



Parish Times

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

OCTOBER 2021

Living the Faith Together

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Visioning Parish Renewal

By Chuck Short

I'm writing my column on Yom Kippur, the high holy day of atonement when our Jewish neighbors and friends are prayerfully acknowledging transgressions and seeking God's forgiveness. I'm with them in spirit.

Hope your Autumn is off to a good start. Back to the office or school for many, youth



Chuck Short

Continued on page 24

Holding Steady in the Storm

By Patricia McGann

In August I heard from a friend, a Catholic school principal. He needed a substitute to cover for a middle school science teacher who was recovering from an illness. How hard could it be? I had spent most of my life in schools in some capacity, and I still really liked working with children. I went by the school and picked up the textbooks. There were a lot of them! I hadn't thought



Patricia McGann

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Remembering Our Friends in Heaven

By Fr. John Enzler

The cooler temperatures, crisp nights and shorter days all tell us that fall is here. We think of the leaves changing color, harvests, and of course Halloween. That brings to mind costumes, candy and pumpkins.

I hope it also brings to mind the saints!

The word Halloween comes from All Hallow's Eve, which is the day before All Hallow's Day, which we know better as All Saints Day (Nov. 1). The Church



Fr. John Enzler

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Seventh Annual Africa Day Celebration at Mother Seton Parish

By Shirley Uyakonwu

The Seventh Annual Africa Day celebration took place on August 29, at the 12:30 pm Mass in the parish. The theme was: "WE ARE THANKFUL!" All parishioners of African origin, visitors, and well-wishers participated, with 20 African countries represented in the Parade of Nations! All participants wore their traditional attires thereby showcasing the diversity and rich cultural heritage of Africa.

This annual event affirms the African family, their traditional and social values, and provides an opportunity for networking. Four visiting African priests and as well as our own parish priests were celebrants at the Mass and participated fully at the reception. At the end of Mass, there was Thanksgiving done the African way,

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Four visiting African priests, as well as traditional altar linens, aid in the celebration of the annual Africa Day mass at Mother Seton Catholic Church in Germantown.

Group photo at Saint John Neumann's Anniversary Celebration for our priests. From left to right: Fr. Stephan Yap, Parochial Vicar, Fr. Peter Sweeney, Retired Priest in Residence, Monsignor Robert Panke, Pastor



St. John Neumann Parish Celebrates Ordination Anniversaries, Vocations

By Rodney Harris and Marisa Stoolmiller

In June 2021, Fr. Stephan Yap, our parochial vicar, finishes his first year as a priest. Pastor, Msgr. Robert Panke celebrates his 25th anniversary and Fr. Peter Sweeney, who is retired, lives in residence and continues to serve the parish, celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and joyfully greeting the "youngsters" has 60 years to his credit.

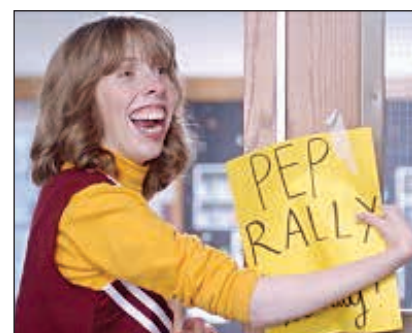
All told, these priests have served the Church for 86 years. As Fr. Sweeney says, "What a life!"

The evening of Saturday, September 18 began with Mass concelebrated milestone anniversaries by our three priests and Fr. Bill Wadsworth, our former Parochial Vicar. "It's just an incredible accomplishment,"

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Celebrating 60 Years of Holy Cross History, See page 17



Emily Kranking as Nancy in "Best Summer Ever."

Emily Kranking: Alum, Actress, and Advocate

By Erin Fridley

Saint Bernadette School is tremendously proud of our alumni and the lasting impact they have made on the world since leaving the hive. This past year Emily Kranking, class of 2008, starred as Nancy in the new movie "Best Summer Ever." "Best Summer Ever" is a musical telling a tale similar to beloved musicals such as "Grease" and "High School Musical" and was critically acclaimed by *The New York Times* as "Not just another song and dance." The tale includes, of course, singing and dancing, but also the over-arching theme of inclusion and representation as demonstrated in the

Continued on page 19

All are Welcome: How to Include Those with Disabilities in Our Parish Communities

By Jenn Lynn

“People with disabilities are a gift for the family and an opportunity to grow in love, mutual aid and unity,” said Pope Francis. “Inclusion should be the first ‘rock’ on which to build our house.”

Do we know how to fully welcome our family members with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities during Mass? Especially those with invisible differences who may be pulling your attention away from the pulpit to the neighboring pew?

It is ok to not fully understand, but turning heads and critical glances can devastate a parent/caregiver trying to manage a child or an adult in a sensitive setting.

We can help by acknowledging that we “see” a struggling parent/caregiver, offer a helping hand/toy, or simply tell them they are “doing a great job.” Engage or wave to the family

during the Sign of Peace, do not be afraid to say “Hello”.

Remember, every person was created in the image of our God. Each creation is unique, beautiful and filled with purpose; the nonverbal adult who hums and moans, a member who uses a wheelchair to assist mobility, or the young child with Autism who repeats everything he/she hears. They are all here to teach us to be more like Christ.

Let’s show all families non-judgemental, unconditional love and support.

Jenn Lynn is the Executive Director of Upcounty Community Resources, an organization that offers “innovative programs, events, and social opportunities for adults with developmental and intellectual differences. She is an active member of St. Rose of Lima in Gaithersburg and in formation to become a Secular Franciscan.

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Become a Pilgrim: the John Paul II Shrine Invites all to Celebrate the Saint

“Pilgrimages, a sign of the condition of the disciples of Christ in this world, have always held an important place in the life of Christians... Pilgrimage was a process of conversion, a yearning for intimacy with God and a trusting plea for their material needs. For the Church, pilgrimages, in all their multiple aspects, have always been a gift of grace.” Saint Pope John Paul II shared these reflections on the act of pilgrimage in his text, “The Pilgrimage in the Great Jubilee” in 1998.

Given the saint’s emphasis that he placed on the act of pilgrimage within the history of the Church, it is fitting to celebrate the feast day of St. Pope John the Great on October 22 by becoming a pilgrim. The John Paul II Shrine is providing an opportunity to do exactly that, organizing their second annual “Walking with John Paul II” pilgrimage on Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 a.m.

The twelve-mile walking pilgrimage will begin at Our Lady Queen of Poland in Silver Spring, celebrating John Paul II’s Polish roots. It will conclude at the John Paul II Shrine in Washington DC, located on Harewood Drive adjacent to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Families are encouraged to attend and for those unable to complete the full twelve miles, there are options to join at the six or the ten-mile mark. The route is predominantly within Rock Creek Park and includes several stops for



Pilgrims will be greeted by the larger than life statue of Saint Pope John Paul II as they conclude their pilgrimage at the JP II Shrine.

snacks, water, and restrooms.

Pilgrims will have the opportunity for silent prayer, joyful singing, and group recitation of the rosary, all for the sake of entering more deeply into the process of conversion referred to by John Paul II. The experience of walking and praying has a special way of opening one up to listen how God might be speaking and responding to their prayers.

Mass will be offered upon arrival at the Shrine. When John Paul II described the characteristics of a pilgrimage, beginning with the departure, followed by the walking, he noted that the *visit* to the holy site was essential because it “invites pilgrims to listen to the Word of God and to sacramental celebration”. Pilgrims may also venerate the relic of Saint Pope John Paul

II housed in one of the Shrine’s chapels. The day will conclude with a cookout.

The Shrine hosted their first pilgrimage in the fall of 2019, having to skip 2020 on account of the pandemic. Gathering hundreds of Catholics from across the region to walk together provides a unique opportunity to experience solidarity with other Christians. Everyone is following the same path towards the Lord, but each with their own special intentions. It is beautiful to imagine how this pilgrimage may be a gift of grace for all those who participate.

To find out more information and to register for the pilgrimage, visit jp2shrine.org and going to the October events calendar.

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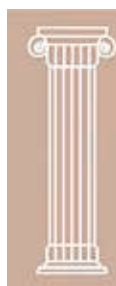
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Holy Redeemer Together to Christ

All Are Invited! Come as You Are!

By Ann Enkiri

Together to Christ is Holy Redeemer's newly launched program to re-energize spiritually -- as individuals, as friends, as family, as parish. "We need Jesus and we need each other," Father Mark Hughes wrote to parishioners. "We want to remind ourselves how important it is to pray and celebrate the Eucharist together. We want to simply see more of each other and strengthen our faith, friendship and family ties."

This evangelization initiative took root in late spring, when lay ministry leaders answered Father Ebuka's invitation to participate in an online Archdiocesan workshop on rebuilding parish community life. With eyes and hearts opened to people's need for Christ, this group met weekly with Father Hughes and Father Ebuka throughout the summer: Sandy Buffalano, Ilaria De Marchi, Chris Doer, Caren Garayta, Chris Grant, Mary Harper, Pamela and Paul Hurley, Julie and Rob Liotta, Elizabeth Litwin, Marylou MacDonald, Stephen Mitchell, Cristina Morris, Barbara Smothers, and Janie Worch. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they discerned their way to a core message for Holy Redeemer: journey to Christ--together--through individual, personal encounters and through parish ministries.

Caren Garayta, who leads the Altar Server program, shared the group's Spirit-filled enthusiasm. Sporting the program's t-shirt and a nonstop smile, Garayta explained, "The Holy Spirit really led us to our theme, **Together to Christ**. Under this banner, we have an action plan that invites everyone to



Together to Christ – A gathering after Saturday morning Mass

Top: Fr. Ebuka, Marylou MacDonald, Chris Glaser; Middle: Cristina Morris, Paul Hurley; Bottom: Mary Harper, Pam Hurley, Caren Garayta

come as they are and to be welcomed where they are in their journey to Christ." Garayta emphasized the power of personal storytelling to foster relationships. Individual witnesses have started to share their personal faith stories at weekend Masses, a program that will continue over the next few months.

These witnesses are opening up the dialogue with and within others, normalizing talking about how to follow Jesus. Ministry leaders are gearing up to invite new members who are seeking to answer the question,

"Where is God calling you to minister?"

Red banners welcome everyone at the

church's entrances. Emblazoned with a symbol of the Blessed Sacrament and "**Holy Redeemer Together to Christ**", the banners are a beacon, a call, to come together in worship and in community. **Together to Christ** launched the weekend of September 17th with a 24-hour period of Eucharistic adoration. A parish picnic on September 23rd at 3:00 pm will be a festive occasion for families and friends to share good food and good times. T-shirts with the inspiring logo and message will be available at the picnic. Individual parish ministries will be represented at the picnic and invite all "to come as you are" and walk together on this shared journey to Christ.

For more information on forming intentional disciples at your own parish or on discerning your personal call to service, visit the Catherine of Siena Institute's website: www.siena.org.

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Holy Redeemer Together to Christ

Father Ebuka, Holy Redeemer's parochial vicar, voiced the goal of the program:

*To lead every soul to heaven by:
Loving God above all things.*

*Participating in the Sacraments of
the Church.*

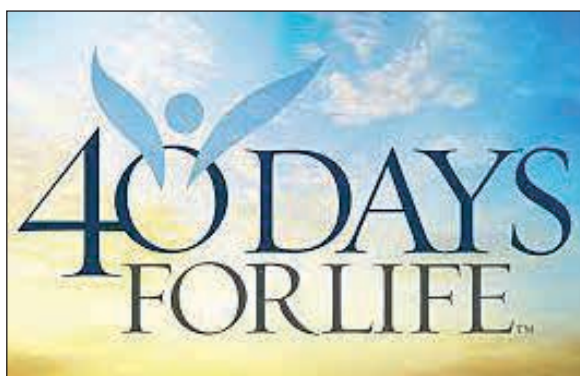
*Preaching the powerful word of God.
Loving my neighbor as myself.*

Defending Life in Bethesda: 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil to End Abortion

Wednesday, September 22 marked the beginning of the 40 Days for Life prayer campaign. 40 Days for Life is an international organization committed to ending abortion through prayer and fasting. It organizes around the clock prayer vigils lasting 40 days outside of abortion clinics. This year, there are 612 prayer vigils taking place across the globe.

The Bethesda campaign is currently taking place on the public sidewalk outside of the late-term abortion clinic in the Wildwood Medical Center. Vigil hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The 40 days will conclude on Sunday, October 31.

Jill Gadwood, the leader and contact for the Bethesda vigil, reflects on the importance and meaning of this effort. "When we stand and pray outside Carhart's late-term abortion clinic in Bethesda, we bring God's presence to a place so desperately in need of His love and mercy. This abortion clinic is our present-day Calvary. We bring our most powerful weapon, the rosary,



and stand with Our Lady at the foot of the cross."

There are still time slots available for those wishing to add their prayers for the end of abortion in Bethesda and around the world. Visit <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/bethesda> for more information or to sign up for vigil hours.

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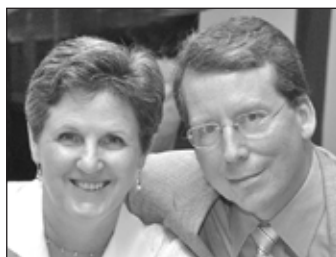
Our Parish Times

Kathleen & Lawrence Hamm
PUBLISHERS

Amy Hamm
MANAGING EDITOR

Danny Gannon
Michael Roseleigh
DISTRIBUTION

Prepress by Electronic Ink
www.eink.net



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.

2021

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Stone Ridge Opens New Student Life Center

The heart of campus came alive as over 800 Stone Ridge students, faculty, staff, and guests gathered on Shelter Hill Campus Walk in front of the new The Mater Center for the Mass of the Holy Spirit on Friday, September 17. The opening of the center signifies the final stage of the Cor Unum • One Heart project nearing completion. “We are already on the path for a year of academic growth, friendship and fellowship, and a deep commitment to living out all five goals of the Sacred Heart in new and different ways,” said Catherine Ronan Karrels ‘86, Head of School, in her welcome address. Mrs. Karrels grounded attendees in this year’s focus on *Goal IV*, building of community as a Christian value, which highlights the interconnectedness of relationships both in a human and spiritual aspect. Designed to enrich student life, the new Mater Center embodies Stone Ridge’s Catholic tradition and foundation for educating the whole child, in body and in spirit.

Home to a reinvigorated arts program, the Mater Center houses a state-of-the-art 420-seat theater, new music and visual art rooms, a scene shop, and gallery spaces. The space reflects how integral arts programming is to educating children. Through the arts, children celebrate



Students, faculty, staff, and guests line the campus walk in front of the new Mater Center at the heart of campus for the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school Mass since the beginning of the pandemic.

personal expression and imagination and find connections to history and even diverse cultures.

Central to creating an inclusive community, on the ground floor, there is ample casual lounge space, the Matan Café, and Mathews Dining Hall where students can fully engage their hearts and minds and nourish their bonds. Not only do these communal spaces nurture a sense of community but they promote healthy living and can transform into a sacred space and hold all-school Masses to support interiority and a deeper relationship with one’s faith and God. These Masses reflect the core values of our Catholic identity and Sacred Heart heritage, which have inspired generations of our students and continue to resonate with our alumnae, current families, and friends.

“We are called upon to make Stone Ridge a place where every person will thrive—where every community member will feel a deep sense of belonging and the freedom to live an authentic and full life, knowing that we are each a beloved child of God. We pray for the grace to be present for one another; to love another, and to be united in one spirit as a Stone Ridge community,” said Mrs. Karrels.

Learn More at www.stoneridge-school.org/campaign.

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St. Paul Welcomes Growing Number of Indian Families

By John Cavanaugh-O’Keefe

When St. Paul parish in Damascus started in 1960, it was 100% white. There were black Catholics to the west around Poolesville and Barnestown, and to the south in Olney, but none within the parish. Now we have a number of black families, and Latinos, and Filipinos. More recently, we have added Africans (not descended from American slaves), and Asians other than Filipinos – including more and more Indian families. This reflects the changes in Montgomery County, and throughout the country.

Greet two neighbors!

Mary Selvados grew up in Kanniyakumari, the southernmost tip of India. Next stop south: Antarctica. Ocean waves lapped up to the front steps of her family home. Much of southwest India is Catholic, with roots going back to St. Thomas and more recently (1545) to St. Francis Xavier. But there was a third missionary effort there, less well known mission: Mary’s ancestors were brought to Catholicism by Vasco da Gama (1498).

Mary remarks that many Americans think of India as rural and poor, but she grew up in a comfortable middle class family – educated in Catholic schools, speaking some Tamil but more English. Her father was a banker who spent years in the Middle East. She was married in 1991 in India, then moved to Kuwait. Ten years

later, she and her family moved to the United States, to Gaithersburg and then Damascus, where she raised their two sons.

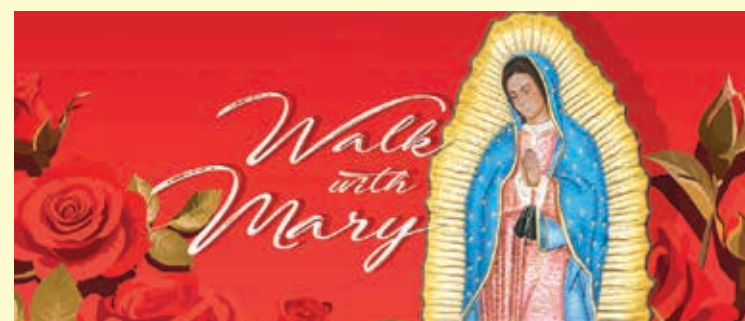
Her connection to St. Paul is primarily about spiritual life, but there are concrete ties. One example: Patty Wood and then Megan McFarland helped her get a driver’s license – not a necessity in India or Kuwait, but indispensable for a soccer mom in suburban Maryland.

Meet George.

George Augustine’s busy schedule puts him at St. Ignatius on Sunday, but at St. Paul for daily Mass. He grew up in India, spent 15 years in Kuwait, then immigrated to the US in 2013. He works in international trade, shipping construction material. His family roots are in Kerala, in southwest India; he thinks that his ancestors were probably converted to Christianity by St. Thomas the Apostle. He said most of his Christian friends from India have built their own small communities, but he and his family chose to join a multi-cultural church.

Was immigration the right decision? Emphatically yes: the US is still a land of opportunity and freedom. And his thoughts about the Church? He doesn’t see very many young people

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Walk with Mary | Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe

December/Diciembre 11, 2020
Rosary/Santo Rosario 1:30 p.m.
Mass/Misa 2:30 p.m.

All are invited to join in the annual archdiocesan celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe! Each year, we honor Our Lady through a pilgrimage through the streets of Washington, D.C. The pilgrimage begins at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart and concludes at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where together we pray the Rosary and celebrate Mass.

The apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego impacted the history of our continent in significant ways. For centuries the miraculous image of Our Mother has called Catholics back to the faith and moved others to embrace the faith. Today, Our Lady continues to empower our evangelization efforts with her constant proclamation of the Gospel. Most importantly, as the Patroness of the Americas and the Star of the First and

New Evangelization, she calls us to encounter and accompany the stranger in our midst.

Visiting Tilma

The tilma was hand-embroidered by the nuns of the Convent of the Perpetual Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament in the city of Morelia in Michoacán, Mexico.

This special tilma used during our annual archdiocesan celebration is available to visit your parish! The encased tilma can be displayed in your church for up to two weeks. This invaluable gift provides an opportunity to engage the faithful in learning about the significance of the image, its historical roots, and Mary’s message to welcome the stranger seeking a home and place of rest in our Church and communities.

For more information or to host the tilma at your parish, contact Claudia Bartolini at 301-853-5335 or bartolinic@adw.org.

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See More St. Paul News on Page 26

Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County

Living the Faith in the World Around Us

By Anthony Bosnick

The Justice and Advocacy Council (J&A Council) of Montgomery County is now in its fifteenth year. The past 18 months we have met online through Zoom. As we reflect on the challenges before us this coming year, we want to give some background on how we seek to live out our Catholic faith while living in the world.

To put it simply, our call is to live in the world and to transform the world in Christ. Rather audacious, you might think. Perhaps so, but our call is rooted in the Gospel message of Jesus. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (para 898) teaches us: "By reason of their special vocation it belongs to the laity to seek the kingdom of God by engaging in the temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will." We try to do this, in our weaknesses and strengths.

Budgets, transportation, special needs of children.

When the J&A councils first began, we understood our mission to be to represent the Catholic Church before the county council and executive, especially in the normal course of events when they were discussing issues which touched on concerns of Church in areas of charity and justice. We were and are guided by Catholic social and moral teaching (CST).

These concerns reflect budget issues to provide adequate appropriations for the social network, transportation needs, adequate and affordable housing, school programs for children with special needs, and others. We have testified before the

county council, met with individual council members and the staff of the county executive, and other organizations in the county which focus on similar needs and issues. We are strongest when we stand in solidarity with others. (Solidarity is a basic principle of CST.)

Several times in the past, we have joined together with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to present testimony on better meeting the needs of the vulnerable and needy in the county. Working together this way in solidarity with other groups is especially helpful when advocating before the council. It impresses on them the positive value of Catholics in the county, acting faithfully in the name of the Church. The Church can use more of that.

Each fall we meet with members of the county council and the county executive to identify upcoming issues that affect people living in poverty and immigrants. Also, each year we testify at the various budget hearings to ensure that the needs of those on the margin are considered and addressed. In the coming year, we will report on our activities in the areas mentioned above through our articles in *Our Parish Times*.

"Social Doctrine and Ecclesial Action."

As members of the J&A Council, we are challenged to understand our call more deeply. We now turn to the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, the 2004 document which "serves as a tool to inspire and guide the faithful who are faced daily with moral and pastoral chal-

lenges."

A basic principle guiding the Church, and thus us, is this: "Aware of the power of Christianity to renew even cultural and social realities, the Church offers the contribution of her teachings to the building up of the human community by bringing out the social significance of the Gospel" (*Compendium*, 521).

Guided by the Church through CST, we seek answers to the issues of poverty and other needs around us through the teachings of the Church. Why: "In her social doctrine the Church offers above all an integral vision of man and a complete understanding of his personal and social dimensions" (*Compendium*, 522). That is what we are rooted in.

We act as Catholics.

We do not act as Democrats, nor as Republicans, but as Catholics. Thus, in all we do, we need to be conscious that we are not acting simply out of the beliefs of a political party, but as followers of Christ. Hopefully, we are achieving this. If that inspires you, we invite you to join us.

Our next Justice & Advocacy Council virtual meeting is Wednesday, October 27, at 7:00 pm. For more information and to receive a link for the meeting, please contact Larry Couch at lawrencecouch1@gmail.com. Thank you.

OPT

Anthony Bosnick is a member of St. John Neumann Church in Gaithersburg and director of social ministry and adult faith formation at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Derwood. He has been involved in the J&A Council since it was first started.

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

sets aside that day to remember and honor all saints now in heaven, whether they are publicly declared or known only to those whose lives they touched.

Saints epitomize what it is to say "yes" to God. They responded in various ways, with the greatest yes of all being Mary's response to St. Gabriel at the Annunciation. Their yesses should cause us to reflect upon our own response to God.

I have devotions to a number of saints, and I think you might notice a theme. One is St. John the Baptist, who was a forerunner for Jesus. I try to do what I can to prepare the way for people to open their hearts to Jesus. I also love John's statement about Jesus: "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

John the Apostle, also called the Beloved, was one of the younger apostles. He is a great example of what it means to follow Jesus, even taking Jesus' mother as his own at the foot of the cross.

I also like St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. He ministered in Ars, France, sometimes hearing confessions all day long. People found him to be a great spiritual inspiration in the way he guided them through that great sacrament.

I think of Saint John Bosco (also called Don Bosco), who worked so closely with the youth and guided them and others to Jesus. We have a local high school in Takoma Park named after him.

Saint John Chrysostom was called "golden-mouthed" and known for his phenomenal preaching. Saint John of the Cross was a mystic who wrote *Dark Night of the Soul* and persevered in seeking the Lord even during times when his faith did not feel alive.

Yes, they are all Saint Johns. Sorry about that. I have devotions to them because I bear their name and because they provide such great examples that I try to live by.

I also have a fondness for many great female

Continued on page 18

Brookewood School Consecrated to Immaculate Heart of Mary on its 15th Birthday

By Glencora Pipkin

On Friday, Sept. 3, after the First Friday all-school Mass, Father José Medina, Brookewood School's chaplain, consecrated Brookewood School to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Head of School Rich McPherson wanted to mark the special occasion of Brookewood's 15th birthday with an act to show both the gratitude of our teachers, students, and community and also a heartfelt and sincere devotion to the Virgin Mary, an advocate to Jesus her son.

The occasion, McPherson remarked, was holy and lovely throughout. As students filled the chapel, Brookewood's two new music teachers – Catherine Rex and Rachel Glaser – accompanied one another on the piano with sacred and solemn music. At the end of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, Mr. McPherson led the school by reciting the "Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," which sets the school as an offering to Jesus through Mary. McPherson felt that, much like a bouquet of roses, the school – its teachers,



Head of School Rich McPherson prays its consecration to Mary with Brookewood faculty and students at its first Mass of the year.

students, and families – was something quite beautiful to dedicate.

Brookewood leadership chose this year for its consecration to Mary to convey the school's gratitude for successfully and bravely working through COVID last year. According to Brookewood's new Assistant Head of School Cherie Walsh, "Just as 2020–21 was a year when we focused on staying open and healthy, a year of logistical challenges conquered, 2021–22 is a year of contemplating the meaning of what we've done and deciding how we want to go forward. Consecration changes us and helps us align ourselves in our daily practice with the strength and purity of the Immaculate Heart."

The consecration is another way in which Brookewood devotes itself to the watch and care of Our Lady, says McPherson, "My hope is that Brookewood would be known for living out our faith in some of these great practices – praying the rosary, walking a long pilgrimage here in the DC area, and consecrating all that we do in the classroom to Mary's heart, which is so close to Jesus."

OPT

Enrollment Soars at St. John the Evangelist School

St. John the Evangelist School is thrilled to welcome over seventy new students this fall to our community! Angela Colburn, who oversees admissions at St. John's said, "We're experiencing our highest enrollment in several years. Word got out how successful we were through the pandemic last year; many of our families referred their friends and neighbors. A number of new families from the parish also enrolled this year." With all of our new students as well as all of our returning students being back in the building for in person learning, the classrooms and hallways are filled with student voices and laughter. It's wonderful to hear! We look forward to welcoming even more families to the #SJEFamily at our Fall Open House on Tuesday, October 19 from 5:00-7:00pm.

OPT



Above left: Fourth Grade enjoys math class with Ms. McNickle.

Above right: First Grade reads a story with Ms. Tschiffely.



At right: Kindergarten "shakes their silbies out" with Sister Doreen.

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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

Rev. Joseph Calis,
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Caitlin Keeton,
Principal
301-681-7656

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

St. John's HSA Hosts Back-to-School Ice Cream Social



SJE friends enjoy ice cream treats at Getty Park!



HSA officers explain about the different Spirit Wear options to parents.

St. John the Evangelist School OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday • October 19 • 5:00 – 7:00 PM



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It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

St. John the Evangelist's Home and School Association (HSA) kicked off the 2021-2022 school year with an ice cream social at Getty Neighborhood Park on Friday, September 10. After the kids had their fill of their favorite novelty ice cream treat, they joined their friends at the playground area, running, laughing, and playing

under a perfect fall sky. While the children played, their parents were busy catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. Shailla Cordone, who has two children in the school said, "It was a fun event and a great way to see faces without masks after such a long time." In addition to handing out ice cream, HSA sold SJE spirit wear so fami-

lies could stock up for SJE Spirit Days, which take place the first Tuesday of every month. On those days, students can wear green & gold to school instead of their uniform. With only 10 ice cream treats leftover, it was a great community building event. #SJEFamily!

OPT



Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson talks to catechists during the Catechist Breakfast on September 11 in the Parish Center. On September 19, the Religious Education Ministry embarked on its 2021-22 Religious Education year, bringing faith formation to children in grades kindergarten to 8 in at-home and in-school formats.

Service marking 20 years since 9/11 gives parishioners chance to pray and remember

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

The day after Americans marked the 20th anniversary of September 11, Fr. John Dillon, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, offered a prayer service September 12 in the church in remembrance of the 2,996 people whose lost their lives amid the events of that day.

In front of the altar at which two tapestries of a cross standing amid the rubble of the World Trade Center



On September 12, parishioner Mark O'Brien lights a candle during the 9/11 Prayer Service commemorating the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, as Fr. John Dillon watches from the altar at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

leaned, a display of eight candles in purple votives stood. As Deacon Jim Datovech read a remembrance for eight groups of people caught up in the events of September 11 -- including those who perished in the plane crashes at the World Trade Center in New York City, at the Pentagon in Washington DC, and in a field in Somerset County, PA -- parishioner Mark O'Brien lit a candle for each group as a bell sounded a solemn note.

The 42 people in attendance at the service reflected the people whose lives were lost September 11, 2001 -- among them, White, Black, Puerto

Rican, Trinidadian and Filipino. Those who gathered included those who had served or currently serve in the military, care for people as doctors and nurses, work in governmental agencies and hail from the New York City area.

For parishioner Joshua Vincent, 9/11 marked a time when the then-22-year-old had just started training as a Marine officer and was finishing a military law exam when word came down about the attacks. He and his fellow officer candidates were placed on standby to help with retrieval of human remains and riot control -- an order that was not given.

"It was quite an adjustment to go from a peacetime to a wartime Marine Corps so quickly," Vincent said. "For my fellow Marines and I, our training was no longer about things we could potentially do, but things we would be doing in the near future. A number of my classmates and friends led Marines during the invasion of Iraq."

For Vincent, now 42, the prayer service offered an opportunity to be in the Lord's presence with others from his parish community, allowing him to mark the milestone in a communal setting.

"During the service, while I prayed for the thousands who were lost the day of the attacks and the tens of thousands more in the 20 years of war and conflict that followed, I also had in mind those I knew personally who were lost. Ultimately, the prayer service gave me a space to mourn and feel the presence of God even during such a dark time," he said.

In his homily, Fr. John touched on the debt owed to the families of those who perished on 9/11, specifically the Church's role in helping build communities of compassion and love that unite people.

"All across the world, there was a strong sense of community," Fr. John reflected. "9/11 demonstrated the fragility of human life."

"Let's commit to never forgetting those who lost their lives 20 years and one day ago."

OPT

Mary Grotto offers restful place to reflect amid other outdoor prayer spaces

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

At a parish named for St. Francis of Assisi, one could expect to discover several outdoor prayer spaces. Thanks to a recent building addition just outside the church's least-used door, one can also now stumble upon a new reflection spot honoring Our Lady of the Wayside.

In May, the parish completed construction of a new Mary Grotto, tucked into the northwest corner of the church, just outside the building's new meeting room off the Gathering Space. The recent addition of the meeting room necessitated the relocation of the church's former Mary Garden, which former St. Francis of Assisi Pastor Fr. Lee Fangmeyer built in the mid-2000s after a parishioner donated a statue

Continued on page 18

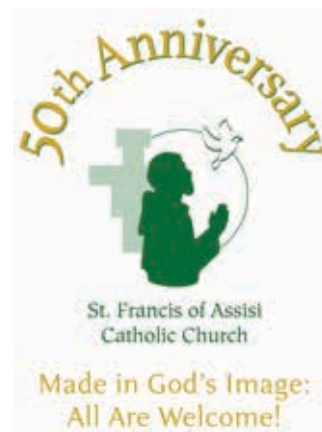


The Mary Grotto, located on the northwest side of the church, features a statue of Our Lady of the Wayside, the patroness of the Society of Jesus. Parish staff have left bouquets of flowers at the statue, and one person left a ring that has since been removed.

St. Francis of Assisi prepares for its 50th year celebration, with both eyes on the pandemic

Despite the prospect of marking their parish's Golden Anniversary amid a once-in-a-century pandemic, organizers of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood are praying to celebrate the attributes that have defined their faith community since its birth on June 1, 1972: a sense of welcoming and community that has never waned.

The suburban parish will kick off its anniversary year celebration on Sunday, October 3, with its near-annual Feast Day and Parish Picnic celebration on the parish grounds. Although the celebration was cancelled last year because of



The 50th anniversary logo celebrating St. Francis of Assisi Parish's Golden Anniversary, which will be marked June 1, 2022.

rising numbers of COVID cases, the parish is proceeding with the parish picnic this fall, with a plan in place to offer catered boxed lunches, space for outdoor picnicking, and personal protective equipment for attendees who want them in the mostly outdoor gathering.

Linda Foster, a co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, said one of the biggest difficulties in planning during a pandemic is discerning whether one can move ahead on securing dates and organizing events with the prospect of rising COVID caseloads threatening to scuttle plans. The ability to gath-

Continued on page 22

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Mrs. Kelly Calamitsis, PreK4



Mrs. Gail Fisher, Fourth Grade Homeroom



Mrs. Pamela Hurley, Second and Third-Grade Religion



Mrs. Kate Morin, PreK4



Ms. Stephanie Oertli, Second Grade



Mrs. Rebecca Rand, First Grade

Familiar Faces in New Places at Holy Redeemer Catholic School

By Ann Enkiri

The start of the new school year found familiar faces greeting students in new places. From PreK through 4th grades, Holy Redeemer Catholic School welcomed long-time parents and classroom assistants to leading roles as teachers.

Additionally, two veteran teachers changed places, retiring from their much-loved grade level classrooms to take on new, part-time positions.

Mrs. Kate Morin, HR parent and former PreK assistant is excited to now be the lead teacher for a PreK4 class. **Mrs. Kelly Calamitsis**, HR parent and former substitute teacher,

is happy to join Mrs. Morin as her class assistant. **Mrs. Pamela Hurley**, parent of an HR alumna and grandparent of five current HR Cardinals, retired as a Kindergarten teacher and became the Religion teacher for Grades 2 and 3. Excited to be sharing a new religion textbook with her students, Mrs. Hurley

is also familiarizing her students with Bible verses and teaching a monthly virtue. **Mrs. Rebecca Rand**, HR parent and former PreK assistant, has her own First Grade class. Along with her grade-level teaching peers, Mrs. Rand is committed to helping her students enjoy a successful year of learning. **Mrs.**

Ellen Borda, parent of HR alumni, bade farewell to Second Grade to become the Reading Support Teacher for Grades K-3. Students enjoy visiting her bright classroom that celebrates reading. **Ms. Stephanie Oertli** is a new Second Grade teacher who looks forward to seeing her former kindergarten students as second-graders next year. She joins her peer teacher in introducing the Rooted in Reading program. **Mrs. Gail Fisher**, HR parent, former Home & School Association president and CCD catechist, is a Fourth Grade homeroom teacher who teaches Religion and Language Arts to HR's Fourth and Fifth Grades. Mrs. Fisher, a native of Ireland, taught there for seven years. **Mrs. Jeannie Breitenbach**, HR parent and PreK4 assistant, is the new Music teacher for Grades K-4. Her classroom is a welcoming new space on the lower level of the church.

Holy Redeemer is blessed to have these positions filled by teachers who are familiar with the parish and school community. They have smoothed the way for their students who are off to a great start this academic year.

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Holy Redeemer School

Mr. Thomas Corrigan,
Principal

301-942-3701



**Mary of Nazareth
Roman Catholic School**
14131 Seneca Road, Darnestown,
Maryland 20874

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

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

**Mary of Nazareth
OPT Editor: Katherine Schultz,**
kschultz@maryofnazareth.org

Website:
www.maryofnazareth.org

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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.

In their first week of school, kindergartners read the story of Creation in the Bible and went on a nature walk on Mary of Nazareth's beautiful grounds.

Exploring God's Creation

After Pope Francis encouraged all to participate in care and stewardship of the Earth, Mary of Nazareth chose to focus its monthly virtues on Creation for

the 2021-2022 school year. With the beginning of school, students were encouraged to care for God's creation while also creating new friendships. After a year of separa-

tion and an increase of time spent outside, it is important for students to take the time to take care of all God has made for us.

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Grades 3-8 celebrate Mass in the Katie Fitzgerald Center on campus.

Worshiping Together After Two Years

Since large gatherings were not permitted with Covid, school-wide Masses paused. Our community was blessed to be able to come together this

year to celebrate our Patroness, Mary in a Mass said by the new pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Fr. Greg Shaffer.

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Fr. Reilly, pastor of St. Mary's in Barnesville, blesses the new community space.

New Community Space is Dedicated and Blessed

Although the grand opening of our Mary of Nazareth's new community space is not until October, Fr. Reilly from St. Mary's in Barnesville took the time to bless the beautiful space before the start of the school year. Board members, faculty, and a few students joined in the dedication in preparation for the entire community to be welcomed back for a new school year.

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OPEN HOUSE

Full-Day PreK - Grade 8

November 2nd 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

January 30th 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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November 7, 12 - 3 pm



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SAVE THE DATE!



★ OPEN HOUSE ★

Thursday, October 28, 2021 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Friday, December 10, 2021 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Kindergarten - Grade School - Middle School

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As we resume a more traditional school year, we remain steadfast in our dedication to education, community, and our Catholic faith. We welcome the opportunity to share our Bulldog pride with you!

We invite you to join us for an in-person Open House and the chance to experience our exceptional school and dedicated community. Each event will include a self guided tour of our facility and campus with an opportunity to meet faculty, staff, administrators, and current parents.

In an effort to ensure the health and safety of all, **attendees are required to register in advance**. Please visit www.bsstoday.org to complete the Open House registration. A COVID screening will be required for admittance and masks must be worn at all times.

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St. Raphael School Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary

By Gabriela Herrera Gugiu

In Saint Peter's Square last month, Pope Francis reminded us of the true measure of success. He said, "Greatness and success in God's eyes are measured not on what someone has, but on what someone gives." As the St. Raphael School community celebrates its 15-year anniversary, it is the spirit of giving that has allowed its mission to flourish. Through faith and reason, our school community challenges students to lead lives of service while embracing the love of God and neighbor.

The birth of St. Raphael School (SRS), and its continued success, is due to the commitment to Catholic education by the members of the St. Raphael community. As Fr. Meyers often said, "Fr. Bill may have planted the seed, but we, as a parish, have made it grow."

The success of our school is due in part to the generosity of our community through the Annual Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic. This year's fundraising golf tournament held on Friday, October 1, 2021 at Bretton Woods will support families economically impacted by COVID-19 as well as our continuation of safety protocols.

The culture and traditions created over the last 15 years have built the school's identity. Grandparent's Day is one of those



Above: Grandparent's Day is a favorite tradition at St. Raphael School.



At left: St. Raphael School celebrates its 15-year anniversary!



We honor Fr. Bill Finch and the seed he planted in our flourishing St. Raphael community.

traditions that allows us to promote the vital role grandparents play in our student's education while expressing our gratitude for being our strongest community supporters. This special celebration is a favorite among students and this year was no different.

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Upcoming Events

St. Raphael 13 Annual Golf Classic (Oct. 1 at Bretton Woods)

Join us for the St. Raphael Golf Classic! Players and guests can look forward to enjoying one of the top golf courses in the area, food and drink all day long, and true spirited fun. Noon shotgun start. Details about participating, sponsorship, and basket raffle sale can be found on the SRS homepage at <https://straphaelschoolmd.org/>

SRS Open House 2022-2023 (Oct. 18)

St. Raphael School Open House starts at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation, followed by a Q&A session and a tour of the school. Childcare is available, if needed. St. Raphael School is grades K-8 and specializes in tailored academics through small-group instruction, integrated technology (including one-to-one tablet program for middle school), and differentiated learning. SRS is enrolling for next year. To schedule a tour for an alternate date, contact Julie Cress at 301-762-2143. Details for the Open House can also be found on the SRS homepage at <https://straphaelschoolmd.org/>

Angels on the Run (Oct. 30)

All are welcome to participate in the annual Angels on the Run 5K. The run starts at St. Raphael School and continues on through the surrounding neighborhood. The event is for all ages and includes a 1K walk/run. Festivities begin at 8 a.m. and end around 10:30am. Watch the SRS home page for registration and event details. <https://straphaelschoolmd.org/>

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St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

Lexi McClure, OPT Editor

301-762-2143

www.straphaels.org

www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:
@SRSRockville



Outdoor Ed came slithering back to Mercy this week!



Mercy teacher Ms. Mary Katherine Green runs in the Great American Relay



Principal Doreen Engel shares her musical talent with Mercy students.

Our Lady of Mercy School News

In-Person Open House!

Mercy will be hosting an in-person Open House on Thursday, October 7 from 8:30 -10:00 am.



Welcoming new Mercy families with fun yard signs!

Parents will be invited to RSVP through a link on the school website. A tour of the external campus grounds will be provided, and parents will be able to sign up for in-person tours to be held at a later date.

Outdoor Ed Returns to Mercy

Mercy students participated in the first of several on-campus Outdoor Ed programs this year. Kindergarten thru third grade learned about reptiles, amphibians, venomous snakes, and animal

adaptations presented by Master Naturalists Julie Walker and Jackie Raiford.

MPTO Events are Off and Running!

The Mercy Parent Teacher Organization has kicked-off the new school year with a series of social events. A Welcome Back Coffee was held during the first week of school. The New Parent Social is planned for the end of September, to give our many new parents an opportunity to meet and mingle, make connections, and hear about ways to get involved in the Mercy community. We are thrilled to be able to bring back Friday Night Lights on October 15th! A Mercy favorite, this event brings the families together for an evening under the lights, complete with food, drinks, games, and music.

Construction Underway for New Classroom Space

Mercy continues to grow, under its own roof! What used to be a large storage and facilities space adjacent to the gym is being converted to Mercy's new resource and language arts classrooms. The renovation is expected to be complete by the end of October.

Mercy Teacher Runs in the Great American Relay!

Mercy's Writing Center and com-

position teacher, Mary Katherine Green, took part in a coast-to-coast relay, made up of 3,500 miles. Ms. Green ran her 11-mile stage, one of 415 stages, of the Great American Relay on Friday, September 17. The Great American Relay started on Saturday, September 11, in Boston, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of September 11th and to raise money for first responders and the military. The baton will eventually make its way to Santa Monica, CA, where the relay will conclude. A big Mercy "Roar-Out" for Ms. Green!

Mercy Alum to be Ordained in Rome

Tom Robertson, son of Mercy Admissions Director, Karen Robertson and 2007 graduate of Mercy, is being ordained to the Order of Deacons at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, on September 30, 2021. Tom is a seminarian at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Class of 2022. Pending his Call to Orders from the Cardinal, his ordination to the priesthood will take place in June, 2022 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. Prayers and good

wishes go out to Tom and his family from the entire Mercy community.

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Our Lady of Mercy Parish
9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Fr. Charles Antonicelli, Pastor
301-365-1415

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

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676



Mercy school counselor Heather Bradley hosts an ice cream social for new students and a friend.

OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE



Join us for an in-person Open House! This informative session will be held outside on our beautiful school campus.

Get to know us better, and see why we are the only school in Maryland to be a **3-time recipient** of the National Blue Ribbon Award!

In-school tours will be offered at a later date

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 8:30-10:00 AM

Pre K3 - 8th Grade



Community Building in the Montessori Classroom

“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted” -Aesop

Over the last 18 months, we all have come to realize the importance of community. Having someone to turn to when things get tough, having a support system you can lean on, reaching out and finding a helping hand. We all need that feeling of love, support and belonging, especially our kids.

In the Woods Academy's Montessori program, we build that community every day. We encour-

Continued on page 18



The Woods Academy Montessori students learn in a collaborative and supportive environment.



The Woods Montessori teachers build a loving community.



THE WOODS ACADEMY

Catholic • Independent
Co-Ed • Ages 3 - Grade 8

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday,
November 14
12pm - 2pm

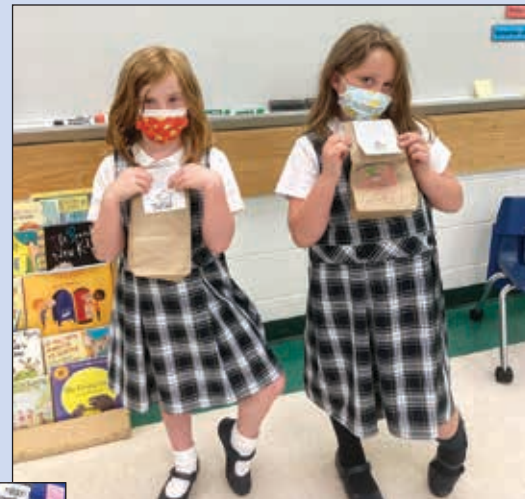
Sunday,
January 9
12pm - 2pm

Register for The Woods Academy Open House:
www.woodsacademy.org/openhouse

Making New Friends in First Grade

First Grade is in full swing and we are off to a fantastic start to the school year! It is inspiring to be part of The Woods Academy as we begin our learning together and we are all excited to get to know one another! We are welcoming our new friends through fantastic literature and engaging activities.

Our Class is a Family by Shannon Olsen is just one of the many books that we will be reading this year. As we read, our class talked about friendship and



Above: First-grade students learn about their new classmates at The Woods through collaborative and engaging activities.

At left: First-grade students at The Woods are learning about their new friends through literature and engaging activities.



our classroom community. In addition, we talked about making our learning community a place where we treat others the way that we would like to be treated.

Each student also brought in a paper bag that they decorated. Inside the bag, students selected four items that are special to them. As we shared our bags, students were able to connect to others and find out many things that they have in common, as well as the varied interests of their classmates. Some of the shared interests include, ice cream, the beach, legos, and books! Let's go, first grade!

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Second-grade students at The Woods set goals for the year, including making new friends and learning to speak a language.



Second-grade students at The Woods set goals this year, including learning robotics!

Setting Goals in Second Grade

At the beginning of the year, we like to set goals for learning! We know every student loves to learn, whether it is in

math, science, social studies, or even writing. Setting goals sets the stage for a student's curiosity and ambition. In Language Arts, our Second graders set goals for the 2021-2022 school year.

We started our lesson by brainstorming with the question 'What is a goal?' We then had each student give an example of a goal, which we wrote on our whiteboard.

Every Second Grader wrote a goal in their worksheet and then illustrated the page. The students made sure that each sentence started with a capital letter and ended with a period.

I have to say we have quite a few ambitious learners!

OPT

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
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www.woodsacademy.org





DJ Lee rocks the crowd annual St. Bartholomew Back to School Picnic.

A Strong Spirit of Community Roars through St. Bart's

Despite the uncertainty of an ongoing pandemic and social and political unrest around the globe, there is one thing that has remained constant at St. Bart's: a strong sense of community. A community requires a psychological connection-- an understanding that we, together are part of something. That sentiment was echoed by Principal Frank English in his opening notes at Back to School Night and again by Laura Abod, Home & School Association (HSA) President at the first HSA meeting.

When asked about the success of the last school year and this year's robust enrollment, Mr. English says, "effective teaching in these times demands that we prioritize relationships. Before kids can focus on what they are being asked to learn and to do, they must feel safe, connected, and emotionally secure. To do this-- and to do this well-- requires effort not only by us as the professionals, but also by our parents and by our students." He added, "we were successful last year because we communicated with each other and cared for each other. That sense of stewardship for our community, along with the excellent teaching team we

have built ensures St. Bart's stays strong."

On any given day one can sense the strong spirit of a community working together and for each other; teachers greeting parents in carpool line, safety patrols earnestly guiding the youngest students to and from classes, and parent volunteers shuffling across the courtyard with arms full of coffee, used uniforms, and sports equipment. In fact, the number of parents registered for fingerprinting at Back to School Night to be eligible for volunteering was so high that the fingerprinting company, SafeHire Solutions, had to come back!

The roar of laughter could be heard blocks away during the Back to School Picnic on Saturday night and again early Monday morning at the first HSA meeting. Looking across the outdoor tent filled with parents eagerly signing up for events and service projects planned throughout the year, Abod notes "We recognize as a parish school we play an integral part of the teaching mission of our Church, and our goal is to give every parent the opportunity to support our school through their time, talent, and treasure. We are ready for a roaring return to our beloved school traditions!"

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St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout, Pastor
301-229-7933

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

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and be that well."

-St. Francis de Sales



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**Fall Virtual Open House
October 14 at 9 am**



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**Conveniently located in the City of Rockville
600 Veirs Mill Road**



Eight grade students prepare for the school year by attending our opening of school mass

Welcome Back Mustangs!

By Kathleen Morris

Saint Mary's School was happy to welcome back their students for the 2021-2022 school year. As the parent of a Kindergartener and a Second Grader, I was thrilled to send my kids off for the beginning

of another great school year at Saint Mary's.

Last year, our family had experiences with both virtual and in-person learning. While Saint Mary's did a fantastic job virtually, we decided to send our children back to in-person learning full time last November.

Continued on page 38



At left: Students gather with Mr. Curley, middle school teacher, and his family during our Back to School Blast!

Below: Fourth grade was well represented for a night of friends, food, and fun!

At bottom: Hanging out with friends at the playground during the Back to School picnic.



Back to School Bash in the Parking Lot!

By Kathleen Morris

On Friday, September 10th, Saint Mary's hosted a "Back to School Family Picnic" outside in the rear of the school. Families brought chairs and blankets and enjoyed dining al fresco with fellow students, faculty, and families. Dinner was provided by Armand's Pizza, and some families brought their own picnic baskets to enjoy. Students and their families from Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade enjoyed dancing to tunes provided by a local DJ. Students were also able to run

around with friends and play on the playground. Families, students, and faculty were able to safely interact and get to know one another, all while enjoying the great sunset and evening weather. The DJ hosted dancing contests and games and handed out prizes. It was wonderful to see all the dance moves the students had on the dance floor! The Family Picnic was an awesome start to another great school year.

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

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School of the Sacred Heart

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UPPER SCHOOL (Grades 9-12) • Sunday, October 17, 2021
MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5-8) • Tuesday, November 16, 2021
LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL (Preschool-Grade 8) •
Friday, January 7, 2022

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Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart is an all-girls grades 1-12, Catholic, independent school, with a co-educational Little Hearts program for children age three months through Kindergarten, located in Bethesda, Maryland.

WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG

More St. Mary - Rockville News on Page 38

ALPHA returns to Christ the King

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

The ALPHA program began in mid-September. ALPHA (now 30 years old) is a free series of interactive sessions where anyone can explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, informal environment. There are three parts to each session: first a meal, then a video or talk, then a discussion where participants get to know each other on a deeper level. The entire session lasts only 1 ½ hours. CTK is offering Spanish speaking sessions on Monday evenings at 7 PM and English speaking sessions on Wednesdays at 7 PM in the Colonial Room. Volunteers lead the discussions.

After attending just one session, my husband and I already have begun to know others on a deeper level. Father Steve has been very positive about ALPHA and we can understand why. Check Alpha at www.ctk.catholicparish.org. If you are interested in Alpha but cannot attend, resources are downloadable for free from Alpha Builder at alphausa.org/run.

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Above: Spanish speaking ALPHA group watching movie

Below: Some of the English speaking Alpha participants with Father Steve



Religious Education Program Begins

By Liz Weiss, Isidra Molina, and Katie Ward

The Religious Education Program begins the new school year on the weekend of September 26. The Spanish speaking program already has 50 children enrolled. Our Religious Ed Director Mrs. Isidra Molina is recruiting teens post confirmation to help with various ministries. And, once each month, the Youth Group will be in charge of the Spanish speaking liturgy. They will be the ushers, leaders, and readers.

The English speaking community is looking forward to a great year! Ms. Katie Ward writes, "Our numbers are small but we

are taking this as an opportunity to have a growing year. This is my first year as coordinator of the English program, and I am very excited about this new challenge! This year we hope to install a love of service in our children by providing multiple opportunities to serve their community. We also are hoping to expose them to the sacrament of confession and help them to accept the loving forgiveness of God."

Let us support the Spanish and English programs so they will have another successful year. Please contact Mrs. Molina or Ms. Katie Ward if you want to help.

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CTK Christmas Bazaar

A quick reminder: the CTK Christmas Bazaar will be held December 11, 2021 beginning at 9 AM. Vendors, foods and baked goods, and games will make this fun for all. Call the Office (301-495-2306) if you want to rent a Vendor space or if you have any questions.

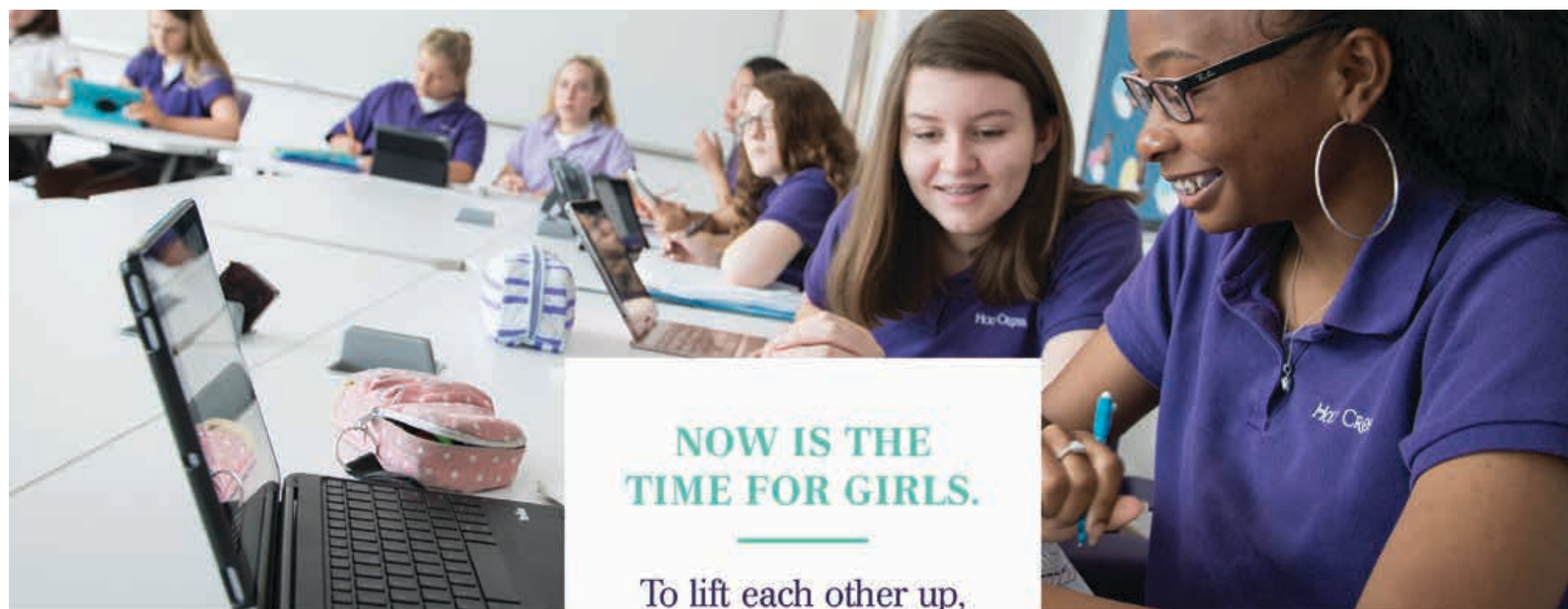
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Christ the King

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

Fr. Stephen J. Carter,
Pastor

Paul Lamoreaux,
OPT Editor



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OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, November 7

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St. Elizabeth Parish
917 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD

Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent, Pastor
301-881-1380

**St. Elizabeth School Principal
Mary Penny**
301-881-1824

Victoria Wesley, OPT Editor
301-881-1380

The Saints Go Marching In!

Even a mask couldn't hide the excitement as the St. Elizabeth Saints marched into the new school year! The enthusiasm throughout the school was electric as students reconnected with classmates and teachers. Everyone brought big smiles, bright ideas, and a willingness to learn!

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2021 St. Elizabeth Golf Classic

St. Elizabeth alumni, parents, and friends turned out for a lively game of golf at our annual Golf Classic! It was a perfect day of sunny skies and long drives celebrating the St. E's community and raising money for our school. Thanks to sponsorships from local businesses, families, and area schools, St. Elizabeth will continue to provide a strong educational environment for students during these challenging times.

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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

St. Elizabeth School had its annual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate the start of a new school year! All students, PreK 3 – 8th grade, are back in the building learning and thriving in a safe and healthy environment. At this celebration we gather as a community to welcome new students and staff and pray for another successful school year.

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Catholic School**
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Open House Dates

*Come check
us out!*

October 21
November 18
January 20
February 24

Open Houses
are from
9:00am –
11:00am

Holy Cross Celebrates 60 Years of Memories

Since 1961, Holy Cross Church and School has thrived. Nestled on a beautifully landscaped, twelve-acre campus gracing Strathmore Avenue in the heart of Garrett Park, the parish and school serve the surrounding community with faith-filled generosity and compassion. This year, we celebrate sixty years of deep faith rooted in Jesus Christ, scholarship guided by the Holy Spirit, and Christian service for others.



Designed by architect, Anthony Campetelli, in close collaboration with Msgr. Quinn, the oval driveway in front of the church provides a transition from the busy world to the peacefulness of the church.

Celebrating Our History

A 60th Anniversary Planning Committee was organized last year to achieve multiple objectives: to celebrate the history of Holy Cross Parish and School, to engage parishioners and school families, and to communicate our vision and goals for the future.

One such initiative is a meticulously researched and lovingly written monthly article, followed by an interview of a parish/school family, shared with parishioners online through Flocknotes and on the Holy Cross Church website (hcross-church.org/wp/60th-anniversary/).

Parish archives and bulletins, the memories and photos from parishioners, Holy Cross Sisters, and school administrators and teachers provided a wealth of information for each article. It has been a labor of love to pull together each month's article and to honor the parishioners, volunteers, educators, Sisters, and



The deceptively simple design of Holy Cross Church included architectural innovations such as the laminated bents that serve as a structural element as well as a graceful design element that places emphasis on the altar, the tabernacle, and the crucifix without distraction.

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



The original faculty of Holy Cross School included three Sisters of the Holy Cross.

A Parish is Born

Founding parishioner, Deacon Bob Hubbard, reflected on the early history of the parish, tracing the ownership of a large tract of land along Rockville Pike, which was generously donated to the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who in turn gifted twelve acres to the Archdiocese of Washington for the creation of what would eventually become Holy Cross Church and School.

The parish was established by decree, signed by Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle, on November 26, 1960. Father W. Louis Quinn, PA (later Monsignor Quinn), then Assistant Pastor of Saint Matthew's Cathedral in D.C., was appointed to lead the endeavor of creating Holy Cross Church and School. Father Quinn organized an advisory committee--likely the first Parish Council in the United States--to implement the financing, design, and construction. The endeavor was a success in record time.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the church and school was held on Easter Sunday, 1961. On September 7, 1961, Holy Cross School was blessed and opened with three Holy Cross sisters on staff. And, one day before the anniversary of the parish on November 26, 1961, Archbishop O'Boyle offered Mass in the new Church.

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Above: A groundbreaking ceremony for Holy Cross Church and School was held on Easter Sunday, 1961.

Below: George C. Martin Builders were contracted to construct the church and school. George C. Martin, Jr., who worked alongside his father and brother on the project, recounted that Monsignor Quinn "could not imagine building a church without building a school at the same time." Here, construction has begun on the school.



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



MATER DEI SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, November 9

9:30AM TO 11:30AM

9600 Seven Locks Road | Bethesda, MD

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ENZLER*Con't from page 5*

saints, the most special being the Blessed Mother. There is also Saint Teresa of Calcutta, whose love for the poor is the Christian standard for anyone trying to care for those in need. St. Theresa of Avila was a mystic who did so much to bring a community of women close to God. St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower, is special to me because that was my first parish as a priest, and I have always loved her "simple way" of spreading petals of love in the paths of all we meet.

Those are all well-known saints publicly declared so by the Church, but I have also known many saints

not officially canonized who were loving, faith-filled men and women of God. I'm sure you have, too. These are our family members, friends, neighbors, even those who sat next to us in the pews. If they are in Heaven, they are saints.

I pray to loved ones now part of the "communion of saints" and ask them to watch over me. Whenever I go to Gate of Heaven cemetery for a funeral, I always stop at my parents' grave, praying to them and with them, asking them to help me do all I am called to do in my life and my priesthood.

I encourage you to take some time in the coming weeks to prepare for Halloween and ultimately All Saint's Day. Are you named after a certain saint? Which saint did

you choose for your Confirmation name? (Mine is Michael.) Who is the patron saint of your parish? Who is the patron saint of a particular difficulty you might be facing right now? What saints, known and unknown, have touched your life by their examples?

In the two thousand years since

Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead, many saints have said yes to the Lord. May we be inspired by how they lived and died. May their examples guide us in our own journeys. And may they help us say yes to God as they did, confident that we will one day be counted among their number.

GROTTO*Con't from page 7*

of La Madonna Della Strada to the parish in honor of his late wife.

Over the years, the parish added a wooden bench donated by a family when their teenage son died in a car crash to the Mary Garden. Another family donated a stone bench in memory of their father, which also graced the Mary Garden, said Parish Secretary Donna Zezzo.

The entire garden remained intact until construction of the new meeting room broke ground in August 2020. The statue of Our Lady of the Wayside was stored in a meeting space, expected to be returned to a pedestal once the construction was completed. But once the meeting room was finished in the spring of 2021, the parish's plans changed.

"The landscaper showed me a picture of a grotto he had built, I showed it to Fr. John [Dillon], and we decided to do that," Zezzo said. "It just looked nice."

The completed Mary Grotto offers a peaceful spot for prayer, paved with gray slate stone and featuring the distinctive grotto where the statue of the patroness for the Society of Jesus holds her child. Rock Creek Landscape planted several ornamental shrubs to adorn our Blessed Mother, interspersed with perennial blooms, such as orange cone flowers and sedum.

Proceeds from the parish's Plant Sale, held last Mother's Day, partly financed the grotto's cost.

Parishioner Maria Dunn, who also serves as co-coordinator of the Garden Care Ministry, said the Mary Grotto appeals to her, because it's conveniently located, but away from most foot traffic. She noted it is located near several lovely grassy areas, including the relocated Peace Pole, which is also adorned with perennials, such as vinca, marigold, and a spider flower.

"It's always lovely to have the opportunity to pray outdoors at St. Francis, because we have a large property and can be surrounded by the natural beauty of Creation," Dunn said.

MONTESSORI*Con't from page 12*

age our Lunchers (Kindergarten students) to help teach our younger friends, to give a lesson, or help pick up a dropped work. Our younger friends learn to look out for one another, to ask if their friend is okay when they fall and skin their knee or miss mom and dad. The underlying message in each of these small actions is that we support each other.

We reinforce this consideration of others through grace and courtesy lessons, such as walking around someone's work, sharing and taking turns. We define emotions and model problem solving, assuring every one's voices and thoughts are heard, no matter how quiet or shy they might be at first.

Through these pieces we build a peaceful classroom, ensuring each child is learning in a space they feel welcome, safe, and happy.



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KRANKING

Con't from page 1

cast. Kranking's performance and her advocacy for those with disabilities is exceptional and powerful.

When asked to reflect on her time at Saint Bernadette School, Kranking shared, "Saint Bernadette's



was the first time ever that I did theatre. It was the sixth grade. I did softball, band and choir, and none of those satisfied me. The second I started singing my audition song for SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK Jr., I immediately felt at home and



Emily Kranking next to siblings and fellow Saint Bernadette School alumni Cara, Stephen, and Tim.

found my belonging. The other shows were HONK and ANNIE and my passion grew in high school at St. John's (my late father's alma mater) and Holy Cross Summer Stock. Now, here I am in a movie in a starring role on Hulu and about to graduate The Honors Acting Conservatory in The Theatre Lab at

DC. I highly credit Ms. Murphy and Mrs. Ingeles at St. B's, Mr. Emerson at St John's, and Ms. Donna and Mr. Planck at Holy Cross for the actress I am today."

Pointing to the inclusion and support she found at Saint Bernadette School, Kranking said, "St. B's also

did a lot to accommodate my disability. They allowed me to skip lunch and art for physical therapy and even allowed me to do it at school at one point. The special resources class helped me so much with my learning disability and above all, the special math classes and the phenomenal tutoring community, such as Mrs. Riley and the incredible late Pat Lewis, helped me pass math, my biggest weakness intellectually."

Kranking added "Lastly, above all, as a Catholic, St. B's was so influential in my life. Their community's prayers saved my brother from dying of a staph infection in 4th grade. I received a fantastic religious education from Mr. Lee (Yes, our class did set him up with

his wife) and Monsignor Smith, who would later help me with my religious OCD, prepared me for a life of service, and carrying God's word. Because of the education and fellowship at St. B's, I am planning on putting my future kids in Catholic school. Go Bees!"

Even after the cameras for "Best Summer Ever" have stopped rolling, Kranking continues her life of service as an advocate for those with disabilities today. Kranking is currently a Communications fellow at DC Developmental Disabilities Council, and will be pursuing a Master of Arts in Disability Studies at The City University of New York. We wish Emily much continued success and a brightly lit future ahead!

CYO Friday Nights on the Field

After a not so typical year of many changes and challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Saint Bernadette is excited to bring back the CYO's "Friday Night on the Field"! For years, teams and families have gathered on Friday nights in the Spring and Fall to enjoy a night of games on the field, and to grab a bite to eat at the "Snack Shack".

This well established tradition has been a wonderful opportunity for families to get together, and to meet old and new friends in the community. With the return of this tradition, families will be able to gather once again for a safe and socially-distanced night of fun!

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

Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor
301-593-5611



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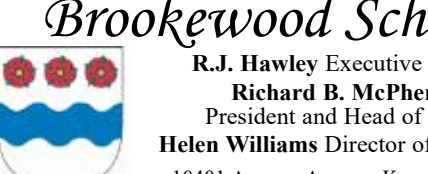
Eighth-grade students are invited to schedule a visit day.

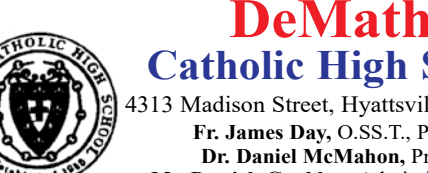
Visit www.stjohnschs.org for details.




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

 the Avalon School R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President 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, Cross Country, Football, Soccer Competitive Athletics Program	Small Classes • Personal Attention • Content-Oriented Curriculum • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Latin • Spanish • Advanced Mathematics Program • Full Religion Program • Actors Guild • Poetry • Journalism • Interscholastic Sports	Open House Sunday, November 7 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Steps to Admission: • Application • Shadow Visit • Teacher Recommendation • Transcript • Family Interview	Application Deadline Rolling Admission Notification of Admission Rolling Admission
	Avg. Class Size: 15 • Kinder Half Day \$4,465 • K-2 Lower \$8,925 • 3-5 Elementary \$13,500 • 6-8 Middle \$14,995 • 9-12 Upper \$17,350				

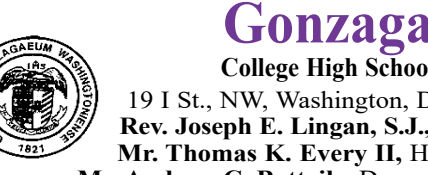
 Brookewood School R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President and Head of School Helen Williams Director of Admission 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD 301-949-7997 www.brookewood.org	Girls Grades K-12 Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, 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 30 from 1-3 p.m.	Steps to Admission Shadow Visit Application Transcript Recommendation Family Interview	Freshman application deadline Feb. 1, 2022 Admission Notification Feb. 18, 2022	Rolling Admission for all other grades Financial aid deadline of Jan. 30, 2022
	Average Class Size: 14 • Tuition: Grades K-2 \$8,925 Grades 3-5 \$13,500 Grades 6-8 \$14,995 Grades 9-12 \$17,350 • For more information: Helen Williams 301-949-7997					

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


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


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

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

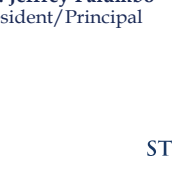
 Gonzaga College High School 19 I St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 Rev. Joseph E. Lingan, S.J., President Mr. Thomas K. Every II, Headmaster Mr. Andrew C. Battaile, Dean of Admissions 202-336-7101	Boys 7 Freshman, 16 Junior Varsity, and 17 Varsity Sports Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Eagles Purple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

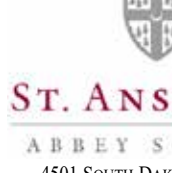
High School Open House Dates — Class of 2026

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

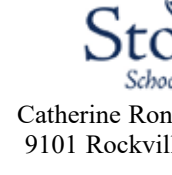
 The Academy of the Holy Cross 4920 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, MD 20895 Kathleen Prebble, President John Sullivan, Principal Barbara Murray, Admissions Admissions@thecolycross.org 301-942-2100 • www.academyofthecolycross.org	Girls Extensive Performing and Visual Arts Over 30 clubs and activities 17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


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

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

 ST. ANSELM'S ABBEY SCHOOL 4501 SOUTH DAKOTA AVE, NE WASHINGTON, DC 20017	Dr. Jim Powers Headmaster 202-269-2350 Mr. Patrick Granfield, '99 Director of Admissions 202-269-2379 admissions@saintanselms.org www.saintanselms.org	Boys Soccer, Cross Country, Basketball, Swimming, Wrestling, Tennis, Baseball, Track, Lacrosse, Golf, Fencing Potomac Valley Athletic Conference Panthers	Special Programs Challenging academic program for students of above average ability in grades 6-12	Open House Sunday November 7 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Benedictine School	Entrance Exam September 25 October 16 November 20 December 18 January 15 February 12 Exam also offered by appointment	Application Deadline Rolling Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Feb. 1, 2022	Notification of Admission: Feb. 22, 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 14, 2022
	Freshman Class Size: 39 • Tuition: \$30,700 Middle; \$31,700 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, Director of Admissions 202-363-2316 • www.stjohnschs.org 2607 Military Road, NW, Chevy Chase, DC 20015	COED 24 AP Courses 16 Honors Courses 29 Varsity Teams 50+ Clubs and Activities 1:1 iPad Program Cadets Scarlet & Grey	Special Programs Scholars Program Benilde Program Cadet Corps (optional) Entrepreneurial Center for Innovation & Social Impact Center for Performance & Leadership Visual & Performing Arts Wing	Open House OPEN HOUSE October 24, 2021	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan HSPT results are required.	Application Deadline Dec. 3, 2021 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 31, 2022	Notification of Admission Late Feb. 2022 Registration Deposit Due March 12, 2022
	Tuition: \$22,100					

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

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

Resurrection Family Mass Returns!

When June 2020 came and Masses resumed in person, Father Barry decided that the new schedule would be a 4pm Saturday Vigil and on Sundays at 7:30am, 10:30am and 12:30pm, eliminating the 9am Mass. The new Sunday times allowed for proper Covid-19 procedures to occur. As time marched on and with cleaning and sanitizing procedures removed and churches could resume capacity levels, Father Barry decided it was time to bring back the Family Mass.

Starting on Sunday, September 12, the 9am Family Mass officially returned in the Amadeo Room. Mass will be weekly until May 29, 2022 (except for November 7 and



At left: 9am Family Mass Planning Committee

At right: Hand-drawn Welcome sign by parishoner Lee Pfeffer



Above: Children Liturgy of the Word

At right: Youth Volunteers



Above: Family and friends enjoying each other after Mass
At left: Resurrection Dad with his daughters who show love every day

2021

RESURRECTION CATHOLIC CHURCH BURTONSVILLE

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SATURDAY, DEC. 4th: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

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Please visit our website

www.resurrectionadw.org

Resurrection Catholic Church Burtonsville
3315 Greencastle Road, Burtonsville, MD 20866

December 5). With the assistance of Mrs. Helene Stever, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, parishioners, and youth; not only did the Family Mass return, but it returned with a new vision.

Father Barry's vision is that the parish will provide a Mass that is welcoming to small children who can also go to Children's Church and to have a Mass customized for children and youth. The music is contemporary and there is always a social afterward to build a strong community of love and faith.

The stage in the Amadeo Room is set up as an Altar and in front of the stage are carpet squares for children to sit on, enough rows of chairs for over one hundred parishioners, and eighteen round tables with six chairs each for families

to sit at. The round tables and rectangle tables currently have green tablecloths representing Ordinary Time. When the Liturgical calendar changes, so will the colors in the Amadeo Room. At every Family Mass, The Children's Lectionary is used.

Children ages Pre-K through first grade attend Children's Liturgy of the Word for the Gospel. Catechists and volunteers take the children to a classroom in the Reverend Robert Keffer Parish Life Center for "Children's Mass" and then return with them to the Amadeo Room after the Homily. The liturgy has Contemporary Christian family friendly music led by Resurrection's Principal Organist William Wisnom and Father Barry. When Mass is completed, the

Hospitality Committee offers coffee, apple juice and snacks to everyone as a way to enable people to enjoy time together; meeting other parishioners and lifelong friends.

The new 9am Family Mass is off to a fantastic start and the children love it! That is children of all ages – even Father Barry!

OPT

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

50th

Con't from page 7

er people during a pandemic is also a concern.

But with plans set to go forward with the picnic by press time, Foster said she hopes the anniversary celebration will convey what she has experienced as a member of the parish for the past 28 years.

"No matter who you are or where you come from, you will always be welcome at St. Francis," Foster said. "You will feel comfortable, never judged and truly feel a

sense of safety, peace, community, involvement, love and mostly like you have a family in our parish family."

"This all passes on to the service of others."

Sylvia Jones, the co-chair of the Planning Committee, agrees, saying she hopes the parish's young people will come out to celebrate at the parish's 50th anniversary events, which will also include a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in February, a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, some fundraisers, and a planned International Night.

The anniversary celebration

will culminate both with Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory celebrating Mass at the parish on Sunday, May 29, and with the Anniversary Mass, which will be celebrated by Fr. John Dillon on Sunday, June 5, followed by a Parish Festival on the church grounds.

"Our parish needs to grow," Jones said. "If we don't have people to step into these footsteps [occupied by current ministry leaders], then (community) goes by the wayside. It's so important to build a stronger faith and come to these things."

OPT

Liturgy and Celebration of the Divine Savior of the World

By Yolanda Caraballo

During the first week of August each year, Salvadorans from all around the world prepare themselves to venerate our Divine Savior of the World. This annual feast is most important and meaningful because Jesus Christ is the patron saint of El Salvador, and it allows thousands of Catholics from various backgrounds to come together and pray for world peace on its feast day of The Transfiguration.

The Hispanic & Salvadorian Community of St. John Neumann Celebrated this religious devotion on Sunday, August 8, 2021, by honoring the Divine Savior of the world with a procession after mass, music, and food as we United as One Church to honor our Savior.

OPT



Procession and Celebration of the Divine Savior of the World at Saint John Neumann Parish

Christ Continues to Heal: Mass with Fr. Dan Leary

By Larissa York

Fr. Dan Leary, an Archdiocese of Washington priest and Archdiocese of México missionary, celebrated a Healing Mass at St. John Neumann on August 19th. The parish overflowed with people gathering together for prayer and healing of both body and soul. Every heart was yearning to receive Christ's compassionate touch.

Fr. Dan's homily was on the mystery of suffering and his ministry with World Villages for Children. Drawing upon the Gospel reading (Mt. 22:1-14), he proclaimed that "you have to have a wedding garment of suffering to enter the Kingdom of God." He explained that it is through suffering we not only become more Christ-like, but we intimately encounter the Lord as it is within our deepest wounds that we receive radical healing and witness God's victory over sin and death. He challenged all to not sit in sadness but to "accept the garment of suffering and put on the mission with love," the mission of compassion and healing.

Fr. Dan spoke about how he has witnessed Jesus's tender mercy bring transformation to the children he ministers to in México City. The children, many victims of the most heinous crimes, would begin to find



Photo of Fr. Dan Leary

peace and the grace to forgive in the healing Sacrament of Reconciliation.

After the Mass, many remained for Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation. Fr. Dan and three other priests laid hands on all those wishing to be prayed over. It was

Continued on page 24

St. John Neumann Parish

9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Msgr. Robert Panke, Pastor

Kimberley Rice
OPT Editor

New Faces at St. John Neumann

By Marisa Stoolmiller

Two long-time employees of, Rebecca Tuban, and Maureen Joseph, retired this past summer, and two new people have joined the St. John Neumann team. Dr. Mathew Scruggs is our new Director of Religious Formation, and Richard Roa is our new Business Manager. Dr. Scruggs is a convert to the Catholic faith and just received his doctorate in Systematic Theology from Duquesne University. He is



Dr. Mathew Scruggs, Director of Religious Formation



Richard Roa and his spouse

Continued on page 24

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BROOKWOOD FOR GIRLS, K-12

Saturday, October 30, 1-3 p.m.

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Brookewood
SCHOOL

Holy Cross

A Vibrant, Faith-Filled Parish

Events planned for the year-long anniversary celebration showcase the vibrancy and commitment of our parish today.

In the spring, families from the parish and school were invited to participate in a Digital Art Show to express "What Holy Cross means to me," in each artist's chosen medium. Submissions came from the very young and the young-at-heart: parishioners, students of Holy Cross School and School of Religion, faculty, families, and friends. Paintings, drawings, photographs, and collages spoke of the beauty of our church and parish. One talented artist submitted a wonderful portrait of our beloved pastor, Father Robert Buchmeier. Words like honor, love, refuge, and

comfort in faith resonated in the poetry and prose. One young writer summed it up simply: "To me, Holy Cross means a nice, loving, and friendly place."

The 60th Anniversary Committee is coordinating a variety of other events that are still in the planning stages, one project is near completion—a parish cookbook, the fourth of its kind, for which parish and school families were asked to submit a favorite recipe. Work is being done now to assemble all of the entries, with an expected publishing date in the fall.

Another much anticipated highlight will be our 60th Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Wilton Gregory, on Sunday, November 21st at noon.

OPT

HISTORY

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clergy, who have made Holy Cross a vibrant and welcoming parish since 1961! It memorializes the history of Holy Cross Parish, often through first-hand accounts.

Topics covered so far include how neighborhood families requested the parish in the late 1950s; how the diocese received the land from the Sisters of the Holy Cross; the impact of pastors, associate pastors, and other priests in residence; and the many parish organizations and ministry groups, past and present. Founding members of the parish offered reflections rich in detail and fond memories. Articles will continue to be published throughout our anniversary year.

Reflecting on our history reminds us of the great faith of those who came before us, their generosity, talents, and efforts of our founding families and parishioners over the last 60 years.

OPT



Above: The current faculty of Holy Cross School assembled around the newly restored Mary's Garden the day before school opened on August 31st.

At right: Holy Cross Church and School has always been known for its innovation. In 1966, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, hosted a science fair—a tradition that continues today. Each year, many Holy Cross middle school students are recognized at the county level for their Science Fair investigations.



Renewing Our Commitment

The legacy of our past provides a beacon for our future.

George C. Martin, Jr., a founding parishioner with his wife, Anne, reflected how the deceptively simple design of the church gives a compelling witness to our faith, especially "the [Church's] rose window at night, the [backlit] cross on Lewis Hall, and the grand approach to the church" which serve as a beacon for the community amid the bustle of the world.

Reflecting on the efforts of so many to make each initiative a success throughout the year, Megan Harbold, said, "It has been an honor being able to serve as the chairperson for the 60th Anniversary of Holy Cross. It has given me the opportunity to meet parishioners and families that I haven't had the chance to yet meet and to work alongside some dedicated and extremely knowledgeable committee members to share the history of the church and school as well as spotlight parishioners throughout the year. I hope this anniversary year has shown our parish and school families how wonderful our Holy Cross community truly is while celebrating our rich legacy



Holy Cross is forever grateful for the wise, steadfast, and faith-centered leadership of Pastor Robert Buchmeier. God's providence brought Father Robert to Holy Cross to ensure a strong future of our parish and school.

and bright future."

Thank you to all who made this article possible: Deacon Bob Hubbard; George C. Martin, Jr.; Megan Harbold; Cindy Kratz; Karen Crespy; Mary Ann Crespy; Christine Zalewski; Lisa Kane; and all the volunteers who are working to make our 60th Anniversary a success.

OPT

SHORT

Con't from page 1

sports and family gatherings. So much to look forward to. Here are a couple of events to consider. Each fall we celebrate the Catholic Business Network's commitment to Catholic schools and their awardees as pillars of support for Catholic Education. For thirty years, CBN has vigorously pursued its mission to support Catholic Education. Its current President, Geoff Gonella, sums up the CBN spirit by saying, "Is there anything more important to the next generation than a quality Catholic education?" The annual Business Network Gala will be held on November 12. It's always great fun. You can celebrate with grateful Montgomery County pastors, principals and teachers and generous and engaged business leaders. This year CBN is honoring **Kevin Virostek as Businessperson of the Year**. If you have been a supporter of Catholic schools, you likely know him as a huge force behind our schools. Also being honored are **Courtney Clark Pastrick as Community Leader of the Year** and **Peter Hodgson with the Paul Zurkowski Founder's award**. Congratulations and sincerest thanks to each of them.

Happening before this edition of OPT was published, is the 2021 Potomac Community Resources (PCR) Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit and Awards Program. A wonderfully fun and inclusive dinner and dance, it's been virtual recently due to COVID. PCR provides a range of activities and services to teens and adults with developmental differences. They make life fun for members and volunteers! On September 26, PCR celebrated its five hundred participants and honorees during a virtual program emceed by Johnny Holiday and Matt Ficca. **Connolly School of the Holy Child was recognized as the Outstanding Community Partner**. Wow! Just last edition, I wrote about Holy Child's Crossing Paths program in which students connected with

older people. Holy Child students have been volunteering at PCR for years. It's a school tradition. The **Outstanding Youth Volunteer is Luke Shaffer and Outstanding Staff Awards went to long time director Seth Duncan and Melissa Wyman**. PCR and all of us join in mourning the passing of one of its original parent founders and volunteers, Bob Wallace. Thanks and congratulations to each for contributing to make our community more inclusive and loving. You can still contribute to PCR by going to their web page at PCR.org. And, plan to attend the 2022 event in person on April 9, 2022!

Last edition we began to reflect on our return to Mass and parish life after the dark night of COVID. However, the number of parishioners returning is well below the pre-pandemic count. This, together with studies showing Catholic participation declining, especially among the young, brings concern for the future of the Church and our parishes. Faithful and prudent parishes may take this moment to reflect on the status of their parish and actions that can be taken to encourage greater participation in parish life.

Wise Catholic parish leaders will conclude that returning to pre-Covid status is not adequate to address the challenges ahead. Minor modifications in practice won't do; more radical changes are needed. The essential work is not to change dogma or Archdiocesan policies, but to create communities where, in deep fellowship with others, parishioners come to know God more intimately through joyful worship and in guided study and selfless practice of the core Gospel teachings of Jesus.

Jesus intended Christian communities to emulate His teachings and example. Throughout His life, He lived intimately with his disciples. He broke bread with them, traveled with them, shared intimate thoughts, performed miracles with them, protected them during storms, and nourished them with His own body and blood. He bequeathed us a faith based upon intimate, Christ-

centered, proactive relationships. Jesus's Godly power on Earth was the message of love for others.

So, what might parishes do to renew themselves in Jesus's vision? It will take time and commitment. Creating an inclusive parish study group to lead the work is a good place to start. The group should identify and/or update core parish principles. Here's a few examples of these, (only coincidence that there are ten!)

Explore **Holiness**. Is our parish Christ-centered in all it does? Is our parish culture intentionally built upon the presence of the Holy Spirit, not just liturgies but in human relationships, protection of the Earth, education, and material need?

Is our parish **Welcoming** to all who seek Jesus?

Do we provide **Gospel Fellowship** to those who seek support and love? Are we safe places where people can come and where they can meet? Do we honor diversity in its broadest sense?

Are there opportunities to put our **Faith into Action** in every imaginable way?

Are our parishes places where the **Poor and vulnerable are seen and heard and welcomed with dignity**?

Are parishes places that promote **Intimate compassion**? Are we present to brothers and sisters struggling with great pain?

Are our parishes **Family Focused** in activities and liturgies.

Are parishes places where people can come to **Learn and discuss moral truths**?

What more can parishes do to provide and promote opportunities for **Service** to parishioners with diverse interests?

Are our parishes centers for **respectful cooperation, collaboration and communication among laity and clergy and all others**?

In Mark's gospel a few weekends ago, we heard Jesus say that if we wanted to follow him, we needed to take up the cross. So?

God Bless!

Chuck Short, cshort5@verizon.net

FACES

Con't from page 23

excited to be a part of our parish, and to live life together in the way of Christ, to journey together in faith, and work together to live out God's kingdom on earth through our mutual participation in the sacraments and our parish community. Mr. Rich

Roa is retiring from the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he serves as the Director of Operations for the VA Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and is looking forward to serving the parish full-time very shortly. We are blessed to have both Dr. Scruggs and Mr. Roa, and are looking forward to seeing how the Lord works through their ministries.

OPT

LEARY

Con't from page 23

beautiful to behold the salvific power of our Lord flowing through His priests and seeing sorrow exchanged for joy.

"He heals the brokenheart-

ed, and binds up their wounds." -Psalm 147:3 (NRSVCE)

Throughout time, our Lord has been our help and healing. He remains faithful to His promise of restoration. His Church perpetuates His work of healing and salvation. Jesus has entrusted this mission, especially to His priests.

OPT

Recent School Enhancements

Following a highly successful “Call to Arms” fundraising campaign launched last fall to assist with Covid needs, St. Patrick’s School has completed several updates to its academic program, expanded technology resources, and improved elements of the physical plant. They have recently adopted a Project Lead the Way program at the school (see separate article for more details) and implemented new math and social studies textbook series. Students in Kindergarten-Grade Eight will use the Big Ideas Math series with an advanced track beginning in sixth grade. This track will cover 1.5 years of math instruction in both sixth and seventh grade so that students are prepared for Algebra instruction in eighth grade. The new Social Studies series is published by Savvas and provides greater real-world connections for students and abundant opportunities for expanded critical thinking.

OPT

In terms of technology, ten new teacher laptops and 90 new student Chromebooks were added to the program. New overhead projectors were installed in the Pre-K, Art, and Music classrooms. Teachers are very excited to use the interactive boards that have been installed in three classrooms. These Boxlight Boards will allow for greater student engagement in all subjects.

Upgrades were made to the restrooms including new Quartz countertops and touchless faucets and the Home and School Association redecorated and updated the Faculty Lounge to thank teachers for their efforts. Lastly, the PA system has been updated throughout the building with improved communication between classrooms and the Main Office. Security has been greatly enhanced with this improved system.

St. Patrick’s Cancels Annual Yard Sale

The Yard Sale to benefit the communities served by Life Connection Mission in Montrouis, Haiti that was scheduled for Saturday October 16 has been canceled. The Yard Sale has been an annual event for more than a decade and has raised more than \$350K for the charity. It’s a favorite event for both item donors and treasure seekers. Organizers canceled the event for the second year in a row due to the large numbers the event attracts and concerns about personal safety for workers and attendees.

OPT

St. Patrick’s School Launches PLTW Program

St. Patrick’s School has joined the Project Lead the Way Program (PLTW) this school year to implement units with an engineering focus for sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students. The junior high curriculum is called “Gateway to Engineering” and will include the instructional topics of energy and the environment, wind turbine design challenge, the magic of electrons, and the sea perch design challenge. Students in eighth grade will apply the engineering design process to identify and design a solution to a variety of problems. They will work both individually and collaboratively to develop 3D computer models and paper solutions. The design challenges in eighth grade include the puzzle cube, a themed chess set, a playground set, and a miniature golf course.

PLTW at St. Patrick’s School is being led by teacher Bill Falatko, who started the same program at Pyle Middle School in Montgomery County in 2007 and taught the curriculum for 15 years. Mr. Falatko brings a strong background in technology education and years of experience working with young engineers.

To support the program, the school recently purchased a 3D printer which will allow students



Eighth graders make precise measurements for their PLTW skimmer projects.

to create 3D models on a computer and then print prototypes. Mr. Falatko is excited about the possibility for his students to see themselves as engineers and “create something of their own design.” He hopes to support the Engineering programs at Catholic high schools and prepare students for transition into these advanced programs.

OPT

More St. Patrick News on Page 39

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
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GEORGETOWN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Home Schoolers Begin Year with Mass

At the beginning of the school year, on September 6, home schoolers from St. Paul met at the church to start the new school year with Mass. Msgr. Filardi met with them and offered his support.

Damascus is proud of its elementary and middle and high schools, and St. Paul is well represented at all the Catholic schools within reasonable or even somewhat stretched driving distance. But the parish also has a strong contingent of home-schoolers. Different families opt to use a variety of different home school programs, but they have a loose and informal network, supporting each other.

The network doesn't have an elected leader, but Melissa DiMarzio is a knowledgeable and experienced contact, and she's a consultant for a nationally recognized home school program. She explains that they don't see themselves as tussling with the prevailing culture carving out a new society or anything



Libby O'Neill and one table full of the home school kids starting the year with prayer, sunshine, and apples. Photo by Greg Flynn

Bishop Campbell Explores Patron Saints

When Bishop Roy Campbell confirmed 44 young men and women including eight adults at St. Paul on September 11, 2021, the event was a stunningly rich and complex exploration of the breadth of the Catholic Church. There were scores of wonderful stories

just barely visible during Mass and Confirmation, from around the globe and reaching back for centuries.

Bishop Campbell himself is a small and unassuming man with an incredible story. Here's a

Continued on page 36

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

like. They were, perhaps, a little counter-cultural before the Covid-19 pandemic; but now, many people are looking for safe options, and home schooling works for some. It can be isolating, and it's good to have a place to gather – like the parish center. They share information and resources, and they share their walk.

They meet all the county requirements, without undue friction. They get some support from Mother of

God School, including physical education. In elementary and middle school, they can join teams and play sports at the public schools; in high school, they can't join school teams can join local teams. They participate in schools' musical programs, such as piano lessons and choir.

"It's all about raising kids in the Kingdom of God," says Melissa DiMarzio.

OPT



Fr. Sweeney chats with Ambassador Luis Suazo at the Honduras benefit golf tournament. It was a hot event; significant scores included the sun, 90; humidity, recorded as 70 (but sweat-soaked observers estimate 95%); and the ambassador, who scored a smiley face in his first game of golf ever, under intense pressure. The Burns family, table of six, won eight raffles: no explanation available. Msgr. Filardi remarked that it may be easy to start something, but it's hard to make it last; Sherrie Wade has done both. Kudos to all; cash to the clinic. Photo by John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe



OUR LADY
of
GOOD
COUNSEL
HIGH SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 17
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Good Counsel is a Catholic, private, co-educational community that inspires each student to excel, serve, and love.

A Family Tree Rooted at Saint Peter's

By Erin Pant

In August of 1957, Saint Peter's Parish opened the doors to its day school. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill arrived in Olney from Philadelphia to teach the 160 pupils. One of the students in the inaugural first grade class was Catherine Yates.

Catherine was one of fifteen siblings who each attended Saint Peter's School. Her parents were very active in the parish and school. Her mom, Marie, took on many roles including working in the school office and coordinating church wedding receptions. Her father Richard, a doctor, provided medical care to the Sisters, and was instrumental in many parish affairs, including securing the commission of the statue of Saint Peter, which remains the parish's signature symbol today.

"In those days, Olney was very country," said Catherine. She recalls having to walk through farmland, dodging past cows on her way to school each morning. Catherine has especially fond memories of the Sisters, "I loved the nuns, they were very special. Saint Peter's was always a happy and holy atmosphere. It was a wonderful place to be."

Catherine married Bill Mooney in 1971. The ceremony was held



Catherine Yates (bottom row, right) was part of the inaugural first grade class at Saint Peter's School in 1957.

in Saint Peter's Parish Hall, which at the time was the main church. The Mooney's had two children, Brian and Karen, and when the time came, they proudly enrolled them at Saint Peter's. "They loved the school from the start," recalls Catherine.

When Brian and Karen attended Saint Peter's in the 1980's, it had undergone several changes since their mom's time at the school. Most of the faculty were now lay people, and in 1989, a major milestone occurred when the new church was completed.

"Our teachers were wonderful, I still remember many of them



A Three-Generation Tradition: Catherine Yates, her children, Karen and Brian, and her grandchildren, Harley and Nathan, each attended Saint Peter's School.



Catherine Yates (second from right) taking part in an annual May Procession in the late 1950s, a tradition that continues today.

vividly today," said Brian Mooney. "There were high expectations, but we had a lot of fun."

Karen Mooney recalls the many special community events, some of which continue today, like spaghetti dinners, bingos, and Donuts for Dad.

Both Brian and Karen enjoyed the strong sense of community that Saint Peter's provided them. So much so, that years later, when they each became parents, they made the decision to send their children to Saint Peter's, forming a three-generation tradition.

Continued on page 36

First Week Fun



Saint Peter's students enjoying the first weeks of the new school year.



Saint Peter's 2021-2022 faculty and staff includes new principal Mr. Vincent Spadoni, and six new staff members.

Welcome New Faculty & Staff

In addition to its principal Mr. Vincent Spadoni, Saint Peter's is pleased to welcome several new staff members this school year.

Mrs. Marissa Thomas, Assistant to the Principal

Thomas previously served as the Finance Manager and Program Coordinator for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men in Greenbelt.

Ms. Mary Glynn, Second Grade Teacher

Glynn previously taught at St. Mary School in Rockville. She holds an Expert in Bilingual Education Certificate - TEFL Certification and taught English in Spain. Glynn is a graduate of St. Elizabeth School and The Academy of the Holy Cross.

Mrs. Shannon Cron, Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts Teacher

Cron taught at St. Jane de Chantal School for the past 14 years. There

Continued on page 39

St. Peter's Parish
2900 Sandy Spring Road
Olney, MD
Rev. Thomas Kalita, Pastor
301-924-3774
stpetersolney.org
St. Peter's School
Mrs. Kristen Cocozzella
Principal
301-774-9112
stpetersschoololney.org

A Truly Super Sunday

By Andre Cleary and Etban Shaw,
OLOL Class of 2022

On August 29, 2021, the eighth grade of Our Lady of Lourdes held the first ever Super Sunday event. Over the past few years, students in the eighth-grade class worried a gap was growing between the older and younger children in the school. The students came up with the Super Sunday event to close that gap and strengthen the Lourdes community. Their idea was approved by Vice Principal Mr. Long, and then the students set it into motion.

On the Sunday before the first day of school, students and parents were invited to noon Mass. After Mass, parents mingled, children played, and the eighth graders gave out pizza. One major worry the eighth graders had was that the students might not all know each other's names. OLOL is a small school and it's not hard to get to know



Students and families gather for the start of Super Sunday at OLOL

everyone. It seemed everyone just needed a chance. To solve this problem every student at Super Sunday wore a name tag, and everyone made an extra effort to learn new names.

Over the past few years Our Lady of Lourdes has rearranged a number of its

Continued on page 34



Fr. James Morrison enjoying the fellowship of the evening.

Parish Picnic Provides a Welcome for all Community Members



Pastor Fr. Rob Walsh welcomes everyone to the picnic by saying grace.

Members of the Our Lady of Lourdes community enjoyed a parish picnic on Sunday, September 19. The event brought together both parishioners and school families in a celebration that included food, games, and even karaoke. In fact, Fr. James Morrison and Fr. Rob Walsh's spirited rendition of "Chicken Fried" by the Zac Brown Band was a true highlight of the evening. Many volunteers contributed by setting up, manning the grills, organizing the lawn games, greeting picnic-goers, and cleaning up at the end of the evening.

The picnic was immediately preceded by the 5:00 p.m. mass where Fr. James preached on the Gospel, emphasizing the imagery of Christ embracing a child and telling the disciples, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." (Mark 9:37). Fr. James reminded those in attendance that the Church embraces each of us, and

Continued on page 34

OLOL 8th grade students Angela Walsh and Michaela Harmon collect donations for local first responders



OLOL School Commemorates 9/11 with Fundraiser

To mark the twenty-year anniversary of September 11, 2001, the Our Lady of Lourdes eighth grade organized a fundraiser to show their support and appreciation of our local first responders. Two fire stations and the Bethesda headquarters of the Montgomery County Police are located just minutes from the school. Many of these local firefighters, paramedics and police officers are parishioners of OLOL.

The eighth-grade students planned and executed the fundraiser entirely on their own. On the morning of Friday, September 10, students arrived at school early to make posters and greet the teachers, students and parents as they arrived and ask for donations in support of our local heroes. They

also collected generous donations from the attendees of the daily 7:00 Mass and neighbors passing by on their way to work. Donations varied from pocket change to one hundred dollars, making every penny count.

At the end of the day, it was announced that the school had raised just over \$1170. The students have split the money into groups of \$390 and will purchase restaurant gift cards from local establishments The Burger Joint, Guapos, and Jetties to give to the local police and firefighters. The Our Lady of Lourdes Community is so grateful to these first responders and all those before them who have dedicated their lives to keeping their neighbors safe.

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Fr. Walsh, Pastor
301-654-1287

Ms. Amy Moore, Principal
301-654-5376

Cornhole Social Returns to St. Jane De Chantal

Marking 10th Anniversary of Community Tradition

By John Matelis and Chris Scango

After a year hiatus, beanbags will be tossed again by school parents and parish adults at the wildly popular de Chantal Cornhole Social scheduled for Saturday October 16. This Home and School Association sponsored event brings together members of the St. Jane De Chantal community for a fun evening of socializing with old and new friends, enjoying light fare and refreshments, and competing in one of the great leisure sports. It is held in the lower parking lot behind the Church creating a festive atmosphere similar to a tailgate party. The event runs from 7pm until a duo wins the championship.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the first cornhole tournament held in 2012. Gerard and Mary Beth McLoughlin, who sent four children through the school, organized the first event to help build excitement for the Mardi Gras themed Gala held that year, which is the major fundraising event sponsored by the Home and School Association every other



Above: DeChantal's parking lot was full with cornhole boards and happy parishioners during the last tournament in the Fall of 2019

At left: St Jane de Chantal staff member Emily Wood and her husband, Taylor, are current cornhole tournament champions and are looking for new challengers to dominate this year.

There will be plenty of *air mail*, *double deuces*, and *shuck-ers* (to use some cornhole terminology) delivered by enthusiastic participants vying to advance in

year. It was an epic night for all who attended and firmly established the cornhole tournament as an annual tradition at St. Jane De Chantal.

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De Chantal's Eighth-grade students made posters to show the school's service projects

St. Jane de Chantal School Highlights its Many Service Projects

De Chantal School Annually renews its Commitment to Christ's Teachings of Service to Others

By Catherine Tomsbeck

Students and teachers assembled in St. Jane de Chantal Church for the annual *Disciples in Service*

Ceremony to commemorate all of de Chantal School's community service programs. The ceremony began with a proces-

Continued on page 33

James Hoffman wins CYO Award for Years of Dedicated Service to deChantal Youth

From Kindergarten basketball coach to CYO president, his spirit is infectious to all de Chantal Dukes athletes, parents, and fans

By Catie Skibo

James Hoffman has been an active volunteer in St. Jane de Chantal's CYO for 11 years. As a de Chantal parishioner, James looked forward to his three children attending St. Jane de Chantal's school and being an active member of the school and church community. His volunteering began when his oldest son, Jack started kindergarten. He coached the basketball clinic Saturday mornings for the younger de Chantal crowd. But he didn't just coach, he brought his huge

Continued on page 39



Mary Fava, a representative from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. CYO office, presented James Hoffman with the well-deserved Outstanding Athletic Director of the Year award at 5:00 mass on Saturday, September 18.

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

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2022 Social Security COLA Likely to be 6 to 6.1%

Social Security recipients are likely to get an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 6 to a 6.1 percent in 2022, according to The Senior Citizens League. The COLA that becomes payable in January of 2022 would be the highest since 1982. "Our forecast is based on CPI data through August, and there is still one more month of consumer price data to come in before we get the official announcement in October, said Mary Johnson, Social Security policy analyst for The Senior Citizens League, on September 14.

"This year is particularly difficult to forecast with certainty," Johnson says. "The inflation patterns, caused in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were unprecedented in my experience," she says.

"Based on the new data through August, there's a downward inflation trend," Johnson says. "Although my calculator indicates the COLA could be 6.1 percent, the chances of inflation remaining high enough for that to occur is only 10 percent based on 20 years of historic trends. The chances of the data dropping to 6 percent are twice that



high, 20 percent. "With the July and August consumer price data, inflation is plateauing," Johnson says.

"Higher gasoline and transportation prices in particular are behind the high COLA estimate for 2022, because those expenditures are given greater weight or importance in the consumer price index (CPI) that's used to calculate the COLA. That works to the advantage of retired and disabled beneficiaries for the COLA payable in January of 2022. That has not been the case for many of the past 12 years when cheap gasoline, and other falling prices dragged down the COLA. Since 2010, COLAs have averaged just 1.4%. Inflation was so low that no COLA was payable at all in 2010, 2011, and 2016. In 2017 the

COLA was almost zero, just 0.3 percentage point.

Under current law, the Social Security COLA is determined by the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This index surveys the spending patterns of younger working adults under the age of 62 and doesn't include the households of people who are retired. But older

and disabled Social Security recipients allocate their budgets differently than younger working adults, spending a larger share of their income on medical and housing costs which, in many years, tend to rise faster than overall all inflation.

The COLA also doesn't reflect cost increases in Medicare premiums and other rapidly growing Medicare costs. Research for The Senior Citizens League has found that Medicare Part B premiums are one of the fastest growing costs in retirement. Medicare Part B premiums, which are automatically deducted from Social Security checks, often consume most, or even all, of the COLA increase.

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Adult Learn To Ride Bike Classes

MCDOT's Adult Learn to Ride classes are for participants 18 and older. Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) experienced instructors break the skills down step by step to get you on a bike and rolling in no time. Participants learn to start and stop, balance, glide, pedal and steer a bike and progress at their own pace. Learn more here.



Saturday, October 2, 2021, 10am - 1pm

Wheaton Ice Arena Paring Lot, 11717 Orebaugh Drive, Wheaton

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 10am - 1pm

Location: Montgomery College - 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Parking Lot 13

Age: Adults 18 and older, Seniors

Area: All

Contact Name: Ruthann Eiser

Contact Phone: 12409942077

Contact Email: Ruthann.Eiser@montgomerycountymd.gov

Cost: \$10 County Residents / Free for WABA and Capital Bikeshare members

waba.org

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Old Age – Our Future Continuing the Conversation

A webinar series sponsored by the Community of Sant'Egidio, Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA)

In February 2021, the Vatican released, “Old Age: Our Future. The Elderly after the Pandemic.” To emphasize the messages and create opportunities for sharing between ministries, CHA, the Community of Sant'Egidio, and Catholic Charities USA offered a four-part webinar series to highlight the themes of the document. Now they are inviting all interested to further discuss how we, as church, volunteers, agencies and service providers can help our older neighbors age in place.

This is our opportunity to set an agenda that can help make aging in place more attainable by looking at our church and how it welcomes and offers services for older parishioners and at our communities with its organizations and volunteers concerned about the needs of our aging neighbors.

Please join us as we continue the conversation.

October 28, 2021 at 1:15 PM EST

Member Price: \$0.00

Non-Member Price: \$0.00

Register at:

www.chausa.org/store/

If you would like to register by phone, please call (800) 230-7823 (M-F, 8 AM to 5 PM Central).

To allow planning for small group discussions, please indicate your preference. There will be an opportunity during the registration process to choose one of the following:

- Advocacy/public policy
- Alternatives to nursing homes
- Helping parishes respond to older people
- Visiting, volunteering older people at home

Moderator: Chris Lowney, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, CommonSpirit Health

We are also offering opportunities for you to participate in this webinar. There will be a Participation Opportunities Survey Link available in the registration receipt.

Participation opportunities:

Spend five minutes describing how you are supporting older people.

Are you part of a parish or community program?

Do you

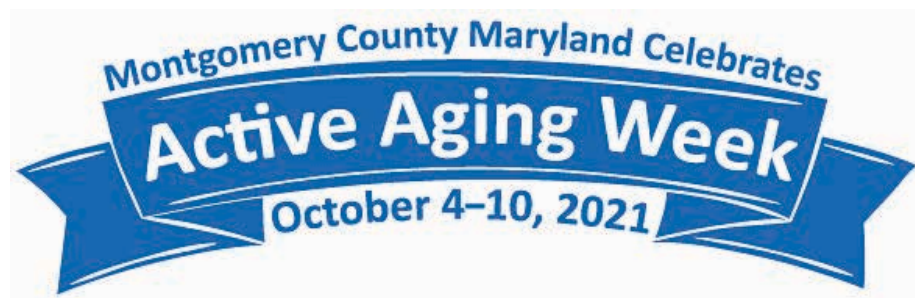
- Participate in friendly visiting to reduce loneliness and isolation?
- Help with home repairs or errands?
- Offer related professional services to keep elders in their homes?
- Engage community health workers?
- Design new services as alternatives to nursing homes?

Record an interview – or recommend someone we should interview – who is able to stay at home despite some frailty or limitations.

Here are some questions we would ask:

- What does it mean to you to be able to stay in your home, in your community?
- Who or what helps you to stay independent?
- What is one additional support that would help you in the weeks and months to come?
- What are barriers to what you might want to do (such as go to church/faith community)? What would help you to overcome the barrier?

OPT



Montgomery County is excited to celebrate International Active Aging Week (AAW) October 4th – 10th, 2021. Celebrating aging and the benefits of active living at any age, Active Aging Week showcases the capabilities of older adults as fully participating members of society.

Residents 50+ are invited to join us at a FREE signature event on Walk Maryland Day, Wednesday, October 6th, at Brookside Gardens. Come stroll the beautiful gardens with doctors from “Walk with a Doc”, participate in unique activities including Easy Zumba, Laughter Yoga, TaijiFit, Drumming for Wellness, an Instagram Scavenger Hunt, and more.

This event will be held at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County’s incomparable, award-winning 50-acre public display garden situated within Wheaton Regional Park.

Advance registration is required. Register at <https://mocoparks.org/GoGrowGetActive>

Active Aging Week challenges society’s diminished expectations of aging by showing that, regardless of age or health condi-

tions, adults over 50 can live as fully as possible in all areas of life – physical, social, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, vocational and environmental. The objective of the annual health-promotion event is to give as many older adults as possible the means to experience wellness activities and exercise in a safe, supportive environment. It also



promotes the benefits of healthier, more active lifestyles across the life span.

To learn more about changing the way you age, visit ActiveAgingWeek.com

Explore other FREE activities offered by agencies throughout the county by viewing the calendar at montgomerycountymd.gov/senior

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Older Adults and Depression

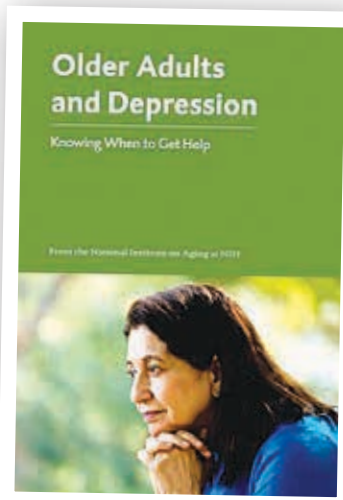
Depression is a common mood disorder and is not a normal part of aging.

Depression can affect the way you feel, act, and think. Read the free booklet from the National Institute on Aging to learn about the signs and symptoms of depression and how it can be treated.

Available to read or print at:

<https://order.nia.nih.gov/publications/older-adults-and-depression>

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New Ministry at the Shrine of St. Jude: The Arimatheans

By Tom Roach

Based on a call from Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor at the Shrine of St. Jude, in 2019 to fulfill one of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy – to bury the dead – the Arimathean Ministry was created at the Shrine of St. Jude. The name of the ministry comes from Joseph of Arimathea who cared for the body of Jesus by removing him from the cross, wrapping him in linen cloth, and laying him in Joseph's personal tomb. The purpose of the ministry is to be a welcoming presence at funeral Masses at the Shrine of St. Jude. Five dedicated parishioners answered the initial call – Pompea DiBona, Jeanne Donnatelli, Lilia Knight, Tom Roach, and Ingrid Roberts—and reported to the Director of the Faith Formation, Jane Ziles Soberano, for guidance. Rita Robert joined the group in June 2021.

The main duty of an Arimathean is to welcome the family and guests to the funeral service. Other duties may include ensuring that all items needed for the service are in the right place, such as the pall for the casket, table and cloth for cremains, special stands, and tables or easels for photos/mementos. The Arimathean also prepares the incense



St. Jude Arimatheans: (left to right) Tom Roach, Lilia Knight, Ingrid Roberts, Pompea DiBona, Fr. Bob Kosty, and Rita Robert.

burner, sets up the offertory gifts at the main church entrance, moves the Paschal Candle to the center aisle and sets up the readings in a special notebook just for funerals. Again, the Arimathean meets with the family to assist

them with the readings prior and during the service. If necessary, the Arimathean will serve as a lector or a Eucharistic minister, if commissioned as one. The group may also be asked to assist the celebrant as altar servers if

none are available. Fr. Robert Kosty, senior priest at St. Jude, trained the Arimatheans in every aspect of the duties the ministry performs. He has been instrumental in gently guiding the Arimatheans in assisting the clergy and grieving families.

The Arimatheans also recognized the need to help visitors navigate the large St. Jude campus by setting up directional signs to parking, church entrances, and rest rooms. A funeral sign was also set up in the parish Breezeway to announce upcoming funeral or memorial Masses.

The ministry now serves about an average of two funerals per week. Feedback from families about the ministry has been very positive, with personal notes of gratitude for the comfort and support received during their very difficult time. The new ministry has proven to be a wonderful evangelization for the church.

If you are interested in joining this rewarding ministry and own a dark suit, contact the Parish Secretary, Laura Sanchez Cruz at 301-946-8200 x300 or Laura.Cruz@StJudeRockville.org or Tom Roach at tbroach2@verizon.net.

OPT

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

- Food distribution is on Saturdays from 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Pantry is located at 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville

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

In addition, baby diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6) and baby wipes are always needed. Monetary donations can be given through "Faith Direct" or you can click on the Donate button

on the Shrine of St. Jude webpage at www.shrinestjude.org (search for St. Stephen's Pantry) where you can make a one-time gift. We will also accept cash and check donations as well as gift cards to grocery stores. Follow us at www.facebook.com/StStephenFoodPantry.

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

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Drive-in family: A SJRCS pre-K family enjoys the drive-in movie showing of Luca in the school and parish parking lot. Photo by Ellen Donnelly

Back to School at SJRCS!

The first few weeks back to school at St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCS) have certainly been eventful! First up was its back-to-school drive-in movie! SJRCS students and their families watched Disney's *Luca* complete with family, fellowship, and a visit from the Kona Ice truck! Next, they celebrated Mass together and spent time learning and reflecting on the word of God. And last, they recognized Patriot Day by sporting their red, white, and blue and having conversations about kindness and resilience. At SJRCS, teachers, staff, students, and families are excited for the school year ahead and all of the fun events in their future.



OPT



Above: Welcome back Mass: A fifth-grade SJRCS student recites prayers at the first school Mass of the year. Photo by Abby Ball

At left: Patriot Day: These proud SJRCS fourth-grade girls show off their beautiful red, white, and blue outfits (and masks!) for Patriot Day. Photo by Abby Ball

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,
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Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCS)

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New Teachers at St. Martin's School Are Excited To Do What They Do Best

By Anne Gemunder

The first days of school are always exciting – equal parts busy and wondrous. We appreciate the sight of a parent bringing their kindergartener to school for the first time and the crowd of middle schoolers running toward each other at the first sight of a friend's smiling face. Teachers, of course, have spent long hours decorating their classrooms with the alphabet, the periodic table, or a Shel Silverstein poem. This year, we are grateful that everyone, whether new to St. Martin's or returning, will experience this exhilarating back-to-school energy in-person.

Every new year brings new faces and experiences to St. Martin's. We are excited to introduce Nebhet Annan, our new middle school Language Arts teacher. Ms. Annan was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, and later worked for Amdahl, an information technology company in Silicon Valley and for Capital Records in Los Angeles. She taught in schools as nearby as Baltimore City and Durham, North Carolina, and as far away as Ghana and Dubai. Her students have spanned the spectrum from elementary, to high school, to college-age. Ms. Annan received her BA from San Francisco State University, her MA(Engl) from North Carolina Central University, and her MEd from Central State University in Ohio. "I am looking forward to helping to develop our students' writing skills, which will prepare them for advanced courses in high school," says Ms. Annan. She adds,



Members of St. Martin's patrol are ready to help get students safely to their cars during the afternoon pick up. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

"St. Martin's is a nurturing environment that promotes all stages of the learning process. Additionally, Principal Lamont fosters an open, supportive, and collaborative school culture." Of course, outside of school, Ms. Annan loves to read.

We are also excited to welcome Kristen Girch as our fifth-grade teacher. Our students will benefit from Ms. Girch's many years of teaching experience. She has taught first, second, third, fourth, and seventh grades. Most recently, she was

teaching Math and Science at the Chesapeake Math & IT Charter School in Prince George's County. Ms. Girch was born in Valencia, California but was raised in nearby Howard County, Maryland. She attended Frostburg State University for her BA and the UMBC for her MA in Elementary Education. "I am excited to be at St. Martin's where I can set high expectations and dive into developing our scholars. My students are well prepared for the work ahead and are motivated to

learn." This foundation, Ms. Girch explains, will enable her to create challenging co-curricular projects. "I am looking forward to inspiring my students to be actively engaged learners!"

This past year, Andrea Villars, St. Martin's Class of 2010, was a long-term substitute Spanish teacher. When the permanent position became available for this fall, she was excited to accept the offer. As an alumna, she easily identifies with her students, and they in turn have

responded to her enthusiasm for sharing the impactful lessons she learned at St. Martin's. "Ms. Villars has been an inspirational role model for our students. I look forward to the positive influence she will continue to have," explains Principal Stephen Lamont. Ms. Villars' goals for next year include adapting the Spanish program to accommodate the needs of both Spanish and non-Spanish speaking students. She adds, "My guidance for students is to listen to their teachers, take their advice, and always be prepared for class." While attending Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Ms. Villars played lacrosse and majored in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. Since graduating, she has worked with students at Bar-T and has coached girls' lacrosse at Watkins Mill High School and various other sports leagues. Those experiences reinforced her desire to share the work ethic and skills that she learned at St. Martin's.

Christian Stokes, who taught fifth grade last year, will take on a new role as the middle school Science and Math teacher. Mr. Stokes came to St. Martin's with four years' experience, teaching science to middle and high school students. He earned his degree in Biology from Stillman College in Alabama. All of our faculty, both seasoned and novice, bring unique experiences and gifts that support our students and ensure their success in the classroom. One thing that never changes is our commitment to provide a high-quality learning experience for all students.

PROJECTS

Con't from page 29

sion of beautiful banners the students made to depict the 14 organizations the school supports. Following the procession, students from each grade read a bible passage or inspirational saint quote to introduce the summary of each service program.

These acts of charity and service are rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and are foremost in the religion curriculum for de Chantal school. This year the school community has added two special fundraising initiatives. They will work with Catholic Charities to provide assistance to Afghan Refugees settling in the United States and we will also work with Catholic Charities to help those affected by Hurricane Ida.

OPT

**Next Issue of OPT
December 11**

An Interview with New Parochial Vicar Rev. Patrick Agustin

By Enani Njoku and Abby Munguia,
Eighth Graders

- **Where and when were you born?**
I was born in Washington D.C. on March 2.
- **What is your favorite childhood memory?**
Playing Snow White with my older brother and younger sister.
- **When were you ordained?**
I was ordained in 2020.
- **If you were not a priest, what do you think you would have become now?**
I have always wanted to become a priest.
- **What are you most proud of about being a priest?**
I am proud of being a Priest of Jesus Christ.

- **What do you like to do during your free time?**
I love to sing, cook, and bake.
- **What made you decide to become a priest?**
It felt like it was a calling from God. Many of my friends who were religious set good examples for me.
- **What is your favorite food/dessert?**
Pizza is my favorite food and Cookies and Cream ice cream is my favorite dessert.
- **What is your favorite song?**
Holy Waters by JP Cooper
- **What is your favorite movie?**
The Amazing Spider Man
- **What did you do before becoming a priest?**
I studied Theology in Italy

for 5 years, so I also speak Italian. After that I worked in Hollywood as a financial analyst in movies such as, *The Smurfs*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, and some *Spiderman* movies too.

- **What was your most embarrassing moment?**
When I was a freshman in high school, I tried to climb over a fence and made a huge tear in my pants.
- **Are there any other interesting facts that you would like to share with us?**
I met the Pope when I was in Italy.
I auditioned for The Voice and American Idol, since I love to sing.

My favorite saints are Saint Maximilian Kolbe, who was my confirmation saint, and a soon to be saint, who is currently a Blessed named Carlos Acutis.

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



Various games were provided for the kids, including the always popular dunk tank.



Welcome Back to Family Faith Formation

By: Mary Beth DeLuzio

On Saturday, August 28, Mother Seton held a welcome back celebration for all of our faith formation families. It was a hot, but beautiful, day to all be outside.

Everyone was so excited to see each other after a long year of virtual class. Backyard inflatables provided so much fun, from a moon bounce to jousting, different games and even a dunk tank!

We are excited to welcome back our families in person in the next few weeks.

OPT



Younger members of the parish community enjoy the opportunity to sing for their friends and families.

PICNIC

Con't from page 28

through that embrace brings us to the Father.

It was easy to perceive this embrace during the event, as community members, each donning a nametag, were able to meet, laugh, and share a true experience of fellowship. The picnic was one

of the first opportunities for a parish-wide event since the start of the pandemic and since Fr. Rob and Fr. James were installed as pastor and parochial vicar in the summer of 2020. Throughout the picnic there was a prevailing sense of gratitude for the vibrant parish life that embraces each of its members as well as anticipation for the next opportunity to celebrate together.

OPT



Volunteers took shifts to prepare and serve the food, which included everything from burgers to Vietnamese spring rolls.

SUNDAY

Con't from page 28

classrooms. In order to make all of the new and returning students feel comfortable, the eighth grade decided to have a scavenger hunt. They placed items around the school and then split the children into groups. In their groups they "hunted" throughout the building and now they know where everything is located.

It is the opinion of many parents,

students, and teachers that Super Sunday was a success. Students were able to learn where their classrooms are. The eighth graders were able to bond with the younger children, and parents were able to see where their children will be learning this year. Most importantly, the eighth graders showed that they're ready to step up and be the leaders of OLOL. Many hope that this event will become a tradition to bring the school together for many years to come.

OPT



Fr. Lee Fangmeyer processing into mass wearing traditional African vestments



Above: Ghana was just one participating group in the Parade of Nations

Below: Everyone enjoyed delicious food prepared for the shared meal



CELEBRATION

Con't from page 1

with the congregation singing and dancing while bringing gifts to the altar, thanking God for the blessings bestowed upon them and their

families during the year, especially surviving the worldwide Covid scourge.

The reception after Mass was held in the Parish Center, with traditional African foods, music, and a lot of dancing and fun! The eighth edition will be held in the summer of 2022!

OPT



OLOL students and parents catch up at Super Sunday after a summer apart

Mother Seton Parish
19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor
301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado, OPT Editor
Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org



Poolesville Day
Sir Knight Tim Flynn and the Knights from Sheen Assembly led the Poolesville Day parade.



Faith Formation Classes

Confirmation Candidates gather each class at the Prayer Station. A class member leads the class in the pray, Lectio Divina.

Appreciation Pig Roast



Above: It takes a mighty team to flip a pig!

At right: The master of the fryer, Bill Lynch, prepared an ample serving of wings for the hungry.



Above: Our own master chef, Chip Smallwood prepared and cooks our pig for roasting.



Jean Loujuin Honore traveled from our twinning parish of St. Joseph's in Carcass, to share the great need of our fellow parishioners in Haiti. Our Haiti Committee chairs are Jack Reid, Diana Snouffer, and Mary Carlsson

Appreciation Mass



The congregation gathered on the grounds of St. Mary's to participate in the celebration of the Mass.



Three choirs joined forces to lead the congregation in songs of praise. The Choristers, Alina Jung, Isabella Abernethy, James Parsley, and Lia Jung. The high school Contemporary Ensemble, Rosemary Ballman and Jennifer Owens. One adult choir, Mary Carlsson. It was the first time a choir had gathered in many months.



In honor of Catechetical Sunday some of the parish Catechists joined in to receive the prayers of the congregation.



Fr. Kevin expressed his appreciation for the dedication of the Faith Community in helping others within our parish and beyond. He also blessed the Catechists who were in attendance.

Appreciation Day

St. Mary's has begun this new season of fall with appreciation and renewal.

Our Faith Formation instruction has resumed all in person this year. We have the flexibility to convert to hybrid as needed. We are excited to see all our students safely on the parish grounds. Confirmation orientation for parents and candidates was held and new expectations of prayer and leadership were shared. We are all excited to help them on the final steps of this journey.

An important outreach is the parish commitment is to our twinning parish, St. Joseph's in Carcass, Haiti. We have continued to send food and funds throughout the pandemic, but the recent earthquake and political unrest, has made it more difficult. At great personal risk our interpreter at St. Joseph's traveled to speak to the congregation at each mass. He shared they are grateful for all we have done for them, but are in desperate need of

everything.

Fr. Kevin sponsors a Parish Appreciation and Pig Roast for the congregation each year. Returning to this tradition was an exciting experience for the Faith Community. Father shared how the faith of the people and their good works reach far and wide. Many in the parish continued their outreach to the needy, sick, and homebound, during these difficult times. Parish Ministries continue to strengthen as more people are able to return masked to mass and parish organizations.

OPT

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

Another Year of RCIA Begins at St. Michael the Archangel

By Nicole Calaro

St. Michael the Archangel parish is excited to begin another year of RCIA. Last year, despite the pandemic, 24 people from our English and Spanish programs became fully initiated Catholics.

Since the dispensation from the obligation of attending Mass was lifted, the RCIA leaders and catechists are hopeful that more people will hear about the opportunity

to discover and grow in faith. To be cautious regarding the continuing evolution of the pandemic, our Wednesday evening classes will continue virtually with the possibility of some in-person gatherings to help promote more community building.

We welcome anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. For more information, please contact the Rectory, 301 589-1155.

OPT

St Michael's Celebrates El Divino Salvador del Mundo

Divine Savior of the World

By Lisa Taylor

On August 8, St. Michael the Archangel held a celebration in honor of El Divino Salvador del Mundo. The feast is a national holiday in El Salvador and is traditionally celebrated in August, on the day the Church marks the Transfiguration of the Lord. El

Salvador and its capital San Salvador are both named after the Divine Savior of the World.

The observance of the feast dates to 1525, the same year that the province of San Salvador was established. The feast day celebration included a special Mass, fellowship, cultural dances, and food.

OPT

Serving Those in Need

By Lisa Taylor

St. Michael the Archangel joined forces with Catholic Charities to distribute food to those in need in our community. The parish had two drive-thru food distribution days, on June 21 and July 19, which involved distributing enough food for a family of four for one week for 500



Above: Serving Those in Need

At left: Parishioner, Lisa Taylor, inviting people in for free food.



families. The food bundles included meat, vegetables, fruit, prepared meals, and dessert and were available to all in the community. For the July food giveaway, St. Michael's partnered with the Montgomery County Health Department to provide a free COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Many were thankful to receive God's blessings!

OPT

TREE

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Brian's son Nathan is now in 4th grade. "We wanted to give Nathan a strong academic foundation and sense of community, and St. Peter's felt to be the natural choice," said Brian. "School has changed a lot, but there are these moments that harken back to the time that I spent there, and it is really feels special to share that with him."

Karen's daughter Harley is in 2nd grade, "I wanted my daughter to be in a loving environment that focused

on faith and education. There are many times that Harley will ask me about how things were when I was there. I try to explain that there was only one hallway, and she can't even comprehend it!"

While many things at Saint Peter's have changed over the decades, from the expansion of the school building to the curriculum to the uniforms, the experience gained within the walls has not.

"Through all of the years and all of the changes, it's clear that the core of St. Peter's is the community," said Brian.

"It is very reassuring to know,

based on my own firsthand experience, that my daughter is in the right place," added Karen.

Today, Catherine attends school masses as often as she can. "I just love seeing my grandchildren there." She also enjoys accompanying them down the same halls she once walked, though she admits she sometimes gets lost navigating the newer parts of the building. "I couldn't be happier with my own children's choice to follow in our footsteps and send their children to Saint Peter's, it's such a blessing."

OPT

CAMPBELL

Con't from page 26

sketch where we need a book. After 33 years in banking, including some years as vice president of Bank of America, he "retired" – then got moving. He entered a seminary for late vocations, and was ordained a priest at age 59, then consecrated a bishop at age 69. Now he's pastor of St. Joseph in Largo – a full-time job, even with amazing support. And he's an auxiliary bishop in a tough archdiocese – another huge job. And he's the president of the National Black Catholic Congress, another complex task. Some retirement.

Speaking to the young men and women who were about to be confirmed, he focused on the patron saints they chose, picking five at random and then expounding a bit on the patron, challenging everyone to think about their own patron saints. One chose Elizabeth Ann Seton, who put wealth behind and built a community to catechize. One of the eight adult converts, Michael Jordan, with crutches and a radiant smile, had chosen Raphael, an angel of hospitality.

One quiet young man chose the patron John the Silent, a fifth century Armenian hermit. The Mbakis, a brother and sister, second generation immigrants from Congo, chose Gabriel and Valentine, another angel and a saint who taught committed and self-sacrificial love. One young woman chose St. Ailbe, a patron saint of Ireland with Welsh connections. She chose him for his concern about animals: he's the patron saint of wolves. Damascus is in transition, but there are still farmers here, so one young man chose Isidore, patron saint of farmers.

This year, the choice of patron saints wasn't tied tight to gender. Why shouldn't a girl choose Luke as her patron? Or Adjutor – a male but the patron saint of swimmers? Why shouldn't a boy choose Rita, the patron saint of impossible causes?

The initial choice of a patron saint, like a handshake, may focus on obvious and superficial details. But the bishop challenged everyone to press on, to dig deeper, to see more. Our community is thousands of years old, and it stretches around the globe. The church was bursting with stories that need telling.

OPT

CORNHOLE

Con't from page 29

the tournament style play. Emily Wood, Technology Coordinator at the school, and her husband Taylor, are the reigning champions with several trophies from past tournaments prominently displayed in their home. Many parents, teachers, administrators, parishioners and clergymen have been busy practicing cornhole over the last 24 months to prepare for this night.

More importantly, the cornhole social will bring together the close knit de Chantal community for the first major event for adults since the COVID-19 pandemic emerged. A great turnout is expected because so many people can't wait to see each other again. This year's event will also feature live music, signature drinks, and other party games offering something for everyone whether or not they play cornhole. The Home and School Association invites all adults from the St. Jane De Chantal community to register to attend through school and parish publications distributed in the coming weeks.

OPT



Members of St. Michael's "Spring Cleaning in the Summer!" team.

Spring Cleaning in the Summer!

By Lisa Taylor

When is the best time to take a moment to clean out our Parish Center, which serves as home to our RCIA and Religious education classes?

Summer, of course! On July 10, many members of our parish came together to clean out our classrooms and common areas and create a wonderful learning environment for those who seek to know more about the Lord.

Since we did our cleaning in the heart of summer, we were ready to welcome our parishioners to a new and improved Parish Center in August. We are grateful to all who came out to help.

OPT

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Cindy Méndez,
OPT Editor

301-589-1155

Look for the next
issue of OPT on
December 11



Knight of the Year Award. GK Franklin Morton of the Saint Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus presented the Knight of the Year Award to Brother Andrzej Migasiuk on August 29, 2021, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring. OLQP Pastor and Chaplain of Council 16634, Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S. Chr., celebrated the Holy Mass.

Council 16634 “Knight of the Year” Award Presented to Andrzej Migasiuk

On August 29, Saint Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Franklin Morton presented the “Knight of the Year Award” to OLQP parishioner and Fellow Brother Andrzej Migasiuk.

GK Franklin Morton stated that, “The Knight of the Year award is the highest award that a Council can bestow upon one of its Knights. The Award is presented to a Brother Knight who best exemplifies the basic principles of the Knights of Columbus, as demonstrated by his service during the past year.

He noted that, “Brother Andrzej stood out among his peers.” He cited several exam-

ples. “Upon the onset of the Pandemic, Brother Andrzej was one of the first to volunteer to assist in all aspects at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish. He has also been instrumental in several church renovation projects. Additionally, Brother Andrzej is always lending a hand with the various outdoor activities that the Parish holds. His willingness to lead, serve and support Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish has not gone unnoticed and is a true testament of putting his faith into action.”

We congratulate Brother Andrzej Migasiuk and wish him and his family well.

OPT

Commemorations and Beatifications

By Bozenna Buda, ED

On September 12, Our Lady Queen of Poland Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., celebrated Holy Mass which was requested by the Polish American Congress Washington Metro Area Division (PACWMAD) and commemorated several events.

An honor guard was organized by the St. Maximillian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus. In addition to the Knights of Columbus, representatives were present from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV), PACWMAD and Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP.

We remembered and prayed for the victims and survivors of World War Two, when Poland was invaded from the west by Nazi Germany on September 1, 1939, and from the east by Soviet Russia on September 17, 1939. Families and friends of OLQP parishioners were impacted. We prayed for the victims of 9/11.

In addition, we celebrated the beatification of Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski and Mother Elzbieta

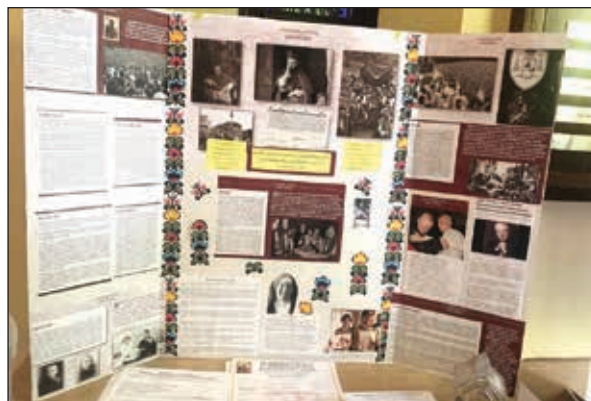


The Honor Guard on Sept. 12, 2021, in Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring. Present were: OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych who celebrated the Holy Mass, Col. Pawel Marzeda from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, GK Franklin Morton, SK David Birely, SK Jacek Marczyński, SK Tomasz Kolodziej, SK John Armstrong, SK Bob Dowlut, SK Richard Z. Okreglak, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak of PLAV, Bozenna Buda of Polish Scouting Org-ZHP.

Roza Czacka. Cardinal Wyszynski was the Primate of Poland during the Communist regime. He was imprisoned for his beliefs yet managed to inspire and mobilize the Polish nation and the Polish diaspora to prepare for and celebrate the Millennium of Poland’s Christianity

in 1966. He also encouraged Cardinal Karol Wojtyla to accept the nomination and subsequent elevation to the Papacy as John Paul II. (website: www.golgotawschodu.com.pl)

Continued on page 39



Beatification of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski and Mother Elzbieta Roza Czacka. The display, just inside the entrance to church, depicted events from the lives of Cardinal Wyszynski and Mother Czacka, both of whom were beatified on Sept. 12, 2021.



Maryland-Washington, DC, Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP USA members (and brothers) Artyom and Daniel worked from home to prepare illustrations about the beatification of Cardinal Wyszynski and Mother Czacka.

A Friend in Panna Maria, Texas

By Bozenna Buda, ED

What is Panna Maria, Texas? The short answer is that Panna Maria is the name of the site of the first permanent Polish settlement in America. It is dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary, the Immaculate Conception. The original group, led by Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, celebrated



Above: The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas (polishheritagecentertx.org).

A left: Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta with a sculpture of Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, his second cousin, four generations removed. (polishheritagecentertx.org)



Holy Mass there on Christmas Eve, in the year 1854.

We were pleasantly surprised when (we later learned) the second cousin of Fr. Leopold Moczygemba, four

generations removed, reached out to Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Most Rev. John W. Yanta, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, had read about OLQP parish in the last issue of *Our Parish Times* and wanted to express his support for OLQP and

our “ministries in building God’s kingdom and spreading the Good News.”

We are very grateful to Bishop Yanta for his prayers and expression of support.

Of note, Bishop Yanta is recognized as the visionary founder of the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas (polishheritagecentertx.org). This national memorial is intended to honor the immigrants who founded the oldest permanent Polish settlement in America in 1854.

As Bishop Yanta wrote in a recent *Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria* newsletter, “The Center is designed to uplift the human spirit and to teach us the lessons of the past. A sacred goal is to instill the values that made our ancestors a standout community and highly respected for their moral integrity and work ethic. Let us never lose those qualities that exemplify the heart of the Christian life so that we become the light for all to see.”

Bishop Yanta is a descendant and

the first to be ordained a bishop from this group (www.wilsoncountynews.com/articles/bishop-john-yanta-celebrates-25-years-as-bishop/).

The Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria will have its grand opening on October 23/24, 2021.

Prior to that date, Texans and others will celebrate Bishop John W. Yanta’s 90th birthday on October 2. We wish Bishop Yanta “Sto Lat” and, because he is so close to 100 years, “Sto Piecdziesiat Lat!” *Szczesc Boze!*

OPT

Our Lady Queen of Poland

9700 Rosensteel Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

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

St. Mary - Rockville

Saint Mary's Kindergarten: A Great Place to Grow!

By Kelly Sweet

Last Spring, the St. Mary's School Kindergarten class began preparing their outdoor classroom: garden bed labs for science exploration. The Kindergarten classroom is adjacent to a large courtyard, which is perfect for planting and observing the growth of plants, vegetables, and flowers. This fall, the 2022 Kindergarteners, under the guidance of Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Davis, are harvesting all of the delicious plants and vegetables.

On a Wednesday afternoon in mid-September, the Kindergarten students spent their science class harvesting the outdoor classroom garden labs. Mrs. Sweet and Mrs. Davis explained to the Kindergarten students about the life cycle of plants, and how to tell when a plant is ready to be picked. The students put on their gardening



At left: Four young scientists display the carrots and purple potatoes they harvested.



Above left: More purple potatoes!

Above right: Mrs. Sweet and students examine different plants ready to be harvested.



At left: A proud Kindergartener shows off his find.

gloves and got to work. They were excited and ready for the work at hand. The garden labs were overflowing with a variety of different vegetables and flowers. The vegetables ready to be harvested included cucumbers, tomatoes, a multitude of peppers and carrots. The highlight of the harvest was digging for delicious purple potatoes! Following the first harvest, some of the students arranged a small bouquet of flowers to put near the Mary statue in the courtyard. The Kindergarten students are looking forward to sampling the veggies at snack time. This fall has already been a very exciting time for the young scientists!

OPT

MUSTANGS

Con't from page 14

The decision was a scary one, but we never regretted it. Our children were happier, more energetic and engaged in school, and socially thriving. While the decision for in-person learning is unique to each family based on their own personal circumstances, it was the right one for us. We learned about the policies and procedures that were developed by the Archdiocese of Washington and implemented by the amazing staff and faculty at Saint Mary's. We were informed and updated every step of the way, and were so grateful for that.

This year is no exception. The children are now used to the best practices protocols that the school has put into place. Saint Mary's has developed a comprehensive routine for keeping students, staff and families safe and informed, which has added some peace of mind to the ongoing chaos of the world.

During morning drop-offs, Nurse Edelman and staff members screen each child's temperature and manage any potential symptoms or exposures. The students are educated at school about the importance of masking, social distancing and washing their hands regularly. Saint Mary's students have become experts in practicing COVID-19 precautions. There have been times

when my kids have had to remind me that we need to wash our hands or wear our masks.

The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed for a great deal of contemplation and reflection. The past year and a half has been filled with times of uncertainty and fear, but Saint Mary's has been a much-needed source of stability and routine for my family. As a mom, I am beyond grateful to have been able to send my kids to school in-person throughout this time. We are blessed to be surrounded by such a supportive community at Saint Mary's, especially the teachers and faculty that we trust to educate and care for our children during the day. Here's to another great school year!

OPT

McGANN

Con't from page 1

about the fact that I would be teaching a different area of science to each of the three grades, nor had I considered that I would be teaching over 100 middle school students. Hmmm. One of my biggest tasks would surely be getting to know the names of all of these young people! This was getting more interesting by the minute.

I was curious about how the children and the teachers would be handling the many challenges presented by the Covid restrictions roller coaster. Learning gaps, depression, fear, feelings of instability, masks, distancing, hand sanitizers, new playground rules, and anxiety - what would teachers, counselors and administrators be facing as school began?

I had recently done a workshop with high school teachers describing what anxiety might look like in their students, learning how to handle both their own and their students' anxiety, and figuring out how they could get on with teaching and learning. I knew that some children in my classes might be more disruptive than they had been in the past because they were anxious about what they had missed when they were home last year. Everyone would need to adjust to being back in school - to the structure, the routines, the early mornings, to the absence of familiar and beloved teachers who were no longer in their classrooms, and of course, to the new substitute teacher. I knew that some children might be exceptionally quiet and reluctant to participate because they were anxious or depressed, or because they were grieving loved ones lost to Covid. I also knew that they needed consistency, predictability, academic

challenge, and empathy all in different doses at different moments.

Despite the fact that I went to nursing school, I have never considered myself a "science person". Over the last month I have learned about the solar system, energy and force (never knew there was a difference between velocity and speed!), viruses and bacteria. I've learned a lot more than that, though.

Children still need a pat on the back, or even a hug, every once in a while. They still need to pray - reverently and frequently. Teachers still need an administrator with a strong hand and a calm demeanor to hold the ship steady through the storms. Parents still need to know that their children are loved, valued as individuals, challenged and supported. They need to know that teachers and administrators understand that being a parent during this pandemic and amidst the other crises in our country is very, very hard.



Anniversary Reception for the Saint John Neumann Priests on Saturday, September 18

SJN CELEBRATES

Con't from page 1

Msgr. Panke said of Fr. Sweeney's 60 year anniversary. Msgr. Panke welcomed Fr. Sweeney's sister to the celebration, as well as members of the Yap and Panke families, and friends. Of Fr. Yap's first anniversary as a priest, Msgr. Panke said: "the first year of priesthood is a great grace and it's a great grace for us to be a part of that." Msgr. Panke beautifully spoke about what a great joy the priesthood is for him. After Mass, Fr. Bill presented gifts on behalf of the parish - Fr. Stefan received stationery embossed with his name, some postage stamps, and a nice pen. Because, you know, the traditional first-anniversary present

is PAPER. Fr. Sweeney received cash, nicely folded into shamrock shapes, to be used for his travels to Ireland/Scotland. Msgr. Panke will receive high-quality reproduction of the sacred paintings of his choice for the upcoming parish addition. All three priests were presented with a spiritual bouquet that included prayers from many parishioners and friends.

The celebration continued outside, with a champagne toast and reception catered by Luis Jovel. Special guests included family members of all three priests, some of whom traveled quite a distance, and it was an honor to meet them. The perfect weather contributed to an amazing evening that was enjoyed by all.



St. John Neumann Parish Celebrates Three Priestly Anniversaries. From left to right: Fr. Stephan Yap, Parochial Vicar, Monsignor Robert Panke, Pastor, Fr. Peter Sweeney, Retired Priest in Residence, Fr. William Wadsworth, former SJN Parochial Vicar

I've learned that children are still curious and desperate to learn something new every day. Middle school students still laugh and fool around whenever they get the chance. Teachers- veterans and rookies - are still determined to do their best every single day. They still collaborate, and celebrate with one another, and they still cover for their colleagues who might need to run to the copy machine or the bathroom. They find ways to connect with their students, working around masks and distancing. They understand that they must touch the hearts of their students before they can teach them what they need to know about math or reading, or even science.

Catholic schools, Catholic school teachers, nurses, staff and administrators are stronger than ever and are also more necessary than ever. They provide our children and our families with the safety and the reassurance that is needed in an uncertain

world. Our Catholic school teachers are committed to teaching and guiding the children in their care. They remind all of us that if we remember to say our prayers, to find something to laugh about each day, to watch out for one another, and to lean on one another we can survive whatever we face, together.

I am so grateful for the time I was able to spend with the wonderful children, teachers, staff, and administrators of Saint Peter's School. I am confident that Saint Peter's School reflects the good work that is happening in Catholic schools throughout our Archdiocese. I have been reminded of the value and the values of Catholic education. I am grateful for the work that Catholic School teachers and administrators do every day. I am reassured that the future of the Catholic Church is in good hands.

OPT

St. Patrick



The team from St. Raphael's parish youth group won this year's tournament

St. Patrick's Parish Youth Group Hosts Annual Summer Dodgeball Tournament

St. Patrick's hosted their annual dodgeball tournament for other area youth groups this past summer. While the tournament has had as many as 20 teams involved in the past, six co-ed groups of teenagers from nearby parishes including St. Peter's, St. Jude's, and St. Raphael's battled it out this year from. Altogether, there were roughly 75 participants. Ultimately, St. Raphael's succeeded in hoisting the trophy.

OPT

At right: Volunteer referees prepare to officiate a day of dodgeball



CYO AWARD

Con't from page 29

smile, endless energy, and enthusiasm for a sport he loved to share with these young athletes.

The three Hoffman children, Jack '16, Quinn '17, and Andrew '21 went through the de Chantal CYO program playing basketball, soccer, running cross country, and jumping in as volunteers themselves at basketball clinics for the younger crowd just as their father had done many years ago. James' wife, Marah, coached soccer and volunteered at all CYO events making CYO volunteering a family affair. More than a decade later and Coach Hoffman still carries the excitement and love as a volunteer for CYO at de Chantal. James has been on the CYO board of directors for the last 8 years and was nominated to the role of president for the past four years where he organizes all of

CYO sports, supports CYO coaches, raises money for CYO through events, and promotes CYO's mission across the school and parish. He coached basketball for the full 11 years and baseball for 3 years. Despite the difficult circumstances faced with athletics during the pandemic, James kept spirits up and the de Chantal CYO as strong as ever. He continues to bring his effusive energy and positive attitude to CYO's board meetings, plans for the future, and coaching. Parents choose to coach because of James' leadership and can-do attitude. He tells new coaches, "All you need is a smile, energy, and a good high five."

James loves to run into former athletes and hear their inspiring and positive stories about sport endeavors throughout their high school and college careers knowing that their love of sport started right here at de Chantal. James has spent the last 11 years promot-

ing CYO as a Christ-centered athletic outlet for our church's youth. This past spring, the Archdiocese of Washington presented Coach Hoffman with the Outstanding Athletic Director of the Year award which was celebrated in the parish September 18th at the 5pm mass. His hard work, dedication to CYO sports, and his love for coaching makes him the perfect recipient for this top award from CYO. Anyone that has attended Coach Hoffman's basketball clinics knows that his energy is contagious. Parents and athletes alike would leave practice counting down the days until the next one. St. Jane de Chantal has been so fortunate to have James Hoffman volunteering in our community with CYO sports. There will be big shoes to fill when he hangs up his sneakers and passes the torch. Thank you James Hoffman for your years of service to our community and children.

OPT

WELCOME

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she taught language arts, served as the Director of Drama, and founded the school's after-school dance program. Cron is a graduate of St. Catherine Laboure School and Good Counsel High School.

Ms. Stephanie Hammel, Director of Resource

Hammel previously served as the Director of Resource at St. Jude Regional Catholic School. She also served as a special education at Sheppard Pratt School. Hammel is a graduate of Holy Redeemer School in College Park, Maryland, and The Academy of the Holy Cross.

Mrs. Kristie Lofland, Third Grade Teacher

Lofland taught at Saint Elizabeth School for 14 years. There she

served as the Lead Teacher for the Kindergarten Program, the Director of Summer Camps, and was a member of the COVID ReOpening of School Task Force and School Crisis Team. Lofland is a graduate of St. Jude School and The Academy of Holy Cross.

Mrs. Patricia Petruzzelli, Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Petruzzelli served the past 16 years at Saint Elizabeth, where she taught middle school religion and oversaw the major prayer services and para-liturgies. Petruzzelli previously served as the Principal of St. Mary of the Assumption in Upper Marlboro and the Assistant Principal at St. Bernadette School in Silver Spring. Petruzzelli is a graduate of St. Catherine Laboure and The Academy of Holy Cross.

OPT

COMMEMORATIONS

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Mother Elzbieta Roza Czacka came to consider her loss of sight as a vocation. She worked to establish a ministry to help the blind. In 1911 she founded the Society for the Care of the Blind. Several years later, she founded the Order of the Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross. These formed the foundation for the cre-

ation of the Institute of the Blind in Laski, Poland. Its mission is to enable blind persons to eventually live independently. (www.laski.edu.pl)

Cardinal Wyszyński's and Mother Czacka's paths intersected when Cardinal Wyszyński visited Laski.

One of the quotes attributed to Cardinal Wyszyński is that, "It is not enough to believe in God; you also must entrust yourself to God."

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