for their dedication as Band Leaders and years of contribution to sodality. Sadly, Pat passed away January 29 and Beth is stepping down from her duties as a Sodalist. The Shrine of St. Jude is grateful for Sodalists like Marta and Beth, who generously give their time and talents to the parish.



Pictured on left is Beth Wheeler, the Shrine of St. Jude's Angel Award recipient. On right is Marta Custer, Sodality's Woman of the Year.



Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude, happily signs copies of his book, "I Was Blind and Now I See," for parishioners following mass to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of his ordination. Photo by Rebecca Sella.

BOOK

Con't from page 1

many accomplishments during his tenure. The Shrine of St. Jude was Fr. Lee's first assignment after his ordination when he served as parochial vicar from 1983 to 1989. Mr. Roach further commented, "The book is an easy read and inspiring. There are a couple of homilies that resonate with me, particularly 'Are you envious because I am generous?'"

While the homilies elaborate on the day's gospel, the lectures expound on more scholarly religious themes. In one lecture on Catholic humanism, Fr. Lee charts his father's own Catholic humanism in four characteristic dimensions: homo orans, homo ecclesiae, homo viator, and homo ludens. In defining each of these with examples of how his father lived them throughout his life, one can learn more

about being authentically human within the faith while learning more about Fr. Lee's father and the root of his own faith.

Another lecture is on fecundity in marriage, which discusses procreation and the fullness of life. In the lecture on marriage, Fr. Lee notes some of the St. Jude parishioners with large families, some with 10 or more children. Fr. Lee writes in the book, "Of course, they stand out in the age of nuclear families ... (the) children are happy and enjoy each other's company in their life's journey and they take care of each other."

Both the homilies and the lectures are testimony to Fr. Lee's ability to teach and inspire through his broad knowledge of scripture, the lives of the saints, the great philosophers, and world history.

Congratulations to Fr. Lee on his 40th anniversary of his ordination and on the publication of his book, "I Was Blind and Now I See."

OPT

Brodie Wise Ordained a Deacon in June

By Clare Kuzma

Congratulations to Deacon Brodie Wise who was Ordained June 3, 2023, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Brodie has been working closely with the St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude since its beginning in May of 2020. Brodie wanted to work in the food pantry to fill a need and have



Pictured with Deacon Brodie Wise (far right) are (from left) Jen and Larry Kilmer and Mike and Jane Goss, Directors of St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude.

a focus as he continued in his program and study to become a Deacon of the Archdiocese of Washington. Additionally, he has been able to procure cereal and deliver it to St. Stephen's. The Shrine of St. Jude

parish is so grateful for Brodie's service to its parish food pantry, and we congratulate him on his ordination. Way to go, Brodie!

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude Parish
12701 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

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

St. Jude Regional Catholic School
Jeanne Donatelli, Principal
301-946-7888

Maureen Martin, OPT Editor
MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

70TH YEAR

Con't from page 16

ments and each grade will be responsible for researching one of the previous decades.

Celebrations will also include enjoying our new field. After an entire year of construction, the De Chantal Athletic field is open! Students will enjoy using the field for Physical Education classes and the two new playgrounds will become part of each morning and lunch recess. Use of the field and playgrounds is managed by the De Chantal CYO and Mrs. Lisa Tehan. Please contact De Chantal CYO and/or Mrs. Tehan with questions.

The school will also welcome two teachers to the De Chantal Faculty at the start of this school year. Carla Van Beek is the new Fifth Grade teacher and Monique Cicerchia is the new Third grade teacher. Welcome to De Chantal!

OPT

PRIESTS

Con't from page 27

priesthood (a day) serving at St. Paul's.

Fr. Y. David Brault retired for eleven wonderful days, and then – boom! – he was called back to serve. He moved into the rectory (top floor, no elevator) cheerfully, and is back in the business of dispensing wisdom and grace. He grew up on the Canadian side of the St. Lawrence River, and remembers when the river became a "seaway," so ocean-going vessels could sail from Minnesota past his home to Europe. But the commerce along that seaway (five percent of the world's cargo) is not as important nor as permanent as Fr. Dave's priesthood.

It's not possible to say thanks properly to these four servants of God.

OPT



Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude, receives the offertory from members of his family—his brother Peter and Peter's wife Elizabeth, niece Regina, and Regina's daughter Emily— during mass to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination. Photo by Rebecca Sella.



"I Was Blind and Now I See," a book by Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude. Photo by Rebecca Sella.

St. Michael the Archangel Community Celebrates the Feast of the Divine Savior of the World

August 6 was a special day at St. Michael the Archangels as we celebrated the Feast of the Divine Savior of the World. The feast day is particularly special for the El Salvadorean members of our community. El Salvador (the Savior) is named for Jesus, the Divine Savior and it is considered a day of national celebration.

The festivities began with mass at 1:00 p.m. followed by a cultural celebration complete with food and dancing in Williamsburg Hall. Both parts of the day's festivities featured many important components of El Salvadorean history and culture, including the presence of an image of St. Oscar Romero, an El Salvadorean bishop who was martyred in 1980. The mass also included a procession with a large statue of Jesus, Savior of the World, surrounded by blue and white flowers, reminiscent of the El Salvadorean flag. The same color scheme was used to decorate Williamsburg Hall, which was decked out in blue and white tablecloths and floral arrangements.

The day was made possible with the help of many volunteers who performed, cooked, served, and decorated for the wonderful event.

Everyone was also invited to attend the Archdiocesan celebration in honor of the Divine Savior of the World on Saturday, August 12 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. That event also included a procession and mass, and was Monsignor Evelio Menjivar, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington presided over the event.

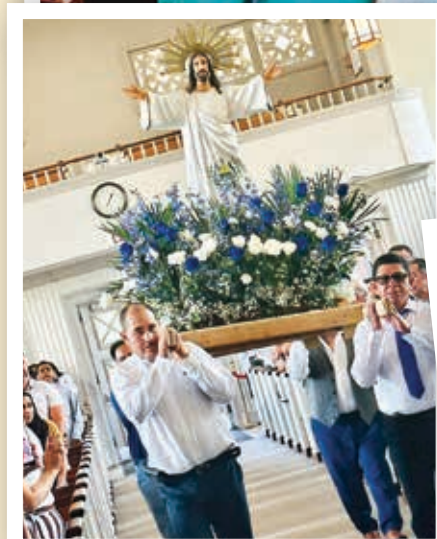
OPT



Left: The sanctuary was packed with many worshippers during the mass.

Below: Williamsburg Hall was full of joy during the reception after the mass. Attendees enjoyed authentic food, dance, and music.

Bottom right: Our dancers, dressed in brightly colored costumes, pose with the statue of Jesus, Savior of the World.



Above: A large statue of Jesus, Savior of the World, is carried up to the altar.



Right: Msgr. Tolentino with the image of St. Oscar Romero. The image blessed with incense during the mass and on display during the reception.



Prayer Opportunities at St. Michael's

St. Thérèse of Lisieux once said that "Prayer is the surge of the heart; it is a simple heart turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy".

Parishioners at St. Michael the Archangel suffer no lack of opportunity to engage in many kinds of prayer. There is something for everyone who may be looking for ways to expand their prayer life.

More information about each of the following prayer groups can be found on the parish website and in the bulletin.

- Deacon Mendez leads morning prayer on zoom for the parish early risers. It is held virtually each morning from 6:15-6:45 a.m.
- Deacon Ealey holds a Bible Study each Tuesday evening at 7:00 for those looking to dive deeper into Scripture.
- The English Charismatic Prayer Group meets for praise and worship on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center
- The Marriage Ministry Gospel Reflection group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. for an hour of fellowship, reflection, and sharing.
- The Sodality prays the rosary each Saturday morning at 9:15 a.m.

OPT

FR. ALEX

Con't from page 8

In particular, this teacher helped Fr. Alex to see that the truth about our lives is not an idea, but rather a relationship—and he proposed that a relationship with Christ was the ultimate relationship. A young Alex was fired up and decided to start meeting with a priest periodically to discuss his relationship with Jesus.

This eventually led him to Vanderbilt University, where he really grew in his faith, thanks to the incredible campus ministry, good friends, and the presence of excellent FOCUS missionaries.

Mainly, however, like many freshmen Fr. Alex wanted to have a good time and thought he would eventually become a lawyer. However, God had other plans for this young man. He felt a strong calling and after a period of discernment, he decided to apply to St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC. After that, he went to the North American College in Rome for

five years, where he completed a master's-level degree in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. Ordained just a year ago, St. Bart's is his first full-time parish assignment, and he's so excited to get started.

As the parochial vicar, his job is to support the pastor in caring for the people of this parish. Practically, that means celebrating the sacraments, offering formation, and generally being present in the community. In particular, however, his assignment is focused on serving the Spanish community, which is an amazing and vibrant group here within the parish.

Shortly after his start, he quickly discovered St. Bartholomew's families are proud of their history! He's impressed by the amount of folks who give their "St. Bart's resume" when they meet him: "My kids are in the school, I went to St. Bart's my whole life, my parents were married here," *et cetera*. There is a strong "rootedness" in this community, which is striking to Fr. Alex, especially as a newcomer to

Bethesda!

As an only child Fr. Alex developed many hobbies and interests. He is a true outdoorsman who enjoys camping, fly fishing, and skiing, but rock climbing tops his list. He once climbed the face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park before beginning seminary (it's the big wall from *Free Solo*, if you saw that movie). Since it's a multi-day climb, Fr. Alex and friends had to sleep on the wall in a hanging cot! He also has a creative side! He's an avid musician and has played piano, guitar, and drums for most of his life. Additionally, he enjoys photography, design, and calligraphy.

One thing he would like to share with the youth is this: get interested in life! Your life is a gift, but it's up to you to take it out of the wrapper. Don't settle for *mediocrity*, which is boring—have faith in God (and yourself) and let Him motivate you to be *excellent!*

OPT

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Sheri Golden,
OPT Editor

301-589-1155

Ms. Stinger's Love Shines Through

By Anne Gemunder

It is not unusual to walk into Ms. Stinger's classroom and need to look around to find her because she is often in the middle of a large group of students. When they huddle, she is usually teaching a skill, such as an art technique, a stitch pattern in knitting, or telling a story which offers some common sense advice about life. When alumni visit St. Martin's they often ask, "Is Ms. Stinger here?" because she will invite them to sit and reminisce about their years at St. Martin's and what their classmates are up to now. Throughout her twenty-two years at St. Martin's, and still today, she accepts everyone for who they are and makes them feel at home.

Her loving heart and desire to help have translated into many projects and clubs throughout the years; but this past school year, she has gone above and beyond a typical busy year. Perhaps it is a response to the inability to do these activities due to COVID, or perhaps she sees a need like never before.

Her day jobs are Art teacher, librarian, and middle school Religion teacher. In other years, she has taught Language Arts, keyboarding, been a Science and computer class assistant, and sixth-grade homeroom teacher. Ms. Stinger explains, "Afterschool activities offer students the opportunity to explore a new interest and learn a new skill, in a less formal atmosphere." She adds, "Students benefit from these small groups because it encourages them to be more outgoing and make new friends."

Ms. Stinger re-introduced her Knitting Club this year. She established this club in 2008 when



Ms. Stinger surrounded by students at St. Martin's School's STREAM-based summer camp, which features lessons, activities, and fun. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

Andrea Villars (now our Spanish teacher and eighth-grade homeroom teacher) was in her sixth-grade homeroom class. Ms. Villars was recovering from knee surgery and could not join her classmates at recess. To keep her busy, Ms. Stinger offered to teach her how to knit. The next year, the club had thirty members, and half were boys. That year they made 500 hats, which were donated during the

church's coat drive. "I am so proud of our efforts when I see people wearing those hats," she beams.

Provided with a suggestion from Wendy Woodland (a grandmother of two SMS students and an active volunteer for the City of Gaithersburg), Ms. Stinger and Pre-Kindergarten Aide Elida Gomez took classes from the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake about starting an environmental club. Armed with these

new skills and resources, they created the Green Team in the fall and now have a dozen members. They have re-instituted recycling waste and started a vegetable and flower garden. "It has already changed our students' mindsets. I see them picking up paper and thinking of ways to re-use it," describes Ms. Stinger.

In January, Ms. Stinger enthusiastically described a book-buying initiative to our faculty, that would put at least one new book in the hands of every student. At the conclusion, the program had raised \$10,000 toward purchasing new books for students, with surplus funds to purchase books for our library. The initiative was so successful that each student took home not one but five new books to enjoy. One second grader explained, "I am so excited to have so many new books to read during summer break!" It was a little like Christmas morning watching students in each classroom open their packages full of exciting new books to take home. "Our students reap the benefits by having their own home library," remarked Ms. Stinger. Principal Lamont added, "Thanks to Ms. Stinger, our community rallied together to support these young readers."

Thanks to the leadership of Mr. Ben Desmond, our middle school Language Arts teacher, we were able to reinstitute the Drama Club as an after-school activity this year. The play they selected to perform was "The Claw," a new children's musical. As with any performance, a team of collaborators is required. Ms. Stinger generously took on several roles thanks to her skills and expertise. As the Creative Director, with a crew of six, she was responsible for costumes, scenery, and

the program. "I especially enjoyed seeing the students express their creative talents and imaginations, as both actors and crew members," Ms. Stinger commented. The play was an impressive production, well attended and exceptionally performed.

The minute the classroom doors closed for the academic year, our STREAM-based Camp Crusaders, led by Ms. Stinger, welcomed our students back for the summer. Campers enjoyed theme-based weeks such as Legos, Disney, and the Fun of Science.

Ms. Stinger also put her final imprint on the school year as editor of the Yearbook. Students enjoy looking back on a year full of activities and events, many made possible by her love for St. Martin's and its students. Thanks to Ms. Stinger and our dedicated faculty and staff, each year is full of unique opportunities and experiences for students, which many delightedly remember for years to come.

OPT

St. Martin of Tours Parish
201 South Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD
Fr. David G. Wells,
Pastor
301-990-3203
St. Martin School
Stephen Lamont, Principal
301-990-2441
Catherine Cooksey,
Parish Editor
240-477-8706
www.smsmd.org



St. Martin's Parish said goodbye to Fr. David Langfeld, Sr. Providencia, and Fr. Francisco (Kiko) Rodriguez this summer. Fr. David had been a seminarian, who served at St. Martin's before his ordination. He is returning to his home diocese in Indiana. Sr. Providencia ministered to families in the Parish. She has been reassigned to a parish in Texas. Fr. Kiko served as a parochial vicar at St. Martin's for two years. He has been reassigned to St. Patrick's in Rockville. Thanks to all three for their contributions to the parish! Photos courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.



Parishioners celebrated Pat Dorney with a Mickey Mouse themed retirement party. Pat has worked at the parish for 48 years! Most recently, she served as our child protection coordinator. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

Youth enjoy a water balloon toss at the St. Martin's Parish Picnic in June. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.



TEPEYAC

Con't from page 3

interest in continuing the relationship after finding out that she was expecting. She had come to the United States in search of a better life with her mother and grandmother, but getting pregnant completely changed her plans. She was scared because she did not have the support of her family, being told by her grandmother and mother that she needed to abort her child if she wanted a better life. Her grandmother told her the “thing” she had inside her was not alive yet, and that it would be easy to “just get rid of it.”

However, the counselor assured her that she was not alone and they would help her.

She cried in desperation, wanting to carry through with the pregnancy, but scared of what may happen. The grandmother was angry with Katy, trying to convince her that the best thing was for her to have an abortion. She told her that she would not progress here in this country with a child and no one would care for her son.

As Katy left the office, all of the Centro Tepeyac staff and many supporters prayed hard for Katy asking for our Blessed Mother’s help to save her and her son. Two days later, the counselor contacted Katy and told her that they were still here for her. It was at that moment that Katy said she knew that God was with her and her baby and that she can make her own decisions about her life!

In opposition to her family, she told the counselor that in four months, she would be 18 years old, and she understood that no one could make decisions for her and her baby. Katy got a job that week and started saving money to provide for her baby. Centro Tepeyac will work on providing all the necessary help for her to get the care and support that she needs.

I realized that in order to serve Katy and other Centro Tepeyac mothers to the best of their abilities, Centro Tepeyac needs the help of people in the surrounding parishes. One of my goals as Executive Director is to connect with more Catholic parishes in



Mrs. Radich and the Moynihan girls on right painting a canvas for the lobby

the Archdiocese to let people know who Centro Tepeyac is. Our aim is to create a nurturing environment where women facing unplanned pregnancies can find the support and resources they need to choose life and care for their child. I hope to raise awareness about the pregnancy center and its mission, reaching a broader audience within the community.

Center Tepeyac is working on creating a “Mom’s Corner” in the nearby parishes. My hope is that parishes in the archdiocese can help us in our mission by becoming a place where parishioners can drop off material items, such as diapers, baby clothes, cribs, etc. A volunteer would then pick up the items and bring them to Centro Tepeyac. If your parish or school would like to create a “Mom’s Corner” or host

a drive, feel free to reach out at juliekilmer@ctepeyac.org.

Furthermore, the end of August marks the beginning of Centro Tepeyac’s free parenting and health classes. They will offer free parenting classes at the center every Friday. Additionally, they will host free health classes with a nutritionist from Giant Healthy Services every month. The classes will not only teach the mothers and fathers valuable skills in parenting, but also create a community with friendships at Centro Tepeyac as they battle difficult pregnancies together.

All of these new initiatives are taking place as other changes are happening at Centro Tepeyac. We have built up our staff and board, found more resources for our clients, built partnerships, and have renovated our physical space. We received the help of many kind and hardworking volunteers. The Kilmer boys and the Heights Class of 2025 painted the office, and the Radich and Moynihan families helped tremendously with redesigning the office- just to name a few!

We also have several individual volunteer opportunities under development. For example, Centro Tepeyac is forming a mentorship program, in addition to the counseling they offer, that allows the mothers an opportunity to have a more frequent and personal relationship. This mentor will provide her a listening ear, prayers,



Renovated lobby room welcoming women to Centro Tepeyac



Our Lady of Guadalupe serves as the patroness of Centro Tepeyac.

and encouragement so that she has ongoing support before, during, and after pregnancy. If you or anyone you know is Spanish speaking and interested in being a mentor, feel free to reach out using the contact information provided.

We are also thrilled to announce our newest partnership with Seven Weeks Coffee, a pro-life coffee company that donates 10% of every sale to pregnancy care centers across the country!

With something as simple as drinking your daily cup of coffee, you now have the opportunity to support their efforts of serving women in need and protecting the life of their pre-born babies. When you purchase a bag of coffee through this link, 10% will be donated to Centro Tepeyac!

And if you use the code

“Seven,” you’ll get 10% off your first order. Shop their Specialty Coffee here! <https://sevenweekscoffee.com/?ref=CentroTepeyac>

All of us, the staff, board, and volunteers, want to get the word out to more people about the beautiful work that Centro Tepeyac does and expand their network of support through the Archdiocese. In order to run their free services for expectant mothers, Centro Tepeyac needs the generous support from donors to make these programs possible. If you would like to offer your expertise, volunteer, or financial or material support, please contact Centro Tepeyac! You can also offer material assistance by shopping our Amazon Baby registry (listed as Centro Tepeyac Silver Spring) to send donations right to our center.

Centro Tepeyac, most importantly asks for your prayers. We entrust our work to Our Lady of Guadalupe to protect the mothers who cry out for support and their children. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Phone number: 301-587-9516

For Off-Hour Assistance, Call 1(800) 395- HELP.

Contact them at office@ctepeyac.org or Juliekilmer@ctepeyac.org

Centro Tepeyac is located at 12247 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

Their office hours are Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

For more information, visit their website at Centro Tepeyac. **OPT**



The Kilmer boys and dad on the left painting office walls.

POLLUTION

Con't from page 28

other emissions locally and internationally, these findings contribute to the strong evidence needed to best inform health and policy decisions,” said Richard J. Hodes, M.D., director, National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of NIH. “These results are an example of effectively using federally funded research data to help address critical health risks.”

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor scientists used data from

27,857 adults aged 50 years and older enrolled in the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a nationally representative cohort of older adults in the United States. Beginning in 1992, participants have been interviewed once every two years about many factors related to healthy aging, including their cognition, overall health, and health behaviors.

The research team also gathered air quality measurements from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; several other studies; and more than 300 geographic variables such as nearby transportation, land

cover and use, population density, emission sources, and vegetation. This information was applied to a prediction model to estimate total PM2.5 at participants’ residential addresses. The model multiplied total PM2.5 concentration at individual addresses by local fractions of PM2.5 attributable to each of nine emission sources: agriculture, road traffic, non-road traffic, coal combustion for energy production, other energy production, coal combustion for industry, other industry, open fires, and windblown dust.

“This level of specificity is new and useful,” said Jonathan W. King,

Ph.D., NIA project scientist for HRS. “As NIA continues to conduct and fund studies on risk factors for dementia, these results will help inform future research, and potentially, policy interventions.”

The findings showed 4,105 participants (15%) developed dementia during the follow-up period. Compared with those who did not develop dementia, participants with incident dementia were more likely to be non-white, have less formal education, less wealth, and higher surrounding PM2.5 levels at their address. While agriculture and open fires had the strongest air pollution-

dementia associations, road traffic, non-road traffic, and coal combustion for energy production and industry were also associated with incident dementia.

The study advances the scientific literature by examining associations of incident dementia with PM2.5 from key emission sources rather than just total PM2.5. The findings suggest interventions that reduce air pollution may decrease the lifelong risk of developing dementia.

What's New at St. Francis International School

Much has been happening at SFIS during these summer months.

We welcome our new Assistant Principal for Academics, Mr. Nicholas Caputo. Mr. Caputo has worked at several area Catholic schools. His enthusiasm for his new role here is already evident and we look forward to his leadership along with our principal, Mr. Sam Chapa, and our Assistant Principal of Student Life and Discipline, Mr. Adam Kampia, as we enter our 14th year at Saint Francis International School.

When our students return, they will find 150 new desks and 200 new chairs awaiting them. Many of the rooms will be brighter because 132 new LED light fixtures were installed.

Our library is always getting new books, but this summer a big effort was made to remove outdated and underused books to make way for more recent and inviting books. Our faithful library volunteers have given their time to make this happen.

Soon we will roll out our updated website and new marketing materials.

Everything we do at our school is to help fulfill our mission: *Saint Francis International School is a Franciscan family that nurtures children to become instruments of God's peace, scholars, and global citizens.*

OPT



Above center headshot: New Assistant Principal Nicholas Caputo

Above: Eighth-grade graduates help move new desks to classrooms.



Above: New LED lights brighten the library.



Left: Volunteers prepare new books for students to check out.

The Great Book Giveaway!

At the end of each school year, we hold the GREAT BOOK GIVEAWAY (GBGA). Throughout the year, book donations come in from various sources. A 2017 *Washington Post* article featured the book giveaway. We are still receiving book donations from people who read that article. Word of mouth has also been a big help. This year a Cub Scout troop ran a book drive and collected 25 boxes of books for us. Books are then sorted according to grade level and stored.

The GBGA runs over several days. Many volunteers, including retired schoolteachers and librarians, come in to help. Every student in the school, from our Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 students, up to our graduating eighth graders, get a chance to come to the library to choose books. Pre-K students choose three books each and with each grade the number increases until, starting with second graders, they can choose up to 20 books each!

These books are for our students to keep and to have plenty of reading material over the summer. It is well documented that when children read during the break that they are more prepared to jump right into learning once they are back in the classroom. The joy on the faces of the students with their piles of books is priceless! Each book opens up new knowledge and new adventures for them. We are grateful to all who help make this Great Book Giveaway possible!

OPT



Top left: Cub scout troop's book donation.

Top right: Middle school students select books.

Above: Volunteer helps Pre-K student.



Left: Students loaded down with books to read.

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Sam Chapa, Principal

St. Camillus Campus

1500 Camillus Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20903

St. Mark Campus

7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

First Holy Communion



We wish God's blessings to the children who received their First Holy Communion on May 20, 2023, during Holy Mass officiated by Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, SChr., at Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring MD. The First Communicants included Conrad R. Earles, Tadeusz Iwanski, Jessica Jablonski, Amelia Jurek, Maksymilian Loszewski, Wiktor S. Noltbert, Maksymilian A. S. Piszczatowski, Liliana N. Streciwilk.



St. Rita's first-class relic arrived at OLQP on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 11, 2023. Pictured are Grand Knight Stephen Witczak, Bozena Lis holding the reliquary, Past Grand Knight David Birely, and Sir Knight Bob Dowlut. OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych received the reliquary with the relic and authentication document at the altar. St. Rita is the patron saint of difficult and even impossible causes.



As is the practice at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Holy Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi *Boze Cialo*, is followed by a procession and prayer at four outdoor altars set up for the occasion. This is a traditional Polish custom.

The Knights' Ministry of Welcome and Hospitality

By Andrew Michaels, Knight of Columbus with the Saint Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, is the largest Catholic Church in the United States and one of the 10 largest in the world. Since 1982, the Knights of Columbus have served the Basilica in the Ministry of Welcome and Hospitality. Each weekend, beginning with the Saturday evening Vigil Mass through the last Mass at 4:30 pm on Sunday, the Knights are present to assist visitors and pilgrims. As ministers of welcome, the Knights contribute to enhancing the worship of the congregation. Over the past 40 years several hundred Knights have donated hundreds of thousands of hours of service. In addition to the regularly scheduled weekend Masses, the Basilica is the focus for numerous pilgrimage cel-



Several Knights of Columbus from the St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 at OLQP are among those who are active in the Ministry of Welcome and Hospitality at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. They include Andrew Michaels, Franklin Morton (District Warden/Past Grand Knight), Stefan Witczak (Grand Knight), David Birely (Past Grand Knight).

ebrations during the year. Several Catholic communities schedule annual visits in celebration of their worship of the Lord and devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

The annual March for Life Masses in January each year draw over 10,000 visitors in the five days surrounding the March. The major holy days are also celebrated by large congregations. At these times the Knights provide both practical and liturgical assistance.

Catholic gentlemen are welcome and encouraged to serve with the Knights. It is not necessary to be

a Knight of Columbus in order to assist in this ministry. Many men have expressed an exceptional conversion in their spiritual life while in this service. The experience can be life changing. Men from parishes throughout the Archdioceses of Baltimore, Washington, and Arlington currently participate.

If you are interested in learning more about serving in the Ministry of Welcome and Hospitality at the Basilica, contact Andrew Michaels at 240-429-6889 or write to ShrineUsher@gmail.com



OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, escorted by the Knights of Columbus St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634, carried the ostensorium with the Blessed Sacrament to each altar, where we prayed. Visiting missionary Fr. Mariusz Matejko participated. In addition, parishioners were joined by visitors and representatives from organizations as well as this year's First Communicants.



On July 30, 2023, following the Holy Mass of Remembrance requested by the Polish American Congress-Washington Metro Area Division (PAC-WMAD) for living and deceased participants in the Warsaw Uprising, the OLQP congregation processed to the cemetery to pray and lay flowers at the graves of deceased parishioners who had taken part in the Uprising. Present were representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP, Polish Legion of American Veterans, PAC-WMAD, Knights of Columbus St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634, and others. Some of those in attendance included Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Dr. Richard Okreglak, Bob Dowlut, Maria Zminda, Bozena Buda, Counselor Mikolaj Rychlik, Roselyn Gavin, Jacek Marczynski, OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, Andrew Michaels, Franklin Morton, Counselor Nikodem Rachon, COL Sylwester Szopieraj, Fr. Mariusz Matejko.

Our Lady Queen of Poland
 9700 Rosensteel Avenue
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
Rev. Jerzy Frydrych,
 S. Chr. Pastor
 301-589-1857
Bozena Buda, OPT Editor
 301-495-3377
 bbudadc@gmail.com

St. Bartholomew

Annual School Supplies Drive at St. Bart's

By Margie Hackett

St. Bartholomew held its annual school supplies drive for Sacred Heart children for the seventh consecutive year. This year was organized as a confirmation project for Briley Silvola, a rising eighth grader at Pyle Middle School. Briley organized a "giving tree" collection, accepting donated school supplies such as notebooks, backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, crayons, pens and more. She also raised just over \$2,000 to pur-



Above: Newly stuffed backpacks, waiting to be delivered. Left: Briley Sivola poses with her giving tree, seeking donations for school supplies for area students in need.



chase more supplies. Individual backpacks were filled per teacher requirements for 31 children who attend Sacred Heart Parish School and those who attend local public and charter schools, as well as CCD classes at Sacred Heart. Extra money was given to each program for additional needed supplies. Each year the parish has rallied for

this drive. The children and parents, and principal and CCD director look forward to this opportunity each summer. We wish the children much success with the upcoming school year and thank the parishioners of St. Bart's once again for its generosity.

OPT

St. Paul



Fr. Sweeney and Jim Gorman (building committee) prepare to incinerate the mortgage paperwork. The thing didn't burn right; it smoldered in a grumpy and ironic way, and refused to burst into satisfying flames even when it was lit at both ends. It was still fun. The mortgage was too big at the beginning (aren't they all?), and too long in the middle, and just a painful chore at the end; but now it's gone. The parish didn't just turn the page; they burned the page. (photo: MMF)



At the picnic, Deacon Dave Terrar presented Fr. Sweeney with a portrait he had painted based on photos. Perhaps the presentation could have been semi-solemn, but several children found the combination of a camera and their best buddy to be irresistible, and they photo-bombed the moment, expecting a suitable moment to shriek. (Photo: MMF)

The "Burn the Mortgage" Picnic

The St. Paul picnic is an annual celebration of the patron saint's feast day on June 29, but the picnic this year (June 4, 2023!) will be remembered as

the one when the parish burned the mortgage. It's paid; it's history; it's gone. Burn it!

OPT

BINGO

Con't from page 32

24 games and 106 guests in attendance. The total cash prize of \$1,500 was paid out to the winners, six door prizes were given out, and there was a 50/50 raffle as well. The evening began with dinner followed by the games. There was dancing during the intermission. It was a fun night, and we thank all the participants for their generosity in helping the seminarians.

OPT

Our Parish Times Online



World Youth Day Pilgrims for Mother Seton Parish

PILGRIMAGE

Con't from page 1

stops in Santiago de Compostela, Fatima, and many other Cathedrals and faith filled towns. The pilgrimage ended in Lisbon where we participated in as many WYD events as we could. Like every

pilgrimage the trip was filled with beauty, wonder, Faith, fellowship, suffering, surprises, and some hardship. We journeyed with 41 other pilgrims from the Archdiocese and millions of other Catholic youths from around the world. It was an experience that none of us will forget!

OPT



Mother Seton Parish Youth Group Members

Joe Maier Billy Silk
 Plumbing Repairs and Remodeling • Drain Cleaning
 Water Heaters • Hot Water and Steam Heat

MASTER PLUMBING & MECHANICAL INC.

301-650-9100

Serving the parish community in Montgomery County since 1986
 Senior citizen discount • Gas company financing
 Licensed - Bonded - Insured in MD and DC #878

It's Time to Spruce Up!

- Interior & exterior painting
- Wallpapering - removal & hanging
- Pressure cleaning - walks, siding driveways, decks
- Fully licensed and insured
- Neighborhood references
- Free Estimates
- Serving your community since '80
- Quality custom work

Jim Kuzma • Painting
 301-608-0988
 2326 Montgomery Street
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

email: zmapaint@aol.com Member St. Jude's Parish



Upcoming FALL Events Registrations are open!



SEPT TO OCT 8-WEEKS

T-ball , Coach Pitch, Rec & Travel Teams

Potomac & Rockville locations



OCT 21 TO DEC 10

Flag Football PreK - 9th Grade

Instructional, Parent QB, Kid QB
End-of-season playoffs and Super Bowl



DEC TO FEB 8-WEEKS

Instructional 4-years to 2nd Grade
1st Grade Developmental League
2nd/3rd Grade Competitive League

**MORE
INFORMATION**

kidball.org
kidballbaseball@aol.com

