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

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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

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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

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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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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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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

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

By Jenn Lynn

“P”eople 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.

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. In 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.

Pilgrimage hosts 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 go to the October events calendar.

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.
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.

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.”

Together to Christ

All Are Invited! Come as You Are!

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 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 p.m. 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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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 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 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.stoneridgeeschool.org/campaign.
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 the school’s 15th birthday was marked, the consecration filled the chapel, Brookewood’s two new music teachers — Catherine Rex and Rachel Glaser — accompanied another on the piano with sacred music. At the end of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, Mr. McPherson led the school by reciting the Rosary and the hail Mary: “Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.”

The consecration was 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.”

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

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 have been 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).

The 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 challenges.”

A basic principle guiding the Church, and 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 of the Kingdom of God.”

In the coming year, we will 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 the Democratic or Republican Party, 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 lawrencecouch@gmail.com. Thank you.

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

Can’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, some- times 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 devotion to the name, not the person, and because they provide such great examples that I try to live by.

I also have a fondness for many great female saints now in heaven, whether they are publicly declared or known only to those whose lives they touched.

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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.

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

St. John the Evangelist School’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. Shaifa 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 families 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!
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 lives were lost 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 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 weight of human loss.”

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

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.

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 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 to be 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 forward on securing dates and organizing events with the prospect of rising COVID caseloads threatening to scuttle plans. The ability to gather in-person remains in doubt.

Continued on page 18

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.

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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 Calamitis, 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.
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 separation 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.

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.

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.
St. Anselm’s Abbey School.

Where a rigorous curriculum keeps students challenged and engaged.
Where a warm community encourages every boy to be himself.
Where dozens of sports, arts, and clubs give rise to confident leaders.
Where a strong Benedictine tradition grounds values and inspires faith.

Where Bright Boys Become Exceptional Men.

St. Raphael School Celebrates 15 Year Anniversary

By Gabriela Herrera Cruz

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 Breton 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 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.

Upcoming Events

St. Raphael 13 Annual Golf Classic (Oct. 1 at Breton 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/

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School
1513 Dunster Road Rockville, MD
Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor
Teri Dwyer, Principal
Leil McClure, OPT Editor
301-762-2143
www.straphaels.org
www.straphaelschoolmd.org
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @SRSrockville

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 differentiated 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/
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.

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.

Outstanding Teacher Runs in the Great American Relay!

Mercy’s Writing Center and composition 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.
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 this year, including learning robotics.

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 Olson is just one of the many books that we will be reading this year. As we read, our class talked about friendship and 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!

Setting Goals in Second Grade

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

Continued on page 18
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!”
Our Parish Times

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.

Continued on page 38

St. Mary - Rockville
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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.

To schedule a visit or for more information, call 301-762-4179, email mainoffice@smsrockville.org, or visit our website at stmaryschoolrockville.org

Conveniently located in the City of Rockville
600 Veirs Mill Road

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Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

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

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/VISIT

OPEN HOUSES
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
WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG/VISIT

St. Mary's School
A GREAT PLACE TO GROW
Openings available in our PreK – 8th grade classrooms

Our teachers promote the spiritual, social, emotional and intellectual development of each child in our nurturing, faith-based environment. Consider giving your child the gift of a Catholic Education at St. Mary’s School.

Fall Virtual Open House
October 14 at 9 am

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WWW.STONERIDGESCHOOL.ORG
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 1/2 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 have begun to know others on a deeper level. Father Steve has been very positive about ALPHA and we 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 alphabuild.org.

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 director 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.

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.

Be Empowered.
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, November 7

Campus tours available by appointment.

www.AcademyOfTheHolyCross.org/Visit-Us • 301.942.2100

The Academy of the Holy Cross
All-Girls, Grades 9-12
4920 Strathmore Ave.
Kensington, MD
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.

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!

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.

Open House Dates

Open Houses are from 9:00am – 11:00am

October 21
November 18
January 20
February 24
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.

Celebrating Our History

A 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 (hcrosschurch.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 Holy Cross Church

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.

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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Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor
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Holy Cross School
Lisa Maio Kane, Principal
301-949-0053

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

Continued on page 24
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 Lisieux, the Little Flower, is special to me because that was my first parish as a priest, and I 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? Is there someone you choose for your Confirmation name because of a special saint? Or is there a saint who has 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 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.

I go to Gate of Heaven cemetery for a funeral, 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. May they help us say yes to God as they did, confident that we will one day be counted among their number.

GROTTA (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.
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!

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

Emily Kranking 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 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 shared, “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!
Our Parish Times October 2021

ASH STREETieres Century School

3755 11th St. NW, Washington, DC 20011
410-320-6903
www.ashstreetes.com

Welcome to Our Parish Times! This edition features information about special events, fundraising efforts, and a variety of programs offered by the Parish. Enjoy reading about the latest happenings in our community.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

- Spanish • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Latin
- Journalism
- Law, Health Science / Comprehensive Curriculum
- Placement: Special Placement
- Transcript required
- Entrance Exam: Entrance Exam required
- Entrance Exam Results are due on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

A Special Note for Parents:

- Over 25 varsity athletic teams
- Baseball, Track, Lacrosse, Soccer, Cross Country, Wrestling, Tennis, Golf, Fencing
- Challenging academic program
- Over 25 varsity athletic teams
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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 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!
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 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.

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 Richard Roa and his spouse

Continued on page 24

See us in Action!

Join us for our

FALL OPEN HOUSES

AVALON FOR BOYS, K-12
Sunday, November 7, 2:30-4:30
11811 Claridge Road, Wheaton, MD 20902

BROOKEWOOD FOR GIRLS, K-12
Saturday, October 30, 1-3 p.m.
10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895

REGISTER AT

www.avalonschools.org

www.brookewood.org

FOLLOW US

/ BrookewoodSchool /BrookewoodSchool /BrookewoodSchool
A Vibrant, Faith-Filled Parish

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

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.

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 looking forward to seeing how the Lord works through their ministries.

FACES

Connolly School of the Holy Child was recognized as a National Catholic School of the Year. The Connolly School of the Holy Child 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.

As part of the Holy Cross Family, we honor diversity in its broadest sense. Are parishes places that promote family focused faith? Are parishes places where people can come to Learn and discuss moral truths? Are 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? 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?

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?

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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 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.

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 in ninth 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.

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.

St. Patrick’s Parish
4101 Norbeck Road
Rockville, MD
Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Parry
Pastor
301-924-2284
St. Patrick’s School
Ms. Christie Anne Short,
Principal
301-929-9672
Parish Editor
New Volunteer Needed
Contact rectory to apply

Open House | October 17 | 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Register Online at: www.gprep.org/admissions

Georgetown Preparatory School
10900 Rockville Pike | North Bethesda, MD 20852 | 301-493-5000 | www.gprep.org
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 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.

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

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 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 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

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. Shannon Cron, Seventh and Eighth Grade Language Arts Teacher

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

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.
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 $1,170. The students have split the money into groups of $390 and will purchase restaurant gift cards from local establishments. 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.

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 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 academic programs.

Parish Picnic Provides a Welcome for all Community Members

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
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 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.

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

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-

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

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.
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 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 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 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. 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.

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 16, 2021, 10am - 1pm
Wheaton Ice Arena Parking Lot, 11717 Onebaugh Drive, Wheaton

Saturday, October 2, 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
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 parishioners 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?

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 conditions, 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

Montgomery Hospice & Prince George's Hospice
40 years
Your Care Team
Physicians • Nurse Practitioners • Nurses • Nursing Assistants
Social Workers • Chaplains • Massage Therapists • Music Therapists
Bereavement Counselors • Volunteers

301-921-4400
www.montgomeryhospice.org

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
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 Donatelli, Lilia Knight, Tom Roach, and Ingrid Roberts — and reported to the Director of the Faith Formation, Jane Ziles Sberuano, 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 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 on average of two funerals per week. Feedback from families about the ministry has been very positive, with personal notes of gratitude for the Arimatheans at 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 troach2@verizon.net.

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

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 (soup, 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.

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.

Back to School at SJRCS!

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

By Anne Gemberner

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 Nehbet 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 MAEngl) from North Carolina Central University, and her ME from Central State University in Ohio. “I am looking forward to helping our students’ writing skills, which will prepare them for advanced courses in high school,” says Ms. Annan. She adds, “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’ teaching 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.

An Interview with New Parochial Vicar Rev. Patrick Agustin

By Eunni Spoke and Abhy Mangla, 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.
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.

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer processing into mass wearing traditional African vestments

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!

Mother Seton Parish
19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD
Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor
301-924-3838
Brenda Rosado, OPT Editor
Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

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.

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

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.

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

Below: Everyone enjoyed delicious food prepared for the shared meal

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer processing into mass wearing traditional African vestments
St. Mary - Barnesville

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

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 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 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.

Jean Louijuin Honore traveled from our twinning parish of St. Joseph’s in Carcass, Haiti. Our Haiti Committee chairs are Jack Reid, Diana Snouffer, and Mary Carlsson.

Appreciation Pig Roast

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 Carlson. 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.

Faith Formation Classes
Confirmation Candidates gather each class at the Prayer Station. A class member leads the class in the prayer, Lectio Divina.

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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.
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.

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 feast day of El Salvador and its capital San Salvador.

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.

Spring Cleaning in the Summer!

By Lisa Taylor

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

While the school building is the community, said Michael Jordan, with crutches and a radiant smile, had chosen Raphael, an angel of hospitality.

Members of St. Michael’s “Spring Cleaning in the Summer!” team.

Serving Those in Need

By Lisa Taylor

I t 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 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!

St. Michael’s Celebrates El Divino Salvador del Mundo

Divine Savior of the World

By Nicole Calaro

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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 was established. 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.

TREE

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Brian’s son Nathan is now in 4th grade. “We wanted to give Nathan a strong academic foundation and a sense of community, and St. Peter’s felt to be the natural choice,” said Brian. “School has changed a lot, but there are those moments that harken back to the time that I spent there, and it 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 St. 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.

“One of all 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.”

CAMPBELL

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A 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 to gender. Why shouldn’t a girl choose Luke as her patron? Or Jude—male but also a patron saint of swimmers? Why shouldn’t a boy choose Rita, the patron saint of impossible causes? She’s the president of the National Catholic宣传教育司, an auxiliary bishop in a tough part 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.”

CORNHOLE

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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 clergy men 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.
Commemorations and Beatifications

By Bozenna Buda, ED

On September 12, Our Lady Queen of Poland Pastor Fr. Jerry 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. Maximilian 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 Wyszyński and Mother Elżbieta 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)
The decision was a scary one, but we knew we had to try 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 and were prepared for what 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.

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, however.

Children still need a pat on the back, or even a hug, every once in a while. They still need to pray - reverently and freely. They still need an administrator with a strong hand and a calm demeanor to hold the ship steady through the storms. Parents still need to trust 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.

I’ve learned that children are still curious and desperate to learn something new every day. Middle school students still laugh and fool around 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.

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.
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.

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 Parish Youth Group Hosts Annual Summer Dodgeball Tournament

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

CYO AWARD

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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.

Mr. 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 promoting 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 who 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 sneaks and passes the torch.

Thank you James Hoffman for your years of service to our community and children.

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 Petruzelli, Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Petruzelli served the past 16 years at Saint Elizabeth, where she taught middle school religion and oversaw the major prayer services and para-lituriges. Petruzelli 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. Petruzelli is a graduate of St. Catherine Laboure and The Academy of Holy Cross.

COMMENORATIONS

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Mother Elebieta Roza Crzacka 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 creation of the Institute 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 Wyszynski’s and Mother Crzacka’s paths intersected when Cardinal Wyszynski visited Laski. One of the quotes attributed to Cardinal Wyszynski is that, “It is not enough to believe in God; you also must entrust yourself to God.”

Joe Maier

Billy Silk

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