



# Parish Times

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

OCTOBER 2022

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## Life's Shadows

September has blessed us with warm sunny days and cool nights. As the month ends, the days of Autumn shorten and the arrival of fall brilliance emerges, bringing brisk dawns, long mid-day shadows, and deep colorful dusks.



Chuck Short

Catholic Bishops dedicated the month of October as **Respect for Life Month** in 1972. Catholics reflect on our certainty that Christ is present in each person from time of conception to natural death. Throughout His life, Jesus demonstrated that respecting, more precisely, loving human life is at the core of His Church's mission. Let's reflect upon our Lord's expectation.

Paraphrasing a quote from Hubert Humphrey, Catholic communities will be judged not by external piety, but how they care for people at the dawn of life, unborn and young children; those in the dusk of life,

*Continued on page 18*

## Part of Something Bigger

As the busy season of work and school ramps back up, I think back to my time growing up in Bethesda – now more than seven decades ago. I know times have changed, but I think there was a real value in something I watched develop:



Fr. John Enzler

The parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, became the center of our activities. It was home away from home, and the parish community was our Christian family.

We had the school, where all 12 of my siblings and I went. We had sports events through CYO. We had parish picnics and other social occasions that brought the parish together for fun and fellowship. We had Holy Hours, May Processions, First Communion Processions, retreats and other activities where we gathered for prayer. We had youth group in high school, and a huge clothing drive at Thanksgiving (the whole gym was filled with donated clothes) and other efforts to reach out in service to the community.

These four cornerstones of our faith – prayer, recreation/social activities, education and service were a prominent part of my youth and the youth of many others. They helped shape my faith and my vocation.

You've heard me encourage everyone to

*Continued on page 5*



The members of the adult choir of Resurrection Parish, wearing their rain ponchos, singing during the 9/11 Memorial Service in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

On Sunday Morning, September 11, Resurrection's Adult Choir performed at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the site of the infamous plane crash 21 years ago this month.. The choir sang David Kanter's

"September Morning, a Memorial Anthem after 9/11/2001" at the morning ceremony, and again at an afternoon performance, during which the choir offered several other works. More than 20 choir members traveled to Shanksville on Saturday, attended a

rehearsal Saturday evening in Somerset, and were at the site for a sound check by 7:45 am. The steady rain did not deter them; they felt that it was an honor to participate in such an important and solemn event. All the speak-

*Continued on page 27*

## Yard Sale to Support Life Connection Mission Returns to St. Patrick's

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the annual yard sale at St. Patrick's is finally back! This yearly endeavor traditionally brings in over \$40,000 to support Life Connection Mission (LCM) operating in Montrouis, Haiti. Principal of St. Patrick's School, Christie Anne Short, doubles as President of the local nonprofit and says, "Over the last ten years what this yard sale has done for the rural community in Haiti, is nothing short of miraculous." The proceeds from the yard sale have enabled LCM to build

the only free medical clinic in the community, add a preschool program to the school, build an IT center so students would have access to the rest of the world, and start a vocational school for those who are interested in learning a trade upon graduation. The proceeds from this year's yard sale will allow LCM to repaint the entire school building, bringing greater dignity and motivation to our school children and help to foster hope within a com-

*Continued on page 28*



Proceeds from this year's yard sale will allow for painting and other beautification projects at the Life Connection Mission.



## Honoring Mary on the Feast of the Nativity

Pre-School children from St. Jude Regional Catholic School surround the Madigan Hall Garden as they honor Mary on the Feast of the Nativity (Sept. 8) by singing *Happy Birthday*. Photo by Eileen Guihen



# U.S. Bishops Call for Progress in Nuclear Disarmament

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Review Conference in New York concluded on August 26 without consensus on a final document. Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on International Justice and Peace, expressed lament at the failure of international agreement upon the conclusion of the conference.

“At the beginning of the recently concluded Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, Pope Francis delivered his message to the distinguished delegates imploring them to ‘move with determination from a perspective of competition to one of cooperation,’ reminding all that ‘international peace and stability cannot be based on a false sense of security, on the threat of mutual destruction or total annihilation...’

“Article VI of the NPT commits states-parties to ‘pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early



date and to nuclear disarmament.’ We lament the failure of the states-parties after four long weeks of negotiation to reach consensus on a final document. We advocate for the acceleration and strengthening of the implementation of the NPT and call on all states-parties to recommit to dialogue and demonstrate progress toward the elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere.

“No corner of our world is untouched by growing hostilities and war. Compounded by asymmetrical warfare, cyber technolo-

gies, and the intertwined nature of our world we are one miscalculation away from catastrophe. Fundamentally it is the enmity found in the human heart that is at the root of such conflict and hostility to which the Church proclaims Christ Jesus as the remedy to humankind. We pray that all nations will work to foster trust over suspicion and to bring about immediate and measurable progress towards disarmament and lasting peace.”

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## Get out the Vote: Resources for Catholic Voters

Early in his papacy, Pope Francis addressed the need for Catholics to engage in civic life, stating, “We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.” One of the simplest ways that a Catholic can participate in politics is by voting. However, discerning who to vote for can be a difficult task, particularly in today’s fraught political environment. Thankfully, local Catholics have many resources to aid in the discernment process before they head to the polls in the coming weeks.

Maryland residents will have the opportunity to vote for Governor, state senators and delegates, a US Senator, and US Representatives on Tuesday, November 8. With many high-profile elections, now is the time to begin educating yourself about the candidates. The Maryland Catholic Conference offers helpful resources to learn about the various candidates and provides survey information regarding where they stand on issues related to Catholic Social Teaching. Voters can see to what extent candidates agree with providing poverty assistance, restricting funding for abortion, addressing environmental concerns, increasing education assistance, and banning physician assisted suicide. The Maryland



Catholic Conference also provides statements from mostf candidates responding to the question, “why should Maryland Catholics vote for you to represent them?”. Visit [www.mdcatholic.org/elections](http://www.mdcatholic.org/elections) to see all available candidate responses.

Before voting, also consider reading materials from the USCCB regarding faithful citizenship, which provides helpful direction about how to vote in good conscience. Resources can be found at [hwww.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship](http://hwww.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship).

Finally, one of the most important steps a Catholic should take before voting is prayer, both for one’s own wisdom and prudence at the polls, but also for politicians and for our local, state, and national communi-

ties. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites all Catholics to pray a novena for faithful citizenship. The prayers are introduced with a beautiful reminder and expression of hope, stating that “Prayer is one of the first steps in acting for justice in our world. This novena, rooted in the biblical tradition and the Church’s social teaching, is intended to promote justice and peace in our neighborhoods, our country, and our world.” The novena can be found at [www.usccb.org/prayers/novena-faithful-citizenship](http://www.usccb.org/prayers/novena-faithful-citizenship).

As a reminder, voters may register in Maryland on during early voting and on election day. Visit [https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter\\_registration/](https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/) for more information and to find out about voter eligibility.

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# Join Us!

**T**he **Justice and Advocacy Council (J&A) of Montgomery County** is composed of Catholics from parishes throughout the County. The Catholic Archdiocese of Washington established the J&A Council to provide a Catholic voice to **local governments** on issues regarding justice and poverty for vulnerable people.

The J&A Council has regularly testified before the County Council and County Executive urging their support for policies and programs that assist the poorest and most vulnerable people in the County. We are a reliable and respected voice in matters such as affordable housing, access to healthcare, food insecurity and mental health services, equitable land use policies, effective reentry programs for offenders and justice and opportunities for immigrant

populations.

The J&A welcomes new members to grow our ranks. We meet (currently by Zoom) the fourth Wednesday of each month in the evening. **Our next meeting will be October 26 at 7pm, and our speaker will be County Council President Gabe Alborno.** Join us to hear about the County Council's priorities as they start a new session.

If you wish to attend our October meeting, please contact Larry Couch at [lawrencecouch1@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencecouch1@gmail.com), so he can send you the Zoom link.

If you want to learn more about the J&A, please contact us at [MoCoJusticeandAdvocacyCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:MoCoJusticeandAdvocacyCouncil@gmail.com), and check out our new website at [www.mocojusticeandadvocacy.org](http://www.mocojusticeandadvocacy.org)

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## Mass in Spanish at St Francis of Assisi Church

**S**t Francis of Assisi in Derwood will offer a Mass in Spanish at 1 pm on Sundays beginning October 2. The Mass will be celebrated by the new parochial vicar, Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz. The parish is excited to expand its liturgical offerings to the Spanish-speaking community, which now makes up 40 percent of the enrollment at schools in its Zip Code.



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## Michaelmas – September 29

Celebrated since the fifth century, Michaelmas is also known as the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael or the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels.

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## Twenty-Five years of Service

**C**ongratulations to Mrs. Woo for 25 years of service at St. Elizabeth School! We celebrated her many years of service at the Opening of Schools Mass with Cardinal Gregory. The love and dedication that Mrs. Woo has shown to us makes us who we are – a school of faith, tradition, community, and service. Thank you, Mrs. Woo – we are so fortunate to have you at St. Elizabeth School!

OPT

Mrs. Woo is honored at the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with other teachers and administrators celebrating milestone anniversaries in Catholic education.



Members of the St. E's community enjoyed a beautiful day of fun and fellowship supporting the annual Golf Classic.

## A Tee-rific Time!

**A** great time was had by all at the St. Elizabeth Golf Classic as we celebrated the St. E's community. Mrs. Penny welcomed over 100 alumni, parents, and friends of St. E's for a day of fun on the links. This event is one of the highlights of the year – we are already excited for next year's tournament!

OPT

## Where's the Evidence?

**M**iddle School teacher, Mrs. Redmond, created an exciting and educational adventure for our students. Students learned a staff member was under suspicion for hiding cookies. They spent the day trying to discover “who took the cookies?” The journey included fingerprint



Students exchange information about different suspects.

analysis, DNA studies, and ransom note examination to find the culprit. Everyone collaborated in groups, formed a theory, and presented their case. We had a wonderful time and were happy when the cookies were returned for all to share!

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### St. Elizabeth Parish

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**Mary Penny**  
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301-881-1824



## ENZLER

Con't from page 1

come back to church on Sunday as soon as you are able. We are still not where we were before the pandemic, but we parishes are hopeful this fall will be a great time to recommit to regular Sunday attendance. After all, the Mass is the "source and summit" of the Christian life.

I would also ask you to take time to think about what you are doing to help you and your family feel a part of the bigger effort to build God's kingdom. Community has been critical from the earliest days of the Church, and it remains so today.

I realize we will never get back to the way things were in my youth, but I dream of a time and think about how much good we could do for the kingdom and for our own spiritual growth if we all said we wanted to be more than a nominal Catholic, to build on our Sunday worship and get involved in helping our brothers and sisters in Christ, our parish, and our community.

Two suggestions. First, I always encourage people to start with their parishes. This is the time of year when many parishes have held or will hold ministry fairs. These are great opportunities to learn about available possibilities and talk with those already involved. Your parish is usually close to you, and you probably already know people there. You could get involved in something regular, like teaching Religious Formation classes, or occasional events like food donations, coat drives and other activities helping those in need.

Second, we at Catholic Charities can really use more help, and we are beginning to once again ramp up our volunteer program. We lost many volunteers during the first couple years of the pandemic, through no fault of their own. We had to shut down programs for the safety of all involved. We pray those days are over and that COVID-19 will not become a big problem for us this fall, enabling faith-filled people to get involved again doing something bigger for the Church.

I admit that I am a dreamer at times, but I would love to find 5,000 more volunteers. These can be once-a-month events like signing up to serve meals, or they can be seasonal like the things we do during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Some of these can even be done remotely by Zoom, if that is more comfortable.

To find out more and consider being part of our efforts, visit our website, [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org), and click on "Volunteer" in the upper right corner. We need all forms of help and resources – people, time, talent and donations. And remember to check your parish, too.

I realize everybody's situation is different, but we would all do well to reflect on the big picture, which is seeing the Church as the hub of much of what we do in our daily lives. We grow closer to each other, build a community around our shared commitment to Jesus, and meet Jesus in a very special way – not just in those we serve but also in the community that serves together.

OPT

## Staying Grounded

By Patricia McGann

**D**o you sometimes wish they just wouldn't tell us? Do you wish that Savannah and Hoda would decide to share only good news in the morning? We all know that prices are too high, that the stock market is in the tank, and that our fellow citizens are at one another's throats. Do we need these two ladies, beautifully coiffed, smiling brightly, to tell us how bad things are from the set of the Today show? It can be difficult to turn away from the bad news and focus on the good news all around us – the stuff that never quite makes the headlines – or even the last lines of news stories.



Patricia McGann

If you have children or spend time with your grandchildren, if you work in a school or a daycare center, if you work in a children's hospital or a pediatrician's office – you see the good stuff every day. You see the insatiable curiosity, the ability to belly laugh at anything, the sweetness and the stubbornness (determination). You see the love between parent and child, and you see the optimism and the delight that children take in the smallest of things. You hear their (sometimes never ending) questions, and you witness their solutions to complex conundrums.

If life is getting to you, and you

are feeling overwhelmed by the negativity of the "real" world, I suggest you find a way to spend some time with children. Pay close attention to what they pay attention to. Listen to them tell one another stories. Watch them help one another and watch them delight in their own and their friends' victories on the playing field. Hear their prayers – for mom and dad, nana and granddad, Ms. Norton their teacher, and Mr. Long their principal, for the dog, and for the homeless man who sits outside the Safeway doors. Watch them sing and dance, and hold hands, and hit a baseball, and jump around for no reason at all.

If you don't have children in your life, find a way to volunteer at a nearby Catholic school, or at your parish religious education program. Visit with your neighborhood kids while they play outside, or just sit on the porch and listen and

watch. You will find that children are a constant. They wake up each morning with great aspirations for the day, anticipating the adventures they will have. They have tons of love to give, and they expect to be loved back. They soak up information and the smallest details of the natural world, marveling at a worm or a butterfly. Puddles are still opportunities for splashing, and trees are meant to be climbed. Children trust that they will be safe, and loved, and happy, and blessed. Most of the time most children are all of those things. We can learn to relegate the stock market and our worries to the back row for a while each day, and remember what it feels like to simply enjoy the day God has given us – just by putting our phones away, clearing our minds, and hanging around with a bunch of children.

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Architectural drawings of the renovated library at The Woods Academy

## Building to Lead at The Woods Academy

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

The Woods Academy has embarked on an exciting next chapter as we launched our Building to Lead renovations! Through this, we are creating modern and innovative learning spaces by significantly updating, improving, and modernizing our learning and teaching environments so that we can continue to foster creativity and confidence.

The renovation includes:

- transforming our library into a signature and central space for all students allowing for flexibility and collaboration
- expanding the Innovation Lab to continue to grow our innovative STEAM program
- updating the Montessori, 4th grade, and World Language classrooms

- renovating the kitchen so it can be used for preparing meals, teaching, and serving the community
- creating flexible floor plans
- undertaking a green building initiative by updating our operating systems
- updating security measures

By renovating parts of our school like the library, kitchen, and world language classrooms, we are aligning our spaces with the dynamic people and curriculum that are at the heart of The Woods. Our new space will allow our people and programs to flourish.

Our Montessori preschool classrooms are complete and full of energy with our age 3 - Kindergarten! They love the open windows and fresh new space. We anticipate the rest of the renovations to be complete this fall. Visit our website to learn more about the renovations and The Woods!

## Fun Fall Sports at The Woods

By Erin Ricca, Athletic Director

Athletics are a critical part of a child's education and building blocks in their development. At the same time, they acquire an appreciation for health and fitness and habits that will remain with them for the long-term.

The Woods Academy students gain qualities essential for their personal and social growth, including self-discipline, self-motivation, self-esteem, and personal integrity. They also learn necessary fundamental skills, including coordination, body and spatial awareness, effort, flexibility, communication, cooperation, teamwork, the reward of hard work, and perseverance.

The Woods Academy competitive athletics begin in our Upper



The Woods Academy Upper School girls (grade 5-8) tryout for soccer.

School (grades 5-8); however, we have organized sports for all ages at The Woods (age 3 - grade 8).

### Upper School Athletics

The Upper School's fall sports

*Continued on page 39*

## The Practical Life Lessons at The Woods Academy

By Michele Carpenter, Co-Director of Montessori

The Practical Life lessons in our classrooms allow children to, as the name suggests, practice life. They button, pour, spoon, polish, and wash. They learn to care for their environment by crumbing, window washing, and taking care of plants. Lessons in Grace and Courtesy provide a framework for interacting with others in a kind, yet confident way.

The purpose of these lessons is to build a child's confidence in his/her ability to go through life without needing to ask for help from others. If we give them opportunities to give it a go and try something on their own, we are also demonstrating our confidence in them. Our students are elated when we ask them if they want to window wash or dust. They feel capable and excited that we see them the way they want to be seen. By giving them the practice they need for these life skills, they start to view themselves not as someone in constant need of support, but as someone who is capable of completing tasks on their own.

In these lessons, we also work to develop a strong sense of community and connectedness. The more they invest in the environment, interactions, and activities; the

*Continued on page 8*



**OPT** The Woods Academy Montessori preschool educates children ages 3 to Kindergarten.

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### The Woods Academy

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Fr. Christian poses with the Alvarado Rojas sisters at the Opening Mass celebration. Photo by Teri Dwyer

## St. Raphael Students, Together in Harmony

By Catherine Pulse

St. Raphael School happily welcomed students to the 2022-2023 school year with a celebration of the Holy Mass, with a theme of “harmony.” This theme seems very fitting when we think about all the challenges our school community has faced over the last few years. It summarizes how all the pieces came together to create one school with many parts working in unison to serve God and create a positive learning environment for our students and teachers.

As the start of the new school year approached, our middle schoolers came together for a joyful gathering at the Potomac Woods Pool. This followed several nursery school gatherings at our school playground, including lots of games, laughter, and pop-sicles to stay cool in the summer heat! Our community was finding ways to come together, even in the summer months, as St. Raphael School is so skilled at creating harmony.

Friday, August 26, the school opened its doors to all the families to meet the teachers at our open house event to kick off the new school year. HSA president, Laura Long, organized a wonderful event that included games, prizes, and of course an inflatable slide. Teachers welcomed students to their new classrooms and this year there were many hugs and joyful reunions with friends, old and new.

At Opening Day Mass on August 29, Principal Teri Dwyer gave opening remarks, and she truly and constantly helps initiate

harmony among students, teachers, families, priests, and the parish community. Through her leadership, our school worked closely together before, during, and after the pandemic, to keep our programs working and remain strong. Students continue to thrive, lead by the knowledgeable and caring faculty and staff, truly a harmonious gift from God.

### Upcoming Events

- St. Raphael School hosts our 14th annual St. Raphael Golf Classic on September 23.
- October 17 is the date of our annual Open House!
- The 11th annual Angels on the Run event will take place on Saturday, November 12. Learn more about these events at [straphaelschoolmd.org](http://straphaelschoolmd.org)

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### St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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Rockville, MD

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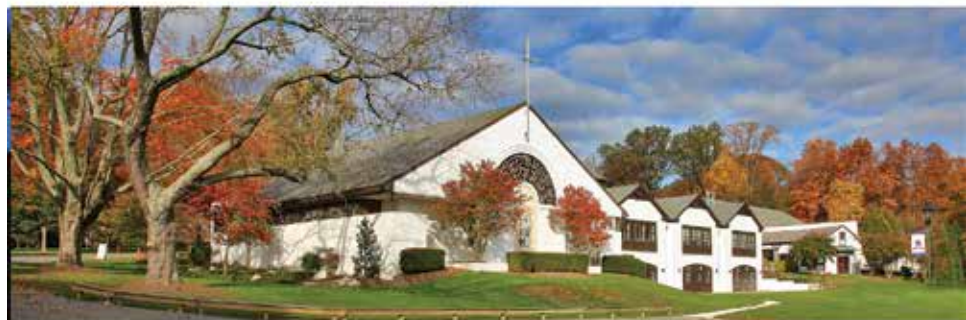
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Kindergarten – Eighth-grade staff pose in front of the school Harmony banner which displays every student's name within the letters of 'Harmony'. Photo by Laura Magafan



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



## MATER DEI SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

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

PROSPECTIVE PARENTS FOR GRADES 1-8  
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Roman Catholic School**  
14131 Seneca Road, Darnestown,  
Maryland 20874

**Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel**

**Assistant Principal:  
Katherine Schultz**  
301-869-0940 (tel)  
301-869-0942 (fax)

**Development Director  
Sarah Muir**

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

**Website:**  
www.maryofnazareth.org

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Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine,  
Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg;  
St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the  
Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the  
Visitation, Darnestown.

## Welcome Back Mustangs! Back to School Picnic at MoN



In September Mary of Nazareth held their annual Back to School Picnic to celebrate the return to school. Hosted by the HSA, there was lots of fun in the sun and delicious food as the MoN family kicked off the school year.

OPT

MoN students enjoying the Back to School Picnic

**PCR**  
**Patricia Sullivan**  
**Benefit Dinner**  
**October 29**  
**See page 40**  
**for details**

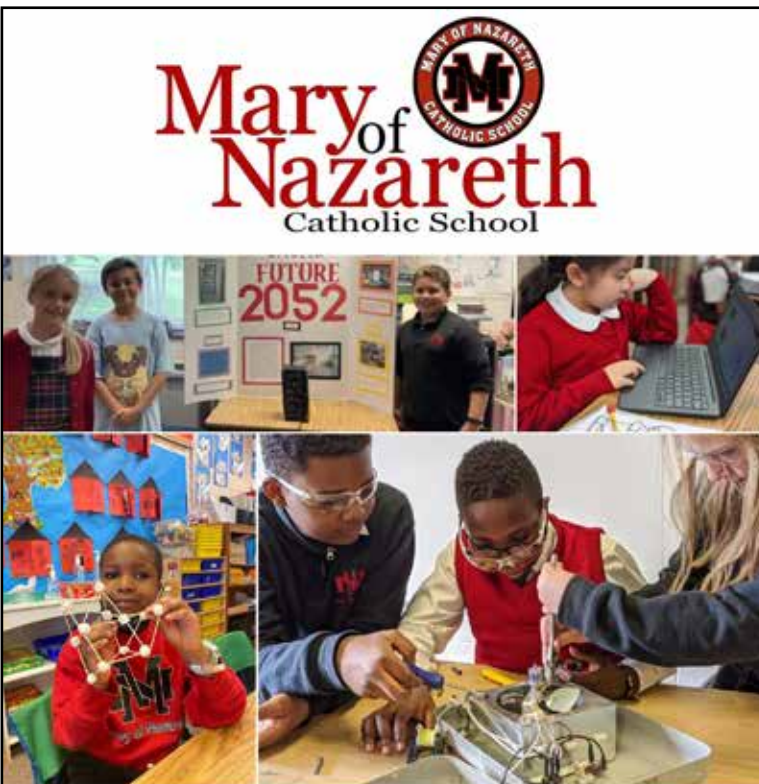


MoN students enjoy the cool weather in beautiful outdoor spaces.

## Students enjoy outdoor community spaces

MoN is lucky to be surrounded by beautiful outdoor spaces, whether it be the trails or the community space that was built due to generous donations from the MoN community. Students use these places to learn and relax with their peers.

OPT



## STREAM Lab open for discovery

Mary of Nazareth takes great pride in their STREAM Lab. STREAM stands for science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and mathematics; it allows students to approach their education in a well-rounded and hands-on way. MoN is constantly looking for ways to challenge and engage students academically and STREAM helps achieve this goal by fostering a love of learning!

OPT

Students enjoy the STREAM Lab and discover the value of a hands-on education.

## LESSONS

Con't from page 6

more they feel a sense of belonging and comfort. With this combination of self-reliance and a strong, supportive community, our students walk through their classroom with

the confidence to learn new things. Then, they leave our classroom armed with the confidence to keep 'practicing life.'

The best thing about the Practical Life lessons is they are some of the easiest to incorporate in your home. We will be starting a series called "Montessori at Home" this fall,

highlighting a different Montessori activity to do at home with your children. This month, we will be focusing on setting a table — helpful for you and your child. We can't wait to share this series with you!

OPT

**Welcome back,  
Mustangs!**  
**Open House**  
**September 28 | 9:00 AM**  
**November 8 | 9:00 AM**  
**December 7 | 9:00 AM**

14131 Seneca Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
[www.maryofnazareth.org](http://www.maryofnazareth.org)





DeChantal Church's Parish Wide Mission is Welcome to All

## Come to Christ, Change the Word *St. Jane de Chantal to have a Parish Mission, October 2nd to 6th*

By Josh Felker

**S**t. Jane de Chantal Parish is adding something new to their growing community, a Parish-Wide Mission. All are welcome to the first-ever, week-long Parish Mission. The mission will have something for everyone. Focused on the theme of *Come to Christ, Change the World*, the mission will address how people in all walks of life can return to Jesus, come back to Church to receive the healing, the spirit, and the receive the power to help change the world for the better!

Spanning five days, starting Sunday

October 2, this Parish Mission will be like no other. It will be a chance to come back to church, meet friends old and new, neighbors, and peers. A series of informal sessions have something to offer for everyone, leading to a whole community service on the final night. Mission sessions for adults will offer some alternatives for childcare as well as light snacks and refreshments. Certain sessions will also include opportunities to learn about and sign up for community service projects.

The Mission will kick off on Sunday evening, October 2, at 6pm with a din-

*Continued on page 32*

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## DeChantal School Celebrates with Welcome Back Picnic and Ground Breaking Ceremony

*Family Fun Night was a Blast and Included  
a Student-Led Groundbreaking Ceremony*

By Catherine Tomsbeck

**T**he annual DeChantal School Family Fun Night was a festive and memorable way to begin the 2022-23 school year. Families gathered to enjoy a meal, play games and dance. The highlight of the night was a student



Above: The School Children who won a raffle got to help break ground at the annual Family Fun Night

Left: Campaign Committee Representative John Nalls, Principal Mrs. Hamilton, and Pastor Fr. Giese



ground-breaking ceremony for the new DeChantal athletic field and playgrounds. Joining the students were DeChantal Pastor, Fr. Samuel Giese, School Principal, Mrs.

Elizabeth Hamilton, and representing the Forever De Chantal Capital Campaign Committee, Mr. John Nalls. The students cheered when Fr. Giese told them construction is ready to begin in late

September. These additions to the DeChantal school campus will bring a new dimension to daily physical education classes, recess for all ages, and CYO sporting events. The fun never stops at DeChantal school!

OPT



## FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 12th

November 11th

Please register via email:  
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## St. John the Evangelist School OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday • October 19 • 5:00 – 7:00 PM



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## St. Patrick's STEM and Engineering Program Provides Pathway for Student Success

As St. Patrick's enters our second year offering the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway to Engineering program to our middle school students, we are already seeing the benefits of exposing our students to more Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programming. Our teacher, Mr. Bill Falatko, joined the St. Patrick's faculty last year to introduce our sixth through eighth-grade students to engineering. He brings over 30 years of teaching experience with 15 years dedicated to teaching the PLTW curriculum, and he has already made an impact on our students. Seven of our graduating eighth-grade students were accepted into Good Counsel's



Sixth-grade students honing their measurement skills to construct a skimmer.

STEM programs in 2022 following the inaugural year of the program. When asked how this program augments St. Patrick's existing curriculum of math and science, Mr. Falatko said, "Project Lead the Way offers an application of math and science principles in the world of design." Project Lead the Way not only allows for students to apply what they are learning in their math and science courses, but it also brings in an element of art. Students are taught to think differently and incorporate creativity and innovation in their projects as they apply the fundamentals of math and science. Project Lead the Way curriculum

*Continued on page 39*

## St. Patrick's Back to School Picnic Welcomes our Families and Staff to another Great year!

St. Patrick's School kicked off our 2022-2023 school year with our annual Back to School Picnic! Students, families, and teachers enjoyed an evening of dancing, with music from our favorite DJ, dinner from Paisano's Pizza, and a sweet treat from Kona Ice. After a summer apart, our families were happy to gather again as a community to welcome our new school year. We look forward to another year full of learning and growing in our faith, academics, and service.

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Picnic patrons wait in line for some delicious shaved ice.



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## Our Future Leaders, Leading Today

Enthusiasm filled the halls of St. Patrick's this month as our student body chose our new Student Government Association officers and representatives. We are excited to announce the following officers and representatives for the 2022-2023 school year. Pictured alongside our Pastor, Msgr. Charles Parry and Deacon David Suley are, Jillian Howard (President), Lillie Bakey (Vice President), Amanda Dow (Treasurer), and Billy Maurano (Secretary). Supporting our officers this year are our class representatives in grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. Our representatives include Rachel Stone and John Wahl



Student government leaders are ready to take on the challenges of the year!

(5<sup>th</sup> grade); Austin Darke and JJ Stringer (6<sup>th</sup> grade); Kent Cushenberry and Nick Ferat (7<sup>th</sup> grade); and Owen Modlin and Corinne Stringer (8<sup>th</sup> grade). Under the guidance of Ms. Erin Farrell, the SGA will work together to plan and execute fun and

meaningful events for our students, teachers, and families. The newly inducted SGA members received a blessing from Msgr. Parry to start their SGA term. We look forward to seeing what their leadership can bring to the coming school year!

OPT

## Procession with the Blessed Sacrament to Start Three Days of Eucharistic Adoration

Saint Patrick Church in Rockville has been diligently preparing for its annual Procession with the Blessed Sacrament to begin its three-day period of Eucharistic

*Continued on page 14*

**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





Left: Mercy leadership students learn teamwork and communication skills (and a bit of patience) using a hula hoop!



Above: New students and friends enjoyed an ice cream social hosted by Mercy's counselor, Mrs. Heather Bradley.



Left: Mercy students audition for this year's drama club production.



Friday STEM challenge in Grade 2 found students designing houses with cards!



It was a full house during Mercy's first monthly Principal's Coffee where Principal Engel and Asst. Principal Green discussed the latest classroom and campus news.

## Beyond the Classroom: Mercy's Educational Extensions Program

**H**igh School Geometry, Financial Literacy Skills, Leadership Training, Drama Club. These are a few of the many programs offered through Mercy's Educational Extensions Program. Designed to provide an optimum school experience, this enrichment program offers ALL students the opportunity to enjoy learning and explore challenges. More than 20 activities are offered including: Robotics, Chess Club, Makerspace, Choir, TV Broadcast Studio, Student Council, Medical Response, Band, and Sports. Some of the exciting programs running this fall include:

**Mercy's Drama Club:** Developing self-confidence, concentration, imagination, and collaboration are a few of the many benefits to being a member of Mercy's Drama Club. This year, we are thrilled to welcome our new Drama Club Director, Mr. Evan Casey. Mr. Casey has worked as an actor, singer, director, and teacher for over two decades. He has been seen locally at The Kennedy Center, Ford's Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Round House Theatre, among others. His work on DC's stages has garnered him multiple Helen Hayes Award nominations. Other work includes a variety of commercials, television, and films, including most recently FX's *Impeachment: American Crime Story* and HBO's *We Own This City*. His voice can be heard on numerous audio book recordings for Graphic Audio, and on the recent hit podcasts *Circle Round* and *Who, When, Wow!*. Mr. Casey graduated *magna cum laude* from Catholic University with a BM in Musical Theatre, and received additional study at the London Dramatic Academy.

**Geometry for Grade 8:** This is a high school level course on Euclidean Geometry being offered this year. Topics include theorems and proofs on congruence and similarity of polygons, parallelism, circles, areas and volumes, coordinate geometry, and trigonometry. Students will integrate algebraic skills to find missing measures of geometric angles and figures.

**Financial Literacy with SPARK Business Academy:** Mercy middle school students have benefited from higher level financial literacy programs offered by Spark for many years. We are thrilled to be able to now offer a program for our younger learners – "My First Piggy Bank"! Students in grades 2-4 will learn how to earn, save, spend, and donate with this hands-on program.

**Mercy Chess Club:** Designed to teach new and intermediate players the rules of chess and playing strategies. Students in grades K-8 will receive up to 30 minutes of instruction and 30 minutes of playing time against other students during each lesson.

OPT

### Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive  
Potomac, MD

### Fr. Charles Antonicelli, Pastor

301-365-1415

### Our Lady of Mercy School

D Engel, Principal

301-365-4477

### Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor

301-330-5676

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## Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School



### OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

PRE-K 3 THRU 8TH GRADE



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MIDDLE SCHOOL (Grades 5-8) • Friday, November 11, 2022

LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL (Pre-K-Grade 8) • Friday, January 6, 2023



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# St. Bart's Feast Day Celebration Sets the Tone for the Year Ahead

The St. Bartholomew Bobcats roared back into the school year with the annual St. Bart's Day celebration on Sat, August 27, in honor of their patron saint's feast day earlier that week. Nearly 300 parishioners gathered first for mass led by Father Mark Smith, set to the musical stylings of a popular local Christian rock band. A bountiful barbecue and potluck dinner followed, allowing Parish families to show off their culinary chops and share their favorite dishes with the community. Parishioners partook in some friendly competition with a trivia contest -- which was so much fun that it has inspired Trivia Tuesdays, a Parish-sponsored event to be held monthly, beginning later



Some of the youngest members of the St. Bart's community get in on the fun.



Volunteers prepare the feast day feast!

## St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road  
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Smith, Pastor  
301-229-7933

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

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor  
202-512-8226

this fall. And with the excitement of the first day of school upon them, younger attendees moved and grooved with a DJ, and had a chance to reconnect with class-

mates and the community after a happy summer.

With the full return of CYO sports and a packed schedule of parish activities — including the

beloved Trunk-or-Treat tradition -- St. Bart's is primed for an exciting school year. This year also marks a major milestone in the school's history, as St. Bart's will commemo-

rate its 60th anniversary. Additional information on festivities will be available at a later date.

OPT



At Georgetown Prep our students work hard to be their best—in the classroom, on the field, in the Chapel, on service trips, and in the deep and meaningful relationships they form with peers and with our faculty and staff.

**Learn more at our Open House, October 16, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.**  
**[www.gprep.org](http://www.gprep.org)**

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BSA Troop 927 congratulates Simon Cooksey on completing his Eagle Scout project! Simon led an effort to install identification signs for trees and refurbish a trail and bird blind at Black Hill Regional Park in Boyds, MD. Photos courtesy of Catherine Cooksey



St. Martin's students are ready with fresh uniforms and new school supplies for their first day of school. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



Students from St. Martin's Pre-Kindergarten class work on writing letters. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

# Continuity Reigns at St. Martin's School

By Anne Gemunder

**T**his year, St. Martin's School welcomes two new faculty members, sees two staff members in new roles, and celebrates an educator's twenty-five years of remarkable service. "Our faculty and staff have a passion for teaching and a true devotion to their students and we look forward to another successful and joyous school year," says Principal Stephen Lamont.

Mrs. Netta Morelli has been teaching at St. Martin's since 1997, first in fifth grade and then for middle school Social Studies and Language Arts. We have been blessed by her extraordinary talent, dedication, and commitment to her students for twenty-five years. Incredibly well-respected among

her colleagues, Mrs. Morelli is the consummate leader, also serving as our Assistant Principal. Mrs. Morelli enjoys moderating quiz bowl teams and preparing students for academic competitions, as well as the Student Council and Safety Patrols student group.

We are excited to welcome Mr. Ben Desmond to St. Martin's. He brings a wealth of varied experiences to the role of middle school Language Arts teacher. He was born and raised on Long Island, New York, where he was active in his parish youth group and later taught Religious Education classes. Mr. Desmond comes to us from St. Raphael's School in Rockville where he was the Media Specialist, teaching Technology and Library classes. He explains that "working here enables me to do what I love, which is teach, but at the same time, I am driven by a mission to bring the light of Christ into these students' lives."

Our community is delighted to welcome Ms. Lisseth Chavez as our new third grade teacher. She was born in El Salvador and raised in Falls Church, Virginia. Ms. Chavez was most recently teaching Preschool at the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center. She has been a literacy educator through AmeriCorps and a Head Start teacher in Worcester, Massachusetts. Ms. Chavez looks forward to teaching third grade, which will allow her to share more complex concepts and materials. "At this age, they are

so curious about the world around them and now they can start using critical thinking skills to make these discoveries even more exciting," she explains.

Two of our staff members are taking on new roles this year. We are pleased to have Ms. Rocio Pineda taking on a new title as Pre-Kindergarten teacher after twelve years of working in our beloved Aftercare Program. Ms. Pineda is a local, born and raised in Gaithersburg. She worked for ten years as a business manager for Adventist Health Care. "My focus will be to create excitement in learning. There is no better way to prepare these four-year olds for Kindergarten," Ms. Pineda explains.

We are in great hands as Mrs. Jennifer Mohrbacher takes on a new assignment as office manager. Her thirteen years of teaching experience at St. Martin's, along with her prior years of working in administrative roles, prepare her for the myriad of responsibilities in a busy school office. We appreciate her knowledge, experience, and friendly nature as she transitions to this important role. As we look forward to another busy year at St. Martin's School, we are particularly inspired by the dedicated lives of those who lead this important ministry. They are enthusiastic and ready to empower our students to excel academically, socially, and spiritually in a safe, Catholic-centered environment.

OPT



St. Martin's families are happy to meet new friends and renew old friendships at the Back to School Picnic. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

## ADORATION

Con't from page 10

Adoration. The procession will take place on Sunday, October 2. Participants are encouraged to park their vehicles in the church parking lot where busses will take them down to the back side of Manor Country Club facing Norbeck Road. There will be a tent there, water available, a number of chairs and restroom facilities. We will gather there beginning at 1 p.m. where the procession will begin at 2 p.m. and proceed 0.7 miles up Norbeck Road, which will be closed. Police will escort us along Norbeck Road to the church. Those unable to walk the distance may simply meet at the church.

All are invited to accompany the Lord Jesus Himself in a public display of our Catholic Faith and

in a public display of the treasured gift that is ours in the Most Holy Eucharist. We will not leave Jesus to be alone in this venture; we will gladly walk with Him offering our due respect and our loving appreciation for the great gift of the Precious Body and Blood of the Lord! Upon entering the church, we will offer ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament in prayers of reparation for our own sins and in reparation for the sins of the whole world. All of this will begin our three days of Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Many graces will be poured forth in these days of Adoration! Come with exuberance and joy of heart to be a part of this sacred experience. Bring your prayerful intentions and let us approach Our Lord with confidence and faith as we beseech His mercy and abundant kindness!

OPT

### St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD

**Fr. David G. Wells,**  
Pastor  
301-990-3203

**St. Martin School**  
**Stephen Lamont, Principal**  
301-990-2441

**Catherine Cooksey,**  
Parish Editor  
240-477-8706  
www.smsmd.org



## Bishop Dorsonville Confirms 33 Young People in Diverse Community

**B**ishop Mario Dorsonville visited St. Paul on September 8 to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on 33 young adults.

The young men and women who were confirmed were a happy and interesting group. And the saints they chose as patrons were thought-provoking. Four young women chose Therese – two Therese, one Maria Theresa,

and one Maria Teresa. Four young men chose Sebastian. Three chose American saints – Kateri, Jean de Brebeuf, and Elizabeth Seton. Three of the 33 were the Iorio triplets, an event that the Italian poet of the Trinity, Dante Alighieri, would have applauded.

Rosie Kuszewski took St. Maximilian Kolbe as her patron. She said she was aware of him because he is a part of her Polish

heritage, but the choice was far more than that. When she was reading lives of the saints, she was struck by his story – giving his life to save the life of a man with a family who depended on him. The story stuck with her, and kept coming back to mind. The man who was saved, Franciszek Gajowniczek, was present at his

*Continued on page 33*



Jessica and Joseph Romanoski collect a splatter of healthy breakfast – eggs and cinnamon rolls – while Jeremy, Past Grand Knight, collects healthy parish financial support at the door. Servers: Meg Mello and her daughter Becca. Photo John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

## New DRE Recruited by Msgr. Filardi

**S**t. Paul has a new director of religious education, a prayerful guy with a deep voice

and a heart for service and evangelization. Matt Curley grew up in the parish; his parents, Bob and Jeanmarie Curley, are still active here.

He's one of four children. The others are not as committed to the Church as he is. He remarks softly and without judgment: "The world is loud, and God speaks in whispers."

He was active in the parish Life Teen group in 2005, part of the leadership team. The parish office has a pipe running along the basement wall with multi-colored handprints – teens making their mark on the church. The first handprint

is Matt's; his mark years ago was huge, like Sasquatch or something.

He was influenced by NET, the New Evangelization Teams, and had a conversion experience on one of their retreats. In quiet prayer before confession, he met the Lord; he's not demanding about it, but he does know who he's talking about when people speak of Jesus. Asked about his plans, he refers unobtrusively but confidently to what's been going on in his prayer.

When he graduated from Damascus High School in 2009, he went to the University of

*Continued on page 38*

## Just a Simple Breakfast

**T**here was a pause for Covid, and then there was another pause for the annual summer break, but the Men's Club Pancake Breakfast is back. From September to May, barring epidemics, the second Sunday of the month is Cholesterol Sunday, and there's a good meal with family rates in the parish hall.

The Pancake Breakfast has a long history in the parish. It was once a fund-raising event, with a modest but steady income; it's now more

of a social event. Good food, good fun, surrounded by good folks with generous hearts.

Two generations ago, when the parish was new, people visited each other in their homes pretty often. (In those days, dinosaurs roamed the earth.) One generation ago, just about every healthy person in the US recognized comfort food: coffee and OJ and bacon or sausage and eggs and pancakes and hash browns or chipped beef with rolls

*Continued on page 38*

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

**Msgr. Edward Filardi**  
Pastor

301- 253-2027

**John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe**  
OPT Editor  
cavanaughokeefe@gmail.com

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

**St. Mary's School**  
**Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal**  
301-762-4179  
**Mrs. Debby Eisel, Parish Editor**  
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The 2022-2023 faculty is ready for a great school year!

## Welcome to the New School Year!

Everything seems new again during the 2022-2023 school year at St. Mary's School. St. Mary's opened their doors to students on Monday, August 29 with an enthusiastic faculty ready for a great year. The ability to return to normal activities has been well received by families and students. We are excited to have many afterschool activities for students of every age; from basketball, chess, robotics, art club, drama club, chorus, the Mustang Runners, and Science Club. One of our favorite additions is

Mustang TV where our eighth grade students are our weekly news anchors! Field trips and assemblies are at the top of the list as well. St. Mary's celebrated our Star-Spangled Banner the September with an all school assembly. Our fourth grade did a fabulous job portraying the story of Francis Scott Key and how he came to create our beloved National Anthem. Our show concluded with our school singing the Star Spangled Banner, You're a Grand Old Flag, and This Land is Your Land. God Bless America!

OPT



Students celebrate National Anthem Day singing patriotic songs, each with their own flag.

## Back to School Fun!

St. Mary's knows how to bring out the fun for our family events. The Back-to-School Picnic was fun for everyone. Games, dance contests, hanging out on the playground, and then the Foam Party made our Friday night picnic the place to be. Families, new and old, were able to connect. Younger siblings and even our alumni were here to share this night of fun! We can't wait for the Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 27!



Community members gather for an evening of fun to kick off the school year.

OPT



The foam machine was the real highlight of the evening!

## When your home needs improvement *I CAN HELP.*



I am Dan Gannon, and my company is  
**Gannon  
Construction &  
Improvements, Inc.**

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

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

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541 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850





A group of Holy Cross students are all smiles with Principal, Mrs. Lisa Kane, as they enjoy a popsicle at the Popsicles with the Principal event.

## Popsicles with the Principal: A Cool Way to Start the School Year!

### Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue,  
Garrett Park, MD

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

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

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

**H**oly Cross Principal, Mrs. Lisa Kane personally handed out hundreds of popsicles to celebrate the start of the school year and to welcome new and returning families at our recent Popsicles with the Principal event! This special occasion has become a tradition in a series of back-to-school events that also includes New Parent Orientation and our Classroom Meet & Greet sessions. Families enjoyed the opportunity

*Continued on page 27*

## Holy Cross Parish and School Picnic: Perfection!

**A**fter a Covid-imposed hiatus of two years, Holy Cross School and Parish enjoyed our traditional annual picnic on Friday, September 9th. Several days of rain prior gave way to a picture-perfect evening under blue skies. Families passed under a festive archway of green and white balloons to the festivities.

Children enjoyed a moon-bounce and jumbo slide, face



Above: A trio of third graders are all smiles at the picnic!

At left: P.E. teacher, Mr. Thomas Treadwell, and Social Studies teacher, Mr. Michael Cilano, pose for the camera.



painting, and a crafts table among other activities monitored by volunteers from our parish and school communities. Things were kept lively with music.

Informational tables set up under canopies showcased the vibrancy of our Holy Cross community, and the variety of ways parishioners and school families can engage with the community. Representatives from Boy Scout

*Continued on page 23*



## OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 6  
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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

For more information, please contact the Admissions Office at [admissions@academyoftheholycross.org](mailto:admissions@academyoftheholycross.org).



*The Academy of the*  
**HOLY CROSS**

All-Girls, Grades 9-12  
4920 Strathmore Ave.  
Kensington, MD



## SHORT

Con't from page 1

elderly, especially frail and isolated older people; and those who live in the shadows of life, vulnerable people who suffer and live outside the blessings of mainstream human life. Rightly, Catholic communities act to love and protect those in life's dawn and those in life's dusk. Those in the shadows are often forgotten.

There are thousands in our Catholic communities with developmental differences. Autism, developmental delays, and physical challenges are part of their humanity. Yet, whether in school, at work,

in the neighborhood or in parishes, they are absent or invisible. Too often, these valuable people of God are living in the shadows of the blessed communities in which the rest of us are full participants. As Christ's communities, can we do more to welcome each of them with love and respect into our lives and parish activities? In judgement, might Christ ask, are these beloved people of Mine part of your ministries, sacraments, sports, education, social lives, and fellowship?

In response, Potomac Community Resources (PCR) was established in 1994 by clergy and parents at Our Lady of Mercy Parish. Through PCR, hundreds of people with developmental or physical differ-

ences are ought from the shadows and fully welcomed into parish life. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, PCR will celebrate those they include and love at its annual Patricia Sullivan Dinner. It's open to all. I hope you will attend, or at least support its inclusive activities ([www.pcr-inc.org](http://www.pcr-inc.org)). At the dinner, PCR will honor one of its founders, **Msgr. JohnENZler**, for his 28 years of support and leadership for PCR. This wonderful priest is a gift of example and dedication to love and respect for every human life. The Leadership Award will be presented to **Daniel Verner**. Daniel has used his role as business leader at the Marriott Corporation and in the community to promote full inclusion of people with chal-

lenges in every aspect of community life. Two visionary and loving women will be honored as PCR's Outstanding Adult Volunteers, **Angie Frick and Amanda Herndon**, both I'm blessed to know as friends. They recognized that adult women with developmental differences have unique needs often left in the shadows. For years, Angie and Amanda have helped women grow and participate more fully in community life. **Jack Sullivan and Molly Tyson** will be honored for their roles as Outstanding Youth Volunteers. These two busy young people have included love for others in their regular routines. Doing good requires efficiency and **Cordia Partners**,

honored by PCR as the Outstanding Community Partner, has provided business support to PCR for years.

Deep in the shadows of life are those addicted to drugs and other substances. In the Gospels, Jesus demonstrated courageous love for people misunderstood and unloved. Pope Francis said drug addiction is a contemporary form of slavery and a wound in our society. September is the month dedicated to ending addiction through action and information. Locally, our community solemnly remembers the scores of local people, most young, who have died from drug overdoses. Every one of us knows someone or a family who suffers with this illness. The faith community plays a vital role in addressing substance use and mental health disorders as studies show that individuals and their families struggling with these issues often first turn to their place of worship for help. Speaking openly about the fact that these are brain disorders, not character flaws, and demonstrating support and concern for affected individuals and their families goes a long way towards destigmatizing the problem and educating parish communities.

To help bring more people from the shadows and escape the chains of addiction, and to prevent addiction, Montgomery County has initiated a special education and outreach activity called **Montgomery Goes Purple**. You can learn more about this and resources for those struggling with addiction or the loss of a loved one at <https://montgomerygoespurple.org/>. Christ came into the world to release the imprisoned. Are Catholic communities doing all we can to help Him?

Finally, a prayerful word about our brothers and sisters who live in the shadows of hunger and disease in Haiti. Unless we are intentional about the daily suffering among Haitians, they are likely to sink deeper into the shadows just off our shores. Some parishes have ministries which seek to ease the suffering of the people of Haiti. Might your parish be willing to team up with one of these and increase their impact? In His healing and love for human life, Jesus searched in the shadows of Galilee feared by the faithful of His day. This is the ministry He expects from authentic Christian communities. Jesus notified us that at last judgement, God will ask, what have we done for these, the least of our brothers and sisters?

God Bless!  
Chuck Short

# Transparency and Trust.

## *That's Our Commitment to You.*



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

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

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Parts, Fluids, and Waste Recycling  
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the ONLY dealer group in  
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**ParishTimes  
Online**





# DISCOVER GONZAGA THIS FALL

As Washington D.C.'s only Jesuit high school, Gonzaga blends education with conscience to help young men develop strength of faith, intellect, and character. Learning inside and outside the classroom -- including learning that deeply engages the world beyond campus -- prepares young men for college success and for lives of integrity, purpose, and service to others.



## JOIN US OPEN HOUSE

—◆—  
**SUNDAY**  
**Nov 20, 2022**  
**10 AM - 2 PM**  
—◆—

All are welcome

## BE AN EAGLE FOR A DAY

Eighth graders are invited to spend a day with a current freshman. They will have the chance to attend classes, eat lunch with current students, and experience a day in the life of a Gonzaga freshman.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!  
[Gonzaga.org/visit](https://Gonzaga.org/visit)

Gonzaga also hosts tours and information nights. Please visit  
[Gonzaga.org/Visit](https://Gonzaga.org/Visit) for more information.




**GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL**


19 EYE STREET, NW | WASHINGTON, DC 20001 | 202-336-7101





 <b>The Academy of the Holy Cross</b> 4920 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, MD 20895 <b>Kathleen Prebble, President</b> <b>John Sullivan, Principal</b> <b>Barbara Murray, Admissions</b> 301-942-2100 • <a href="http://www.academyoftheholycross.org">www.academyoftheholycross.org</a>	<b>Girls</b> Extensive Performing and Visual Arts Over 30 clubs and activities 17 Varsity Teams <b>Washington Catholic Athletic Conference</b> Tartans • Lavender & White	<b>Special Programs</b> Sancta Crux and Madeleva Scholars Program Project Lead the Way Engineering Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment Senior Project Internship	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday, November 6</b>	<b>Scholarships Available</b> <b>Merit</b> <b>Performing Arts STEM</b> <b>Visual Arts</b>	Application Deadline <b>Dec. 9, 2022</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Jan. 9, 2023</b>	Notification of Admission <b>February 2023</b> Registration Deposit Due <b>March 10, 2023</b>
	Freshman Class Size: 100 • Tuition: \$29,000 • Financial Aid Available					

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

 <b>the Avalon School</b> R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President Kevin J. Davern Head of School Istvan Teleki Director of Admission 11811 Claridge Road, Wheaton, MD 20902 301-963-8022 <a href="http://www.avalonschools.org">www.avalonschools.org</a>	<b>Boys Grades K-12</b> Baseball Basketball Soccer <b>Competitive Athletics Program</b>	Small Classes • Personal Attention • Content-Oriented Curriculum • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Latin • Spanish • Advanced Mathematics Program • Full Religion Program • Actors Guild • Poetry • Journalism • Dress Code • Interscholastic Sports	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday, November 6</b> 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Steps to Admission: • Application • Shadow Visit • Teacher Recommendation • Transcript • Family Interview	Application Deadline <b>Rolling Admission</b>	Notification of Admission <b>Rolling Admission</b>
	Avg. Class Size: 15 • K-2 Lower \$9,250 • 3-5 Elementary \$13,995 • 6-8 Middle \$15,450 • 9-12 Upper \$17,995					

 <b>Brookewood School</b> R.J. Hawley Executive Director Richard B. McPherson President and Head of School Helen Williams Director of Admission 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD 301-949-7997 <a href="http://www.brookewood.org">www.brookewood.org</a>	<b>Girls Grades K-12</b> Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Volleyball <b>Bengals</b> <b>Blue &amp; White</b>	College Prep • Small Classes • Personal Attention • Experiential Learning • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Actors Guild • Diverse Student Body • Fine Arts • Engaging Religion Curriculum	<b>Open House</b> <b>Brookewood's Open House is Saturday, October 29 from 1-3 p.m.</b>	Steps to Admission Shadow Visit Application Transcript Recommendation Family Interview	Freshman application deadline Jan. 12, 2023 Admission Notification Feb. 17, 2023	Rolling Admission for all other grades Financial aid deadline of Jan. 30, 2023
	Average Class Size: 14 • Tuition: Grades K-2 \$9,250 Grades 3-5 \$13,995 Grades 6-8 \$15,450 Grades 9-12 \$17,995 • For more information: Helen Williams 301-949-7997					

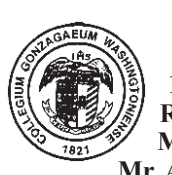
 <b>DeMatha Catholic High School</b> 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781 Fr. James Day, O.S.T., President Dr. Daniel McMahon, Principal Mr. Patrick Goulden, Admissions Director <a href="http://www.dematha.org">www.dematha.org</a> • 240-764-2210	<b>Boys</b> Wide range of co-curricular activities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


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


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

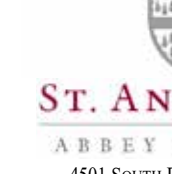
 <b>Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School</b> Dr. Barbara McGraw Edmondson, President Leonor Ponzio, Principal Janet Donnelly Keller, Director of Admissions 202.337.3350 • <a href="http://www.visi.org">www.visi.org</a> 1524 Thirty-fifth Street NW Washington, DC 20007	<b>Girls 9-12</b> A Catholic High School in the Salesian Tradition Educating Women of Faith, Vision, and Purpose Since 1799 • Small Class Sizes • 100% College Acceptance • Bridge Program at Georgetown • AP & Honors • Extensive Service Program • ISL Champion Athletics • Dynamic Performing and Fine Arts • Strong STEAM Focus • More than 50 Clubs <b>Cubs • Gold, White &amp; Green</b>	<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> <b>Saturday</b> <b>Oct. 15, 2022</b>	Learn more about the admissions process at <a href="http://www.visi.org">www.visi.org</a>	Freshman Application Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b> Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Jan. 9, 2023</b> at 12:00 p.m.	Freshman Notification of Admission End of February Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2023
	Freshman Class Size: 127 • Tuition: \$33,750 • Financial Aid: Janet Keller @ 202.337.3350 ext. 2241				

# High School Open House Dates


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

 <b>OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL</b> <i>A Xavierian Brothers Sponsored School</i> 17301 Old Vic Boulevard Olney, MD 20832 Paul G. Barker Ed. D., President Thomas Campbell '93, Principal Maria Nichols '04, Executive Director of Enrollment Management <a href="mailto:Admissions@olgchs.org">Admissions@olgchs.org</a> • <a href="http://www.olgchs.org">www.olgchs.org</a>	<b>COED</b> Offering a comprehensive college prep curriculum including the IB Program, AP and Honors courses, the STEM Program, and the Ryken Program.	<b>Home of the Falcons</b> Extensive co-curricular activities, 40+ sport teams, Performing Arts, Speech & Debate and over 55 cultural and academic clubs. Member of the W.C.A.C.	<b>Open House</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>October 23, 2022</b> <b>10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b>	Prospective Parent Information Night Tuesday Sept. 27, 2022 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Freshman Application Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b> Freshman Financial Aid Appl. Deadline <b>Dec. 2, 2022</b>	Freshman Notification of Admission <b>Feb. 16, 2023</b> Freshman Registration <b>Friday, March 10, 2023</b>
	Tuition \$27,900					

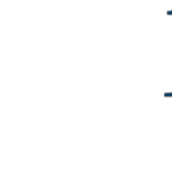
 <b>THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL</b> 10400 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854 Alvaro J. de Vicente, Headmaster Richard S. Moss, Director of Admissions 301-365-4300 • <a href="mailto:admissions@heights.edu">admissions@heights.edu</a> <a href="http://www.heights.edu">www.heights.edu</a>	<b>Boys 3-12</b> The Heights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

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

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

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

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

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





OLOL students enjoy a game on the basketball court at the annual back to school picnic.

## Welcoming Home OLOL Families

**O**ur Lady of Lourdes School opened their doors for the new school year on Tuesday, September 6th and from that moment the days to follow were filled with activities for both the students and the parents. On Thursday, September 8, Lourdes hosted Back-To-School Night. This gave the parents an opportunity to meet their child's

teacher and to visit the classroom where their child will be spending the year.

To close out the week, the HSA sponsored the annual Back-to-School Picnic for the OLOL School community. Students, families, faculty, staff and alumni were all in attendance to share in the excitement of a new school year kicking off. The event included a delicious BBQ of hamburgers and hot dogs and a DJ spinning some favorite tunes for all the age groups present. Of course, as is tradition, there was a face-painter and moon bounce along with numerous field games to keep everyone entertained. It was a special treat to see many alumni back to visit their younger friends and former teachers. Things are looking very bright at Our Lady of Lourdes with lots of learning, fun, and school activities to look forward to throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

OPT

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street  
Bethesda, MD

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

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

## Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

*A 2015 National Blue Ribbon School*

### OPEN HOUSE

October 13, 2022

9:30-11:30 AM & 1:00-2:30 PM

Join us and learn why OLOL  
would be a great match for your family!

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

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7500 Pearl Street, Bethesda, MD 20814 ~ (301) 654-5376 ~ [www.bethesda-lourdes.org](http://www.bethesda-lourdes.org)

## Looking Up to the Heavens

**A**ll parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes are so grateful for the new Church ceiling. After years of having to fix leaks and dodge falling plaster, the roof has been repaired from the outside in.

Once the roof had been repaired, it was time to beautify the ceiling. Over the month of August, scaffolding went up in parts and pews were temporarily moved as each portion of the ceiling was repaired and repainted. The scaffolding has now been dismantled and removed and the



The beautiful new ceiling above the Altar at Our Lady of Lourdes.



Before and after photos of the new OLOL Church ceiling.

pews are all back in place. The once off-white ceiling has been transformed into a deep blue with gold trim.

Pastor Father Rob Walsh described the renovation as a wonderful opportunity to make the Church more beautiful. When asked about the choice of colors, Father Rob stated that he wanted it to look as though he was looking up into the Heavens. The transformation has brought a more tranquil and warm feeling to the Church and it truly does feel like the Heavens are just within our reach.

OPT



New teachers at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

## New Faculty and Staff at OLOL

**O**ur Lady of Lourdes School has been blessed with several new faces this fall and a couple of familiar faces in new roles. In the preschool, teaching assistants Cindy Canary and Meredith Van Kirk bring energy and loving support to the classrooms that house OLOL's youngest children. In the elementary school, kindergarten teacher Ms. Annie Ramsayer, first grade teacher Ms. Gabriella Sebastian, and teaching assistant Ms. Anna Rita Ouyang join the outstanding elementary school teaching team. Our kindergarteners and first graders are so lucky to be spending their early school days with these wonderful and caring women. Also supporting our staff and students this year

are teaching assistant Ms. Catherine Gomez, resource teacher Mrs. Maureen Hannan, and middle school science teacher Ms. Theresa Linn. Their patience, creativity, and insights are much appreciated throughout the building.

The faculty and students also welcomed back Mrs. Bridget Quinn (née Looney), who taught at OLOL several years ago. She will be teaching the fifth grade this year. Dr. Colleen Quinn, a longtime OLOL parent, is a physical therapist who will be working with students and teachers throughout the building. The OLOL community is thrilled to be welcoming home both Mrs. Quinns in their new roles.

OPT





Above: A young picnicker is spotted after his visit to the face painting table.

At right: Waiting for a turn on the moon-bounce and jumbo slide, a few youngsters pose for the camera.



## PICNIC

Con't from page 17

Troop 463 were there to generate interest among the picnickers. School music teacher and Director of Music for Holy Cross, Dr. Mariana Mihai-Zoeter, and several parent volunteers were on hand to provide information about the many opportunities to share musical talents at Holy Cross. A revitalized Youth Group was introduced, with some exciting plans for future participants. Volunteers distributed information to families regarding the many ministries at the church, from altar serving, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Social Concerns Committee. There was even a table at which families could

purchase Holy Cross spirit wear and learn about a fall flower sale fundraiser sponsored by the Home and School Association. And, of course, families enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers at picnic tables under the trees!

"It was so nice to be able to come together to celebrate," said Principal Lisa Kane. "It is a beautiful reminder that Holy Cross is truly special. The smiles, laughter, and happy conversations were heartwarming. So many people generously devote their time and talents in so many ways to create a warm, welcoming, faith-centered community. We are blessed!"

A special thank you to all of the volunteers who worked together to make the evening memorable.

OPT



# Brookewood SCHOOL

## FALL OPEN HOUSE

### Saturday, October 29

from 1–3 pm



## NOLITE TIMERE: BE NOT AFRAID

Brookewood School is a K–12 independent Catholic school for girls in Montgomery County. We love to read, we love climbing trees and having adventures, we love to pray. **We love all things that point to truth, beauty, and goodness.**

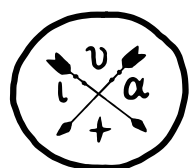


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3019497997  
admissions@brookewood.org



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the experts in raising young men

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[openhouse.avalonschools.org](http://openhouse.avalonschools.org)





Shrine of St. Jude Sacristy Renovation – Before and After: More than 50 years after its original dedication, the Sacristy has undergone a much-needed renovation. Pictured left is the sacristy before the renovation project and pictured middle and right are after the renovation. Photos by Tom Roach

## Sanctuary at the Shrine of St. Jude Renovated

By Tom Roach

The Shrine of St. Jude Sacristy has undergone a much-needed renovation from its original dedication in April 1971. The old

St. Jude Sacristy was completely gutted during this past July through August for the new well-designed functional room. The Sacristy now has a separate secure area for storing the sacred vessels such as chalices, cruets, ciborium, patens, etc. A central, well-lit, glass-enclosed vestment room was built where there are no longer multiple coat racks located in and outside the Sacristy. The new Sacristy features a clergy meditation sitting area next to a Liturgy of the Word library. Previously, the sacred Word and other liturgy books were stored in multiple cabinets and book shelves. Ideally, clergy and lectors can now easily find the appropriate readings. There is a new floor to ceiling

glass-enclosed cabinet for storing hosts, microphones, holy linens, pyxes and other sacred altar supplies, including a glass-door small refrigerator for the water and wine offering. Finally, the new Sacristy received new lighting, a fresh coat of paint, new floor, water fountain, new vestment hangers, and a new bulletin/marker board. Censers, charcoal, candles, lighters, and other miscellaneous supplies were moved to the altar-server changing area.

The new St. Jude Sacristy gives our clergy an efficient area of preparation for celebrating holy Mass. Amen!

OPT

### Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD

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

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

Maureen Martin, OPT Editor  
MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

More St. Jude News on Page 34



## Back to School at SJRCS!

Many St. Jude Regional Catholic School families came to the Welcome Back Picnic on Aug. 22 to celebrate the start of a new school year. Giacomo's Pizza truck, a hot dog truck, and Kona Ice were on campus, and the Drive-In movie was *Finding Nemo*. Fun was had by all. We are looking forward to a great spiritual and academic school year.

Pictured above, lower school kids jump for joy at the Welcome Back to School Picnic. Pictured below is the Munoz-Solis family, enjoying family time at the picnic.

OPT



## St. Jude Regional Catholic School Celebrating 66 Years 1956–2022

# OPEN HOUSE

October 18, 2022 ■ 9:00–11:30am & 6:00–8:00pm

- Resource & Learning Skills Program
- High School Preparatory Focus
- Spanish K-8
- Small Class Size
- Catholic Education Daily
- Challenging Academic Curriculum
- Resources & Learning Skill Programs
- Extended Day Program
- Athletic Association (soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, T-ball)
- Full Day PreK 3 year old & 4 year old



*At St. Jude we are very proud that the parents are the primary educators and that parents take an active role in their children's education. We are also Christ centered where the Catholic faith is taught every day and the children are taught to see Christ in others and others should see Christ in them.*

*St. Jude Thaddeus... Pray for us.  
Jeanne Donatelli, Principal*

*Tours will take place where families can meet the principal, administration, and see the students in action. Ambassador parents speaking Spanish and Amharic will be available for tours.*

Partners in Catholic Education with Our Lady of Grace (Silver Spring, Md), St. Catherine Labouré (Wheaton, Md), St. Francis of Assisi (Derwood, Md), and Our Lady Queen of Americas (Washington DC)

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FIAT Club Members Are Excited to Serve

## FIAT Club, HR Middle School Students Put Their Faith in Action

### Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue  
Kensington, MD

**Rev. Mark Hughes**  
Pastor

301-942-2333

### Holy Redeemer School

**Mr. Thomas Corrigan,**  
Principal

301-942-3701

By Margie Davin

**“B**ehold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38 is where we find Mary’s demonstration of “Unwavering faith in and obedience to God. Or as we commonly call it, her fiat” (What Mary’s Fiat Means for Modern Catholics - Lay Cistercians ). These Holy Redeemer middle school students are begin-

*Continued on page 34*

## Bug Day in PreK!

By Murray Gormly

**T**he PreK at HR is off to a buzzing start! We have almost 100 pre-schoolers, aged 3 and 4 in our five PreK classrooms. We fill one whole wing of the HR building and it is a busy place to “bee”. There are five lead teachers, five main assistants in the mornings and a host of other aides helping out our youngest cardinals every day. The program includes creative free play, circle time and centers that include working with the teacher and different art projects. We also get outside times twice a day! Some of the parents attended HR when they were young and are now bringing their children to our happy spot.

Lead PreK3 teachers, Mrs. Gormly and Mrs. Spellman, each captured their students’ excitement at learning about bugs... bugs...bugs. Children in both classrooms were thrilled with their handmade bug headbands. They wore them throughout the day and through all kinds of play.

OPT



Above: Buggy trio shine with joy

Top left: Friends sporting the latest fashion

Top right: Happy as bugs on a rug

Right: Dramatic duo of PreK Bugs



**ST. JOHN'S**

COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL | Est 1851

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**OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 10:30 AM-2:30 PM**

*8th graders are invited to schedule a visit day*

*at [www.stjohnschs.org](http://www.stjohnschs.org)*





# St. John Neumann Groundbreaking and Expansion Project

By Marisa Stoolmiller

**O**n August 21, St. John Neumann Catholic Church broke out the gold shovels and held a groundbreaking ceremony to launch our expansion project. A larger narthex, new staff offices, and sacristy, a beautiful adoration chapel, additional confessionals, and an additional conference room, will be added to meet the needs of our diverse and growing parish. Representatives from the parish council, building committee, and Forrester Construction celebrated with the parish on what happened to be the 40th anniversary of our first groundbreaking ceremony when construction was started on the original church building.

Trees have been cleared, and the current narthex and sacristy have been emptied and await demolition. Last week the building permit was received! It is a great relief and means that construction may begin in earnest. The day the building permit arrived was the 20th anniversary of when St. John Neumann Parish started the 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration Chapel under the leadership of Bishop Michael Fisher and some faithful parishioners who have helped organize the adorers and kept the chapel running for many years.

On receiving the building permit, Monsignor Robert Panke wrote, "What a font of grace it has been to have adoration for so many years at our parish (and now across the street at Mother of God during construction). St. John Neumann, our patron, was a strong proponent of adoration, and he would be proud of this parish that



Monsignor Robert Panke, Pastor of Saint John Neumann Parish shared the joy and excitement with parishioners at the groundbreaking ceremony to launch our expansion project on August 21.

bears his name. It is no coincidence that we received the permit on the anniversary of perpetual adoration at SJN. Many have been praying for the grace to receive the permit soon..."

To see more information about the project, visit [sjncatholic.org/church-expansion](http://sjncatholic.org/church-expansion). Photos of the groundbreaking ceremony are courtesy of Forrester Construction. **OPT**



Msgr. Panke, staff, and the construction team were ready to throw the first shovel of dirt at the Groundbreaking ceremony on August 21.



Representatives from the parish council, building committee, and Forrester Construction celebrated with Msgr. Panke and the parish on what happened to be the 40th anniversary of our first groundbreaking ceremony when construction was started on the original church building.

## Gaithersburg Parish Temporarily Moves Adoration Chapel

By Rodney Harris

**W**ith ongoing construction taking place at Saint John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg, the church has temporarily moved its long-standing Perpetual Adoration chapel.

On Sunday, August 14, the church held a Eucharistic Procession from the church to Our Lady's Chapel at the Mother of God Community, located across the street from the parish.

Adoration will remain at the Mother of God Community until construction at St. John Neumann is complete. The parish's renovation includes a larger adoration chapel.

Perpetual Adoration is particularly meaningful for parishioners. It has been available at the parish for twenty years, even during the coronavirus pandemic, when the Blessed Sacrament was placed right inside the church's front doors for veneration.

"You experience the body of Christ in the lives of those who



Eucharistic Procession from Saint John Neumann church to Our Lady's Chapel at the Mother of God Community was led by Monsignor Robert Panke, Pastor of St. John Neumann church on August 14.



St. John Neumann's Eucharistic Procession advances towards the Mother of God Community, a temporary adoration home during construction.



Clergy, altar servers, parishioners, and visitors joined Msgr. Panke, as he placed the Blessed Sacrament on the altar at the Mother of God Community Chapel, temporarily until the expansion of the parish's adoration chapel has been completed. All adored and prayed.

are there, and I would attribute that today; to the fact that we have 24-hour Eucharistic adoration," said parishioner Tony Castellano in a December 2021 interview with

EWTN, the global Catholic television network in a feature story about the church's Perpetual Adoration.

Parishioners and visitors joined the Eucharistic Procession after the

11:30 am Mass on August 14 to move the Body of Christ from the current chapel to the parish's temporary adoration home.

The Mother of God Chapel is

located at 20501 Goshen Road, across Goshen Road from the church.

**OPT**

**St. John Neumann Parish**  
9000 Warfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

**Msgr. Robert Panke**  
Pastor  
Kimberley Rice  
OPT Editor

**PCR 25th Annual Benefit Dinner — Saturday, October 29, 2022**

**Honoring Rev. Msgr. John Enzler for 28 years of Visionary Leadership and Support**  
**See back page for all the details. See you there!**



## SEPT MORNING

Con't from page 1

ers were powerful, but we were particularly moved by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden's remarks, and by the seeming ease with which she delivered them.

"September Morning, a Memorial Anthem after 9/11/2001" has been performed at Resurrection Church every year since it was written in 2002.

In 2021, a virtual choir video was produced; it can be seen on the website [septembermorning.net](http://septembermorning.net). Several of Resurrection's choir members participated in that video, as well as singers from a number of states around the country and as far away as Hawaii and the Philippines.

David Kanter, husband of Annick Kanter-Hubert, Resurrection's choir director, wrote "September Morning" soon after that tragic day in 2001. He was inspired to write this touching and patriotic piece to express his and the nation's feelings after the events of 9/11. Though it was not written as a sacred work, David says that the anthem, "invokes God in the sense that the Founding Fathers so often did." The composer wishes to express his thanks to the church for their unwavering support in this endeavor.

OPT



Above: The choir received a warm welcome at Trinity Lutheran in Somerset, for Saturday rehearsal.



At left: The Tower of Voices at the Flight 93 Memorial site.

**Church of the Resurrection Parish**  
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**Rev. John M. Barry,**  
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# 2022

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- Entertainment
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- Music & Much More!

NEED MORE INFO?  
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[resurrectionadw.org/winterfest/](http://resurrectionadw.org/winterfest/)  
Resurrection Catholic Church  
3315 Greencastle Road, Burtonsville, MD 20866



Resurrection Preschool was the proud beneficiary of the first female Eagle Scout candidate from BSA Troop 1444 based in the Silver Spring/Burtonsville area. Olivia Frank spent two weekends revitalizing the preschool playground. She and her crew provided much needed updates and repairs to the playground.

## POPSICLES

Con't from page 17

to gather together, meet teachers, explore the classrooms, drop off supplies, and ask questions all while enjoying a tasty treat. Mrs. Megan Harbold, parent of PK4 and Second Grade students stated, "It was so wonderful to be at Holy Cross for the Meet and Greet and Popsicles with the Principal events. You could see the energy and excitement in the students' eyes and with all of the faculty and staff! My two kids were counting down the days until they were back with their Holy Cross family."

Principal Kane added that "Back to School events are a great way to start the school year through increasing family, teacher, student and community connectedness. In addition, having the opportunity to meet teachers and see the classroom before the first day of school may provide reassurance and comfort to students and parents before the school year begins. We were delighted that so many families attended these events. We are off to a fabulous school year!"



First grade teacher (right), Miss Overly, and para-educator, Mrs. Sergi (left), greet a student who visited during the Meet & Greet in August. The message is clear, "Always be kind!"

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- ✓ **Financial assistance & scholarships** available for families who qualify.

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## Welcome Back Celebration

By MaryBeth DeLuzio

**O**n August 27 we welcomed back our faith formation families. The weather was beautiful for us and there was no rain in sight. We had a dunk tank, obstacle course and moon bounce. Inside we had the usual popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. This was our second Welcome Back celebration, and it is now an annual event. Everyone just comes for pure fun. Of course, we had registration and calendars available for those who needed it.

It is so nice to just visit with people in a casual environment with lots of smiles. If you still need to register your family, please contact the office at 301-444-3496.

OPT

At right: Moon bounce fun



Above: Some of the many volunteers

At right: Kids loved to participate in dunk tank



## Eighth Annual Africa Day Celebration at Mother Seton Parish

By Shirley Uyakonwu

**T**he African Community (Africa Union 55) of Mother Seton Parish, Germantown, MD, held its annual Africa Day celebration on Sunday, August 14, and the theme was "We Are Grateful".

The event started with Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Wilton Cardinal Gregory, supported by other priests.

The new African Choir in the Parish sang many parts of the Mass, and the congregation experienced an authentic African Mass with lots of music and dancing! The songs were multi-lingual including English, French, Swahili, Ibo, and Yoruba. There was also a special Bible Procession.

Every year, members of the African Community come together to organize the event, 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.

The African Mass was followed by a reception in the Parish Center which was well-organized, with lots of food from participating countries, display of traditional outfits, music, and dance!

Guests and parishioners were encouraged to sample the various types of food from the African continent.

The Parish Priest, Fr. Lee, was dressed in a Maasai outfit from



Fr. Lee in Maasai Outfit



Mass Celebrants led by His Eminence, Wilton Cardinal Gregory

East Africa, and other Priests also dressed up in various African attires.

Dance groups from Uganda and

Benin entertained guests with their traditional dance steps and music. It was indeed a day to remember!

OPT



Having fun at Bretton Woods Country Club

## Tony Durso Charity Golf Tournament

By Donald Kinler

**O**n August 15, The Knights of Columbus hosted the Tony Durso Charity Golf

Tournament for Seminarian Support at the beautiful Bretton Woods Country Club in Germantown, Maryland. Forty golfers, including MSP Pastor, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, and his nephew James, a seminarian currently studying in Rome, hit the links on a beautiful Monday morning.

The day concluded with dinner and prizes. The annual event is held every August. Many thanks for those who participated, volunteered, and made donations to this worthwhile event.

OPT



Africa Day Guests



Africa Day Organizers

## YARD SALE

Con't from page 1

munity that continues to struggle due to inflation and instability. In addition to truly changing a community in a third world country, what the yard sale has done here within the St. Patrick's community is also a blessing. New friendships are formed through service to others. Alumni parents, current and former students, and parishioners unite around a common purpose, to

help another community that is over a thousand miles away, allowing our parish community to grow in unity as true servants. Many refer to the St. Patrick's yard sale as one of the greatest "recycling" programs in the community. We can give purpose to old treasures and prevent useful items from being relegated to the landfill. The yard sale also helps those who are attached to items to find reassurance that these items are going to someone in our community that will find new appreciation for old treasures.

The yard sale will be held on Saturday, October 15, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and donations will be accepted on Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Christie Anne Short at [christianne@lifeconnection-mission.org](mailto:christianne@lifeconnection-mission.org) or visit the website to learn more about LCM's great work in Haiti. [www.lifeconnectionmission.org](http://www.lifeconnectionmission.org).

OPT

### Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard  
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer  
Pastor

301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado

OPT Editor

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times





Small groups of First Communicants crown Our Lady after each mass the first weekend in May.



The indoor shrine to Our Lady has statues for each of the three children of Fatima.

## St. Mary's Church and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

In 1958, Pope Pius XII urged that a parish in every diocese be dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. In response to our Holy Father, Archbishop O'Boyle designated St. Mary's as the official Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima for the Archdiocese of Washington. Under Fr. Martin Hyland, beautiful indoor and outdoor shrines were erected. The Shrine

was dedicated by Archbishop O'Boyle on May 3, 1959. On the altar of the indoor shrine is a piece of stone cut from the area where the Blessed Mother appeared to the children of Fatima. The Stone was presented to our Shrine by then-Ambassador of Portugal.

The Faith Community of St. Mary's have great devotion to Our Lady of Fatima. The Rosary is recited each day after mass, First Saturday devotions to Our Lady are offered each month, and the First Communicants crown Our Lady the first Sunday of May, after each mass. Pilgrimages of the faithful have traveled to Fatima to pray and attend Mass at the Shrine. All are welcomed to visit this beautiful Shrine.

OPT

### St. Mary's Parish

18230 Barnesville Road  
Barnesville, MD 20838

Rev. Kevin O'Reilly, Pastor  
(301) 972-8660  
www.stmaryonline.com

## What do wedding gowns have in common with Haiti?

**B**rides For Haiti, is a bridal boutique serving a dual purpose: helping each bride choose that special gown reflecting her individual desires while supporting the rural community of Carcasse, Haiti. In the words of a happy bride, "I had such a wonderful time shopping for my dress here! I expected a limited selection, but they had several rooms worth of dresses just in my size and in any style imaginable. The ladies were

*Continued on page 38*



Our Parish is raising funds to build this beautiful Church for the congregation at St. Joseph in Carcass. It will provide shelter during hurricanes and earthquakes as well as worship.



### Religious Education

Classes joyfully began for all students. The youngest students gathered together and greeted each other with a prayerful blessing.

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# Youth Ministry Rebuild Has Promising Start at St. Francis of Assisi Parish

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

After experiencing some fits and starts over the past year, the rebuilding of Youth Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish has gained some momentum this fall with the arrival of a parochial vicar with a penchant for youth ministry and a solid core of adult volunteers and staff members.

Ten months after parishioners gathered to re-envision how the next version of Youth Ministry would look like at the suburban parish, the adults in the room agreed that having a safe space where tweens and teens can gather with their like-minded peers, process their worlds, and grow in their relationship with God are important aspects of the environment they are trying to build.

Having been part of a youth group in his native Poland throughout his teenage years convinced



From left to right, St. Francis of Assisi parishioner Lauren Cronise, Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson, and parishioner Andrew Einsmann discuss the future of youth ministry at the parish during a meeting held in a church meeting room in November 2021.

the parish's new parochial vicar, Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz, of the importance for all teenagers to have a sanctuary where they can vent about what they are encountering in their lives.

"[Teens], themselves, can be con-

fused about what they're called to believe and what they are called not to believe," Fr. G recently said. "Since they cannot voice or identify their faith, a youth group with

*Continued on page 38*

## Communications Ministry's Video Capabilities Allow for Hybrid Get to Know You Session with Fr. G

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

When St. Francis of Assisi Pastor Fr. John Dillon informed his staff this summer that the parish would soon welcome its first long-term parochial vicar since 2019, the question for the parish's Communications Ministry became how to introduce Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz to the parish. Mass attendance was still down and COVID cases were waning, but still cropping up.

After brainstorming with the ministry's volunteer video producers, Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan proposed to Fr. John a hybrid interview in the church that could be watched live, but would be simultaneously filmed to be edited and posted on the parish's YouTube Channel.

And, thus, the "Getting to Know Fr. G" event was born.

Alexander Scaltrito, a video/multimedia producer, took the lead on the video production of the "Getting to Know Fr. G" event. In thinking through the format, he said the Communications Ministry members felt an interview with the parish's new parochial vicar



Communications Ministry volunteer Alexander Scaltrito snaps a photo of new Parochial Vicar Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz and Communications Coordinator Melissa Egan, while she interviews the recently ordained priest during the "Getting to Know Fr. G" event held August 27 in the church. The in-person event, which was recorded, edited and posted to the parish's YouTube Channel, has garnered nearly 300 views on the video platform.

could give a deeper look into his personality. Filming it and posting it to YouTube also felt like a smart way to extend the video's reach.

"St. Francis is blessed to have the resources to do this, both with equipment and staff and volunteers," Scaltrito said. "We've reached so many more people who weren't able to attend the event in person. And that helps us spread the message with even more people about who Fr. G is and what our parish is about."

Using camera equipment purchased in the summer of 2020 to record virtual Masses during the pandemic and three of the video producers' own devices, the Communications Ministry held a technical run-through on August 13 with Fr. John and Fr. G to determine the best camera angles and perspectives. On August 27, the four cameras rolled, as Egan interviewed Fr. G on his lifelong faith formation in the Neocatechumenal Way, a charism of the Holy Spirit; the impact of youth ministry in his spiritual growth; and his culture shock upon arriving in 2010 at the Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary of Redemptoris Mater in Hyattsville, MD, to study to be an archdiocesan priest. All this occurred in front of an audience of

*Continued on page 38*

## Passing of Trees on Parish Grounds Creates Way to Replace Plantings and Memorialize Loved Ones

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

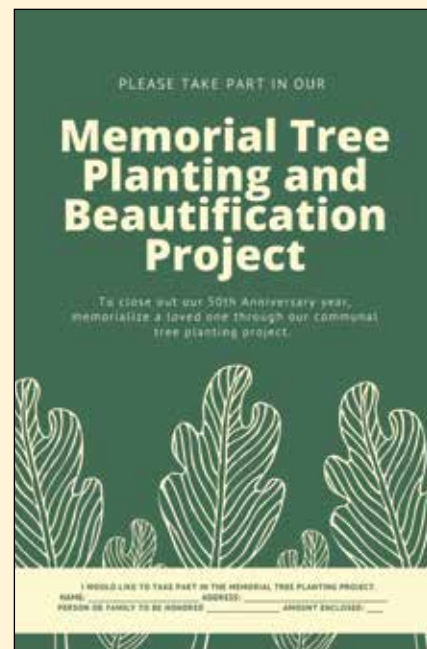
As St. Francis of Assisi Parish winds up its celebration of its Golden Anniversary this fall, 50 parishioners hope to leave a lasting mark of beauty on the parish's grounds while honoring their family members and loved ones who have passed on to God.

The parish is closing its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with a Memorial Tree Planting and Beautification project that will replace several trees on the parish grounds that are dying or are in various stages of decay with 12 hardwood trees. This summer, the parish invited its members to make a memorial donation of \$200 that has gone into a general fund for the preparation of the ground and soil, purchase, installation and maintenance of four Maples, four American Sycamores, and four Red Oak trees. The names of donors or those being memorialized will be added to a memorial display to be hung in the Gathering Space.

Over the past few years, Director of Social Concerns Tony Bosnick began noticing some of the parish's ornamental trees getting blown over or bent during windstorms. Bosnick said the idea for the project originated with an archdiocesan Care for Creation Committee, which promoted the use of hardwoods on parish grounds, both for their 100-year-plus life spans and transcendental beauty.

As the parish's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 approached, it seemed like a good time to replace the trees with specimens that were longer lasting. All told, the project costs \$12,000 and has been largely covered by contributions from parishioners, Bosnick said. "It will be a long-term beautification project that will just get more beautiful as the years pass," Bosnick said.

On September 21, crews from Rock Creek Landscaping, which is executing the project for the parish, began planting the trees, seven of which will be planted around the circular grass entryway to the church. Of the other five trees, three will replace as many ornamental trees, one will replace a dying hardwood tree, and one will be planted near the



Parishioners learned about St. Francis of Assisi Parish's Memorial Tree Planting and Beautification project through this flyer. The initiative, which is unofficially the closing event of the parish's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, allows for dead or dying trees on the parish grounds to be replaced with 12 hardwood trees; it is funded by donations from parishioners wishing to memorialize their deceased family members and loved ones.

parish's lower parking lot.

When parishioners George and Barbara Beall decided to take part in the project, the couple not only wanted to pay tribute to their 35-year-old daughter, Barbara, who died in August 2004 of breast cancer – they also wanted to honor the way the church ministered to their family.

"Fr. Lee [Fangmeyer] went out of his way to minister to us," Barbara said. "I remember visiting her once at Suburban Hospital and hearing laughter coming from her room. It was Barbara, Fr. Lee, and her colleague from [the National Institutes of Health] – and they were hysterical."

Parishioner Lita Silva also thought the project was a wonderful way to pay tribute to her parents, Rod and Gaby O'Connor, who grew and tended a garden full of dogwood trees, azaleas, Bradford pear trees, pine trees, and Blue Spruces in the south of her native Chile. "It's important to maintain the parish grounds," Silva said. "But to turn it into a wonderful memorial to those we love is a beautiful twist."

Pastor Fr. John Dillon will have a formal Blessing of the Trees after the 11:15 am Mass on Sunday, October 16, in front of the church.

OPT

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On September 18, Religious Education catechists Donna Ruffin and Tammy Doerrman stand for a blessing during the 11:15 am Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Catechetical Sunday. The commemoration on that date calls forth catechists to be commissioned for their ministry; the parish kicked off its 2022-2023 Religious Education year on September 18, as well.



## 2023 Social Security COLA

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will announce the official 2023 COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) in October 2022.

The Senior Citizens League, an advocacy group, released a report Sept. 13 predicting the Social Security COLA for 2023 will be 8.7%. If that proves accurate when the Social Security Administration announces its official COLA in mid-October, it would raise the current average annual benefit of \$1,656 by \$144.10. It would also mark the largest adjustment seen in four decades.

Inflation in July, August, and September 2022 will determine the



COLA that Social Security and SSI beneficiaries will receive next year. The COLA takes effect in December, and the updated benefits are paid out starting in January 2023.

The Social Security COLA is based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical

Workers (CPI-W), a slightly different measurement than the CPI-U. The COLA is calculated by using the average rate of inflation in the third quarter of the year. When those figures come out, the data for July, August and September will be added together and divided by three to get the average. The 2022 number will then be compared with the third quarter average of 2021 to determine the percentage of change for 2023.

September's CPI numbers are expected to be announced on Oct. 13.

"A COLA of 8.7% is extremely rare and would be the highest

*Continued on page 38*

## Go, Grow & Get Active

Montgomery County is excited to celebrate International Active Aging Week (AAW) from October 3rd – 9th, 2022. On Monday, October 3, from 2 – 5 pm get out and get active with the 50+ community at Brookside Gardens for a FREE Active Aging Week event.

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

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.

Advanced Registration Required  
Visit: [www.eventbrite.com/e/go-grow-and-get-active-tickets-397200666887](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/go-grow-and-get-active-tickets-397200666887)

Participate in activities that will boost your physical and mental wellness through creative expression, exercise, and socialization.

- Beauty Blooms: A Watercolor Workshop
- Dance Yoga
- Wellness Drumming

*Continued on page 38*

## Adult Learn To Ride Bike Classes

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



- \$10 for Montgomery County residents or FREE for WABA and Capital Bikeshare members
- Class size is limited – Register Now: [waba.org/classes](http://waba.org/classes)
- For more information: [tinyurl.com/cycleclss](http://tinyurl.com/cycleclss) or 240-777-8380

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 11

10am-1pm  
Upper County Rec Center  
(parking lot)  
8201 Emory Grove Road  
Gaithersburg

### SUNDAY, OCT. 16

10am-1pm  
Westfield Montgomery Mall  
(former Sears parking lot)  
7101 Democracy Boulevard  
Bethesda

### SATURDAY, NOV. 5

10am-1pm  
Wheaton Ice Arena (parking lot)  
11717 Orebaugh Avenue  
Wheaton

### SATURDAY, NOV. 12

10am-1pm  
GEICO Chevy Chase Building  
(parking lot)  
5260 Western Avenue  
Chevy Chase

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# Saint Bernadette School to Honor Rosanne Weber at 75th Anniversary Echo Dinner

There's a lot of buzz in and around Silver Spring about the silver jubilee celebration of Saint Bernadette School on Oct. 22, 2022. As the school prepares to celebrate its 75th anniversary, it also will add former teacher and school parent Rosanne Weber to its Honor Roll, which was started three years ago to recognize significant individual contributions to the school. Mrs. Weber served 30 years as a kindergarten teacher for Saint Bernadette School, starting many of her angels on their paths to greater heights, before becoming assistant principal in 2007. She taught hundreds of students in those

years, such as WJLA meteorologist Eileen Whelan, giving them a strong foundation in faith and academics. Additionally, she started many school parents on their path to education as teacher aides and parent volunteers and mentored many successful Catholic school teachers including current Saint Bernadette kindergarten teacher Cindy Zagone, whose children were taught by Mrs. Weber.

As a school parents of graduates Nicole and Matt, Rosanne and her husband Nick also modeled a volunteer spirit that families embraced in all aspects of life at Saint Bernadette School. This spirit is evident each year at the Saint Bernadette Fall Festival, which follows the 75th Anniversary Echo Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 23. We are looking forward to many alumni, school families both current and past, parishioners, and neighbors joining us at our Homecoming weekend this October when Mrs. Weber becomes the first teacher added to the Saint Bernadette School Honor Roll. For more information, please visit [sbs75.square-space.com](http://sbs75.square-space.com) or call the school office.

## St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East  
Silver Spring, MD

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

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

Erin Fridley, OPT Editor  
301-593-5611



Left: Future WJLA meteorologist Eileen Whelan poses with Mrs. Webster, her former teacher.

Right: A typical day in the classroom!



Left: One of the many graduation ceremonies that Mrs. Weber celebrated with her students.



Above: Mrs. Weber poses with one of her many classes from over the years.

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ALL ARE INVITED  
**SAINT BERNADETTE  
SCHOOL TURNS 75!**

1947 Saint Bernadette School 2022

We welcome alumni & friends to celebrate our homecoming weekend October 22-23.

**SAT 5:00 p.m. Mass**  
**10/22 6:00 p.m. 75th Anniversary ECHO Dinner**

- Adults only, tickets are required.
- Enjoy dinner and open bar on the field.
- Our guest of honor is retired teacher and alumni parent Mrs. Rosanne Weber.
- We celebrate alumni whose class years end in "2."
- Proceeds benefit the Fund a Scholar Program.

**SUN 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. School Open House**  
**10/23 1-5:00 p.m. Parish Fall Festival on the Field**

- Family-friendly and free.
- Enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship.



TO RSVP, DONATE OR ORDER A LIMITED-EDITION  
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80 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901 301.593.5611

## COME TO CHRIST

*Con't from page 9*

ner and gathering for the Teens of the Parish. This first night provides a great chance for teens to meet with their friends, neighbors, and classmates to join in a common purpose, be inspired by great speakers, and learn how prayer can promote positive change together through multimedia fun.

The Mission will continue on Monday, October 3 at 7:00pm for the Men of the parish. This evening, organized by the Men's Fellowship, will focus on who Jesus is and His call to men to realize their potential to build a better world. They will gather for light snacks and refreshments, enjoy a short film, witness talks, discussion, and fellowship.

On Tuesday afternoon, October 4 at 2:00pm retired women and men are invited for the Mission's third ses-

sion designed to focus on finding meaning and purpose in retirement. This session will feature speakers who will discuss the role of Christ in their transition from work to retirement. Retired women and men will gather for discussion, treats and refreshments, conversation, witness talks and a short film.

Tuesday night, October 4 at 7:00pm our parish Sodality will host an event for the women of the parish focused on a theme and an image of women's role in bringing healing and aid in difficult times and situations. This session will also feature examples of community service. Following the format of other Mission sessions, the women's night will also include a short film, speakers, small group discussion and fellowship. Women of our parish will enjoy light snacks and refreshments, a short film, witness talks, and examples of community service and outreach opportuni-

ties as well as conversation and fun.

On Wednesday night, October 5 at 7:00pm, married couples. This session will address marriage as a sacrament and its role in the Church and society. In a similar format to the other sessions, this one will feature talks by married couples in the Parish as well as a film, light snacks, and refreshments, and opportunities for on-site babysitting.

The Mission will conclude on Thursday, October 6 at 7:00pm by gathering the entire parish back together for a unified service. Our Pastor, Priests, and Dominican Brothers will celebrate Vespers, Holy Hour, and Benediction. The Services will be followed by a social gathering with desserts and refreshments.

Fr. Giese and the Pastoral Council invite the parish, their friends, and neighbors this October and come back to church; *Come to Christ Change the World.*

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## Michaelmas – September 29

**Celebrated since the fifth century, Michaelmas is also known as the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael or the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels.**





### Books and Reading at SFIS

At Saint Francis International School books and reading are a priority. Each classroom has a well-stocked library and our school library has over 25,000 books to choose from. Kindergarten through 8th grade come to the school library to check-out books each week. Whether it be reading with a friend or reading individually, our students do lots of reading!



In the row with Cardinal Gregory are Franciscan Father Larry Hayes, a parochial vicar at St. Camillus, school principal Sam Chapa, and Music teacher Christian Leanos.

## Cardinal Gregory Celebrates School Mass

On the seventh of September Saint Francis International School had the honor of welcoming Cardinal Wilton Gregory to celebrate its weekly school Mass. His message was a simple one. He encouraged students to stay close to Jesus and to be at peace with one another. Our school choir led us in beautiful hymns. Principal Sam Chapa gave the Cardinal a gift bag which included handmade cards by our students.

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Music teacher Christian Leanos led the school choir.

**St. Francis International School**  
www.saintfrancisinternational.org  
**Sam Chapa, Principal**

**St. Camillus Campus**  
1500 Camillus Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20903  
**St. Mark Campus**  
7501 Adelphi Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20783

## DORSONVILLE

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rescuer's canonization. Rosie said she was particularly moved by the impact on a whole family; the man's granddaughter was there too.

Rosie said that the bishop asked them what the faith that they professed meant to them: "What will you do?" She talked about her growth in faith, from the Atrium program on up. Her intention is to continue her growth in faith, and in knowledge of her faith. But also, she talked about evangelization; she would like to show people the Word of God. "This is how it changed me," she says, "and it may change you."

Michael Jordan, who was confirmed at St. Paul last year, reflected on the sacrament, and like Rosie he spoke about a steady growth. He is still learning, still struck by the

Lord's call for his followers to be in unity. His father was a Baptist minister, and Michael is not dismissive of his roots; but he thinks he is where he belongs.

Bishop Dorsonville is from Bogota, Colombia. He was ordained there and served in two parishes and as chaplain at the National University. He studied at Catholic University in Washington, and served in parishes here. He went back and forth between Colombia and Washington for a decade, then served as assistant pastor in two parishes here. He also taught business ethics, pastoral counseling, and catechesis; and he worked with Catholic Charities and the Spanish Catholic Center. He was consecrated as a bishop in 2015, and has been serving as the USCCB Chairman for the Migrant and Refugee Services Committee.

OPT



### Breakfast and Lunch

To ensure that our students are best able to learn, we make sure that they have breakfast and lunch. Every student is offered breakfast and students either eat a lunch provided by the school or bring their own lunch. Our big and bright Camillia Room offers a wonderful place for the students to enjoy their meals and to visit with their classmates.



# A Smiling Welcome at our Religious Shop

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

Every Sunday morning when we enter church we are greeted by a smiling face in the back of the church. Mr. Ofilio Quezada has been a parishioner at Christ the King Church for 12 years. For the last four years, he has been in charge of the religious gift shop in the vestibule in the back of the church. He also helps with sign-ups for activities and food distribution. When



Mr. Quezada always ready to help

I asked him why he volunteered, he replied, "I like to serve our Lord. Church is my second home."

The religious store has many articles, everything from crosses, statues, books and rosaries to Christ the King t-shirts. All parishioners say thank you Mr. Quezada for your welcoming smile and loving service to Christ the King Parish.

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Many religious goods available at Christ the King shop



Father Steve blessing future Religious Ed teachers

## Religious Education at Christ the King

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

On September 24th weekend, the Religious Education program begins at Christ the King. The English speaking Elementary age children will have class 8:30-9:15 AM on Sundays. About 25 children will be participating. From 1-2PM there will be confirmation preparation and RCIC (Rite of Christian Institution) for children and youth 7-14 who haven't been catechized.

This year, the Theme of English Religious Education will be "Mission to Mass." There will be a rocket ship ready to take off. Children will be able to move it by earning points to service to others, going to Mass on Sunday and by doing good deeds. Ms. Katie Ward is the coordinator (ward.kaitlynn@gmail.com).

The Spanish Speaking classes will be on Sundays from 10:15-

11:15 AM. About 80 children from Kindergarten through high school will be participating. There is RCIC for children from 7-12 and another program for teens 13-17. Ms. Isidra Molina is the Director (imolina@ctkparish.org).

Both of the groups and teachers are excited and energized for the new school year. Teachers received a special blessing at the Masses on Sunday September 18.

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### Christ the King

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

Fr. Stephen J. Carter,  
Pastor

Paul Lamoreaux,  
OPT Editor



Lila, Molly, and Eileen create prayer request bulletin board.

## FIAT CLUB

Con't from page 25

ning the school year with their own "yes" in imitation of Our Lady. Over twenty students joined the FIAT club, under the guidance of Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Davin, where they plan to gather twice a month to pray together and discuss ways to spread the good news of the Gospel in their school community and beyond.

Starting as the Religious Life committee under the guidance of Mrs. Hurley, of which Mrs. Harper's son and Mrs. Davin's daughter were presidents in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade years, this club was given a new name a few years ago. Regardless of its name, the mission is the same: to be the hearts, hands, and feet of Christ

in our community.

The first meeting was spent making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament for prayer followed by making posters to spread awareness of the S.O.M.E.(So Others Might Eat) program in which all Holy Redeemer students participate with monthly fruit donations. Additionally, a prayer request board was designed so that any student will have a place to post (literally) their prayer intentions. Many more projects are on the table including a school-wide living rosary, service to Holy Redeemer's sister parish in Togo, a sandwich-making event to serve those in need in the DC area, and more. Like Mary, these students' souls magnify the Lord and their spirits rejoice in God their Savior.

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## Shrine of St. Jude

## Kevin Gibbons SJRCS '15 Presented Research Project at MIT

Congratulations to Kevin Gibbons, St. Jude Regional Catholic School '15 and St. John's College High School '19!

This past Summer, Kevin, who will graduate from UMBC in Spring 2023, participated in the MIT Summer Research Program in Biology, a 10-week intense intern

research project for students interested in pursuing a degree in biomedical research. While at MIT, Kevin spent his time in Jacqueline Lee's research lab, researching the pathways of uveal melanoma, a type of eye cancer. At the end of the program, he presented his research with 40 other interns at a poster

symposium.

This Fall, Kevin will travel to Anaheim, California, to present these research findings at ABRCMS, a national undergraduate research conference.

SJRCS is so proud of you, Kevin!

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## St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St Jude: Donations and Volunteers Needed

By Mike Goss, Pantry Director

The St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude continues to serve nearly 200 families every Saturday morning, providing bags of non-perishable items and fresh produce (vegetables and fruit). With the current inflation, food prices continue to rise and suggest that those already coming to the pantry each week will continue.

Donations to the pantry are needed and should be placed on

the table across from the Thaddeus Room before or after school hours Monday through Friday, or 7:00 am to 6:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. The pantry's greatest needs continue to be one-pound boxes of spaghetti and plastic jars of pasta sauce as well as cans of soup, fruit, and vegetables. In addition, we struggle to maintain enough size 6 diapers.

In addition, 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](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry).

We are still accepting volunteers for inventory and for bag preparations and distribution days. If you wish to volunteer, please send your name, phone number, and email to: Mike Goss, Director, pantry@stjudeockville.org.

OPT



# Laudato Si's Call to Action

By Alison Rascher and Diana Hurley

Embracing the Holy Father's encyclical, *Laudato Si* (Care for Our Common Home), Our Lady of the Visitation Parish prepared for a massive rummage sale, aka the White Elephant Sale, held on September 10th. In Chapter Six, *Ecological Education and Spirituality*, Pope Francis encourages human beings to focus on the common good. "Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity." In that spirit of caring for the earth, our common home, parishioners were encouraged to donate items to the sale. The result was a full barn, pavilion and driveway overflowing with a vast selection of great finds for all ages and interests. The tireless efforts of OLVP Facilities Director, Tony Glander, and his team of Dettie Stack, Anita Stiger and Gladys Loughrey produced a successful event, which also raised funds for the parish.

An activity of this magnitude cannot be pulled off without the dedication and enthusiasm of a vast pool of volunteers. Members of the Sodality, in particular, spent countless hours sorting, washing and organizing the generous quantity of donations. Drop off days and the main event were supported by the parish youth who helped carry, load and unload the treasures. The early



At left: Toni, Joyce, and Jackie organize the toy room.

Below: Cashiers greet customers on the day of the sale.

Bottom photo: Dettie and Anita finish the final preparations in jewelry.



mage, artwork, jewelry, and a children's toy room. Outdoor spaces were overflowing with furniture, rugs, sporting goods and garden equipment awaiting a new home. To minimize waste and landfill use, items remaining after the sale were donated to Habitat for Humanity ReStore and local florists. The entire effort was a wonderful

time for friendships to grow while doing something not only good for the parish, but also for the environment. As Pope Francis noted, "Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God." (*Laudato Si*, 119)

OPT

rising customers found amazing deals and ultimately helped raise valuable funds for the parish. The spirit of "Reduce, reuse, and recycle" was actively embraced as the barn was transformed into a specialized shop featuring sporting goods, office supplies, kitchen appliances and dinnerware, lug-



Haitian students cheer lunch time.

## Sister Parish in Haiti Says Thanks!

By Canice Lawler and Diana Hurley

Notre Dame de la Visitation in Haiti celebrated their summer Bible Camp thanks to a generous series of gifts from their sister parish in Darnestown, Md. Notre Dame de la Visitation provided for over five hundred children during their summer Bible Camp program. Students were given lessons, meals, and time to celebrate their faith.

The sister parish relationship began in 2003 when founding pastor, Fr. Raymond Fecteau, formally adopted La Paroisse Notre Dame de la Visitation as the sister parish of Our Lady of the Visitation in Darnestown, MD. The relationship was deepened in 2007 when Fr. Effener Renelique, then pastor of Notre Dame de la Visitation which is located in Gonaives, Haiti, came to the United States and visited OLVP in Darnestown. Modest donations were sent three times annually gathered from the col-

lections of the Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Thursday masses. The sister parish program was originated and is still sponsored by the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

In 2021, Fr. Greg Shaffer committed to updating the relationship between the two parishes. He reached out directly to Fr. Andre Delavar, the current Pastor in Gonaives and queried "what can OLVP do now for its sister parish?" Fr. Delavar requested financial assistance for their popular Summer Camp program. Darnestown parishioners jumped to support this worthy effort. Two substantial donations were wired directly to the Haitian parish. Notre Dame de la Visitation has replied with extreme gratitude and shared many photos of the students and staff who benefitted directly from the much-needed financial gifts. OLVP hopes to further deepen the relationship between the two parishes, perhaps even resulting in a work trip to Haiti.

OPT



Classrooms are overflowing at Haitian Bible Camp.

## Montessori Program Gathers the Youngest to Jesus

By Erin Clegg

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish will open its first Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium starting on Sunday, September 25 for children ranging from age 3 to 6. The youth will learn about the liturgy through song, gestures, and arranging realistic articles that are used at Mass. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd speaks to the child's growing relationship with Christ as well as their changing developmental needs. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one that young children are especially drawn. They respond to the love and care of the Good Shepherd who "calls his sheep by name". A sense of wonder and awe help the young child to unlock the mystery of God's Kingdom through parables and scripture events.



The new atrium space has been carefully designed for some of the youngest members of the Our Lady of Visitation Parish community.

Montessori elements of practical life, as well as grace and courtesy lessons, balance the dynamic sessions. Mrs. Erin Clegg, Director

of Religious Education, attended an extensive preparation course over the summer to learn the Good Shepherd method as she will serve as the lead catechist. Materials for the Atrium were carefully collected over time from across the parish community and other atria at nearby parishes. Mrs. Clegg's own children assisted with preparing the Atrium environment. The Atrium is situated right off the vestibule of the Church and will be a dedicated space for the children to strengthen their connection to Christ. The sessions for ages 3 to 5 will be offered on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. First grade will meet on Tuesday evenings and will also participate in the CGS Atrium program. We look forward to the new program and seeing the faith of our children grow!

OPT

## Welcoming Men to Grow in Virtue

By Peter Geiling

Beginning in Lent 2022, Father Greg Shaffer challenged the men of Our Lady of Visitation Parish to commit to growing in their faith and spiritual life. This gave rise to the Upper Room Men's Group whose mission statement is to "Grow in Virtue

Continued on page 37

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# St. Pio Relic Enthroned at Our Lady Queen of Poland

By Franklin Morton, K of C Council 16634 and Bozenna Buda, ED

On Sunday, September 18, parishioners gathered at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, to view the relic of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, also called "Padre Pio." He was known for exhibiting stigmata, a term used by Catholics for inexplicable wounds on the forehead, hands, wrists, and feet, and said to be identical to those suffered by Jesus Christ during his crucifixion.

OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, SChr, celebrated the Holy Mass. SK Franklin Morton, District Warden and past GK of the Knights of Columbus St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634, led the procession as parishioners Mr. and Mrs. Bisk carried the Reliquary and the Certificate of Authentication to the altar.

The St. Pio relic that was solemnly enthroned at OLQP Parish is a First Class Relic, containing a piece of material that adhered to the side wound (stigma) of St. Pio. Fr. Frydrych noted that, "The relic of the saint is a great gift from God's Providence to our parish. Let us give thanks to God, Who is rich in His mercy, that our parish may be under the special protection of the saint, the Stigmatic of San Giovanni Rotondo."

Fr. Pio (1887-1968) was born Francesco Forgione in Pietrelcina, Italy. He joined the Franciscan Capuchin Order and was ordained in

1910. Miracles have been attributed to his intercession. He was canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II. His feast day is September 23, and on Sunday, our parish began a novena to "Sw. Ojciec Pio."

St. Pio during his lifetime would tell his listeners that, "There, in heaven, I will be to you even more helpful, and you must pray, trust, and not fall in spirit, because prayer is oxygen to the soul!"

At OLQP, St. Pio joins the relics of St. John Paul II, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Sr. Faustina, Bl. Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko, and the Blessed Martyrs Fr. Michal Tomaszek and Fr. Zbigniew Strzalkowski.

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Procession with the Relic of St. Pio on Sept. 18, 2022, led by SK Franklin Morton as Mr. & Mrs. Bisk carry the St. Pio Relic.



The St. Pio, "Sw. Ojciec Pio," First Class Relic and Certificate of Authentication at the OLQP altar.



Mr & Mrs. Bisk presented the St. Pio Relic and Certificate to OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, SChr. SK Morton is on the right.



OLQP parishioners venerate the St. Pio Relic.

## OLQP Parish Notes

### New School Year 2022-2023

The OLQP Polish Saturday School will begin its new school year on October 1, 2022. For information and registration please contact Mrs. Ewa Chlebowska at tel: 202-415-4166.

For Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP registration, please contact Bozenna Buda at bbudadc@gmail.com

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### Our Lady Queen of Poland

9700 Rosensteel Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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S. Chr. Pastor  
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Our Parish  
Times



Some of the participants at the August 14, 2022, Mass at OLQP: GK Stefan Witczak, Anna Kajkowska, Margaret Rogoyski, SK David Birely, SK John Armstrong, Konsul Edyta Holdynska, Deputy Chief of Mission Adam Krzywosadzki, Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, LTC Daniel Drogomirecki, Bozenna Buda, SK Jacek Marczyński, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, SK Richard Okreglak, SK Bob Dowlut, Beata Nolbert, Wiktoria, Konsul Nikodem Rachon.

## Honoring Our Heritage

By Bozenna Buda, ED

During the month of August, we commemorate several important dates and events. Thus, on Sunday, August 14, 2022, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD, Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, SChr, celebrated Holy Mass requested by the Polish American Congress Washington Metro Area Division (PACWMAD).

At Mass, we remembered our parish patron St. Maximilian Kolbe,

a Catholic priest who was martyred at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp during WWII. His relics are present at OLQP and can be venerated.

We prayed for the soldiers, civilians, and clergy who defended our Catholic faith and heritage at the 1920 Battle of Warsaw. This battle, also known as "The Miracle at the Wisla River" or Cud nad Wisla, occurred when the Polish army defeated a much larger Russian Bolshevik army due to Marshal

Pilsudski's plan. It is now recognized by noted historians as the decisive battle that saved Europe from being overrun by Communist Russian Bolsheviks (Norman Davies, Notes-from-Poland.com).

The successful outcome of the 1920 Battle is also attributed to the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary, to whom the Polish nation had prayed beforehand. Some paintings of the battle depict Blessed Virgin Mary above the battlefield. And the date of the decisive battle coincides

with the feast of the Assumption.

In addition to PACWMAD, participants at Mass included representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Knights of Columbus St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Polish Scouting Organization, and others.

The commemoration of these events is an opportunity to share our heritage with the younger generation and to help them draw inspiration and hope for the future.

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## FIRST DAY FUN



Above: Fr. Nicholas gave PreK-4 students a special blessing on their first day.

At left: Fr. Kalita kicked off the 2022-2023 school year with the traditional blessing of the backpacks

Below: Fourth-Grade teacher Mrs. Moshovitis takes a group photo with her class on the first day.



Above: Students pose together on their first day of Kindergarten.



One of the newly renovated classrooms at Saint Peter's is ready to welcome students.

## Saint Peter's Expands, Completes Classroom Renovations

**S**aint Peter's School is celebrating its 65th anniversary with the final phase of expansion to a two-track school in grades Preschool-4 through Grade 8. The school has also added a dedicated Preschool program for three year olds.

To accommodate the increased enrollment, several spaces in the school had to be repurposed or renovated to create new classrooms including a second first grade and a second fifth grade classroom. The necessary construction was accomplished in record time with-

out changing the actual footprint of the building. Two extra-large classrooms were remodeled, teachers gave up one of their work rooms, and the School of Religion ministry shared some of their space. All of the construction was completed during the summer, and classroom furniture and materials were moved in just days before the students arrived – whew! The spaces are cozy and colorful! What a blessing for the Saint Peter's School to be able to celebrate 65 years of a thriving, loving community!

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## A New Outdoor Gathering Place at St. Peter's School

**S**aint Peter's faculty and students have a new place to gather outdoors thanks to a donation of five repurposed benches. The Giron family obtained the benches from a local hotel that was looking to discard them. They were worn down, with peeling paint, but the family saw the potential and spent several months restoring and refinishing them before donating them to the school. Made of sustainable teak wood planks on metal frames, each bench is now customized with the Saint Peter's logo, installed by the Giron family. With the help of several parents during the School Clean-Up Day, the benches were installed in a semi-circle outside of the breezeway, creating a new space where classes can gather for reading, music, snack time, and more. Future plans for the space, being developed by the school's Green Team, include planting a ground cover with stepping stones and some larger landscaping in lieu



Second graders enjoy time reading outdoors.

of the wood chips; installing rain barrels for irrigation of the space; and installing some form of sun/rain protection.

"We hope the benches can become an outdoor gathering place for the school and parish community. Spending time outside has so

many positive benefits for physical and mental well-being; and if you get kids outside at a young age, they learn to appreciate the outdoors and are more inclined to take care of it," said Margaret Giron.

Having students spend more time

outdoors is just one of the initiatives of Saint Peter's Green Team, a group of parents and faculty that leads the school's sustainability efforts. Last year, the group organized the Student Sustainability Club, where middle-school students learned about energy and water

conservation and participated in projects including a school grounds clean-up and installing energy-saving informational signs in the classrooms. The team is working on several more green initiatives this year, with the goal of becoming a certified Maryland Green School.

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## VIRTUE

Con't from page 35

and Christ". The group discusses various aspects of our Catholic faith and how men may best respond to the cultural and societal pressures affecting their marriages, families, church community, and the community at-large. The group is modeled after a group initiated in 2004 by Father Dan Leary while he was

serving at Saint Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg.

The Upper Room launched with a guest speaker presenting on the virtue of Chastity and overcoming sin. Throughout Lent, the group discussed the weekly Gospel readings. The group shifted to reading Bishop Olmstead's Apostolic Exhortation, "Into the Breach". Presently, the group is working through Saint John's Gospel. Future plans include Father Donald

Calloway's "Consecration to Saint Joseph" beginning on December 22, 2022. Men regularly attending the Upper Room meetings enjoy the fellowship while supporting church events and activities. Father Greg's vision for the Upper Room is for men to lead smaller group discussions and help others to grow in their faith.

Men aged twenty and above are welcome to participate in the Upper Room Men's Group Saturday morn-

ing meetings between 7:30 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. while enjoying coffee, donuts, and thought-provoking conversation. No dues or fees are required to participate and there is no limit to the size of the group. If you would like to participate in the Upper Room Men's Group or have questions about the group, please email Peter Geiling at pgeiling67@gmail.com or contact the parish office.

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### St. Peter's Parish

2900 Sandy Spring Road  
Olney, MD

Rev. Thomas Kalita, Pastor

301-924-3774

stpetersolney.org

St. Peter's School

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

301-774-9112

stpetersschoololney.org

### ParishTimes Online





## DRE

Con't from page 15

Maryland, where he studied medieval European history, which is as close as you can get at Maryland to studying the history of the Church, and classical languages. He got to know people at the Catholic Student Center, including friends who went into mission work with FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

He taught at St. Mary's School in Rockville for eight years before Msgr. Filardi recruited him to become DRE. At St. Mary's, he was influenced by another teacher, Carol Bowling – a convert, now retired – who challenged her stu-

dents, and Matt, to read good literature as well as history and biographies. So now he's plowing his way through Dante.

Becoming the DRE after Lisa Nueslein is a huge challenge. She was DRE for 17 years and knew everyone. She's coaching him along: "She's been gracious and helpful – and especially patient."

His plans? He intends to be a servant to all who want to learn about the Catholic faith, providing "servant leadership." He wants to be part of the new evangelization that the Church, from the Pope to DREs and parents, is engaged in. He wants to help build a Catholic culture and faith community, with people who love the Lord and his Church.

Welcome, Matt!

OPT

## BREAKFAST

Con't from page 15

and a weird little package of slippery blocky fruit things and yes-another-cup-please. You can aim for a Patriotic Theme: red vegetables in your "Siesta" eggs, and blueberries in your pancakes. The old pattern persists, but without the old confidence and tranquility. Questions hover in the air: can we have all that without sugar or saturated fat or any fat at all or preservatives or dairy or gluten or meat or caffeine? One clean napkin coming right up. One day, perhaps, Middle Eastern and Asian and African and Latino parishioners will transform this thing, providing a global variety of healthy food to supplement the old standard – but not just yet.

The breakfast is provided by the Men's Club. For decades, St. Paul's has had two nearly identical groups, the Knights of Columbus and the Men's Club. The Knights:

they're Catholic, with some serious organization and an insurance program. But the parish founders included a list of non-Catholics with hammers and skills and open hearts. So the Men's Club: they're Catholic or married to a Catholic or have some kind of family link with the parish, and they have all heard of organization somewhere. Joining the Knights (until recent reforms) required an evening with some medieval pageantry, with capes and plumes and swords and stuff. Joining the Men's Club took a minute with a beer (optional). There's not a lot of tension between the two groups; there's considerable membership overlap. The president of the Men's Club is Mike Mangan (magmamike@gmail.com); he's organized but calm – magma with a chuckle and a spatula.

Next breakfast: October 9. Rumor: Santa is coming to the December breakfast. Y'all come! Splatter your platter.

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## REBUILD

Con't from page 30

the right adult leaders can help to clarify that for them. They can help form their identity as people and believers."

Eight tweens and teens gathered August 28 – the day before Montgomery County Public Schools reopened their doors for the new school year – for a Welcome Back Pizza Party in the Parish Center. When the middle school- and high school-aged students reconvened on Sunday, September 11, their ranks had nearly tripled to 21 kids, with nearly an even split between middle schoolers and high schoolers.

For Andrew Einsmann, one of the core adult volunteers and the parent of a sixth grader, the sight of children gathering for Youth Group in the Parish Center was a welcome scene. He had volunteered with Youth Ministry from 2007 to 2010, during the tenure of former Youth Minister Sue Lea, and has kept tabs on young people who were teens then and are now young adults.

He said he felt buoyed by the attendance of a large middle school-aged contingent, since kids who get

involved early have time to grow into leaders as they approach high school.

"When parents are in the background and the kids are teaching themselves, that's when you see amazing stuff," Einsmann said. "The younger kids now have role models that are closer to their age."

For now, the Youth Ministry, coordinated by Youth Minister Travis Tomon, plans to gather every two weeks as a group. While the gatherings thus far have been in-person affairs with food and ice breakers, religious formation, a game, songs and prayer, future activities may also include movie nights, sports-oriented community outings, service to the poor, Holy Hour, Confession, retreats and music.

As his son navigates middle school, Einsmann hinted that he hopes he will have a peer group with whom to be as comfortable reading the Bible as playing Roblox, an online game popular among tweens. "My hope is the kids who leave our parish will have a strong enough faith to defend their faith when they go out into the world and remain faithful for the rest of their lives," he said. "It's hard for parents to do that alone."

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## HR Welcomes Mrs. Ann Low

Mrs. Low joins Holy Redeemer's middle school faculty, after a career in the Foreign Service. In this new vocation, Mrs. Low has three goals for her sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students. "I am most looking forward to helping middle-schoolers to become well organized, avid readers, and critical thinkers who are ready for high school."

As an elementary student attending the Derby Academy in Hingham, MA, Ann especially liked art and math. A quote from her all-time



Mrs. Ann Low, Middle School Literature Teacher

favorite children's book, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine Engle, reveals her view on the power of challenging students to read great literature that is formative to both the soul and the intellect:

"A book, too, can be a star, a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe."

We are delighted and proud to welcome Mrs. Low and look forward to watching her students achieve the key goals for lifelong learning.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Con't from page 30

more than 30 parishioners, several of whom posed questions of Fr. G during a live question and answer session.

Sharon Sierra-Koscinski, a parishioner at St. Francis since 2005, attended the event after Fr. G anoint-

ed her in late July before undergoing a surgery. Wanting to get to know him better, she was impressed both that he shared having felt lost as a teen and finding his way back to enlightenment and that he played the guitar to wrap up the interview. "It shows he's a real person – that he has another side of him that is fun, enjoys life, and has a sense of humor," Sierra-Koscinski said.

With the YouTube video hav-

ing garnered close to 300 views, Scaltrito said having the recorded event posted online does allow it to live on and reach more people. "That's a communicator's dream," he said. "In the Church, it puts a modern spin on spreading the word of God."

See the "Getting to Know Fr. G event" at <https://youtu.be/WTUxK52XKU0>.

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Present status of construction on the new church in Carcass, Haiti.



The funds raised through, The Brides for Haiti, have provided on-going revenue to support the needs of the parishioners of St. Joseph's. Brides are thrilled with the extensive selection of gowns, as well as the reasonable cost.



Ben and Diana Snouffer faithfully set up a display of Haitian Arts & Crafts, as well as delicious coffee grown in Haiti to sell at Church functions.

## HAITI

Con't from page 29

incredibly helpful and patient as I tried on about a dozen dresses until I found one that made me want to cry – it was perfect!" In the eleven plus years Brides For Haiti has been in existence, it has donated more than \$200,000 to St. Mary's Haiti Twinning Mission. The organization, conceived of and established by Susan Jamison, has played an integral role in St. Mary's ability to help our brothers and sisters in

Carcasse. *Brides For Haiti's* staff of Laura Wright, Patti Bohr, and Wendy Eaton (who bought her own wedding gown from Brides For Haiti and donated it back where upon it sold again) spend countless hours procuring inventory, advertising, booking appointments, and giving each bride the attention they deserve. Your purchase of a gown from *Brides For Haiti* will be perfect for your special day and will also assist in supporting a small village in Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Check our Facebook page for the

latest advertisements! [www.brides-4haiti.com](http://www.brides-4haiti.com)

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Barnesville, MD established a Twinning relationship with St. Joseph's, Carcasse, Haiti in 2008. Fourteen years later the two parishes are constructing a new church to replace the one destroyed by Hurricane Matthew in 2014. Susan Jamison's *Brides for Haiti* is one example of how the Holy Spirit works among us.

To donate, please go to [www.stmaryonline.com/haiti-twinning](http://www.stmaryonline.com/haiti-twinning)

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## COLA

Con't from page 31

ever received by most Social Security beneficiaries alive today," said Mary Johnson, the Senior Citizens League's Social Security and Medicare policy analyst. "There were only three other times since the start of automatic adjustments that it was higher (1979-1981)."

The Senior Citizens League and other senior advocacy groups have often criticized the formula for calculating the Social Security COLA because it doesn't account for increases in the Medicare Part B premium, which is 14.5% higher this year than in 2021. This often leads to Social Security checks falling short of the actual inflation rate for seniors.

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Sources: *The Motley Fool*, *The Senior Citizens League*

## GET ACTIVE

Con't from page 31

- "Feel the Music" experience
- Mini Garden Creation
- Photo Scavenger Hunt
- Walk with a Doc
- Live musical performances
- and more...

In the event of inclement weather, "Go, Grow, and Get Active" activities will be moved indoors and the schedule will be modified. The vendor area will be canceled. Registered participants will be notified via email.

To learn more about changing the way you age, visit [ActiveAgingWeek.com](http://ActiveAgingWeek.com)

Explore other FREE activities offered by agencies throughout the county by viewing the calendar at [montgomerycountymd.gov/senior](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/senior)

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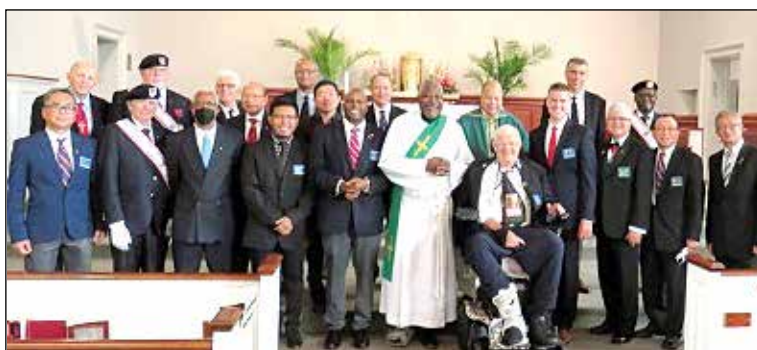
# St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus Installs New Officers

By David Bludis

On Sunday, August 21, the Knights of Columbus at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church conducted its annual installation of new council officers. They began the day by celebrating the 10:00 AM Mass with the St. Michael's congregation. A few members of Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly #386 Color Corps stood guard during the entrance and exit processions. Following the Mass, council members, their family members, and parishioners were invited to participate in the installation ceremony in the Williamsburg Room.

The installation ceremony was led by Gus Gusman, the District Deputy of the Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus District 11. He was assisted by Bill Newbrough, the Online Membership Chairman of the Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus. Monsignor Eddie Tolentino, the Council Chaplain, presided over the installation ceremony. After the installation ceremony, members, their families, and parishioners enjoyed some fellowship over a delicious barbecue potluck meal.

At the conclusion of the reception, Grand Knight David Bludis presented two awards to members of the council. The Family of the Year award was presented to Sir Knight James (Jim) Robertson's family for their countless contributions to the council and the parish. Grand Knight Bludis also recognized Sir



Knights of Columbus Council 15084 members accompanied by members of the Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle Assembly 386 Color Corp members, the District Deputy of the Maryland State Council, Knights of Columbus District 11, Gus Gusman, Deacon Curtis Rodney, and Monsignor Eddie Tolentino.



Monsignor Eddie Tolentino, Chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 15084, bestows a blessing over the newly installed council officers, who are positioned in the form of the cross, symbolic of their work serving the Lord and his people.

Knight Stephen Holowenzak for 25 years of service to the Knights of Columbus across the world.

If you would like to learn more about the Knights of Columbus at St. Michael's, or if you are a Catholic gentleman at least 18 years

of age and are interested in joining the council, please contact Grand Knight David Bludis (dbludis@gmail.com).

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## STEM

Con't from page 10

lum empowers students to solve real-world challenges and to think about how they can incorporate their ideas into projects that can help people in their everyday lives.

Project Lead and Way and Gateway to Engineering provide a unique STEM and engineering experience that helps build the foundation for St. Patrick's students as they prepare to enter high school. Mr. Falatko has witnessed the benefit of exposing middle school students to STEM programs throughout middle school, noting that earlier exposure to STEM ignites student curiosity and fuels their interests as they move through

high school and into college. Many of his prior students have pursued engineering and other science related fields as adults. Allowing students to explore more interests throughout middle school has been beneficial to his past students and continues to be beneficial for the students of St. Patrick's.

Fueled by Mr. Falatko's enthusiasm and encouragement, we witness the excitement and energy in the classroom when our students can transform a sketch into something tangible that they can hold in their hands and pass around the room. We look forward to growing the program and seeing our students thrive in the Project Lead the Way curriculum as they choose their path in high school, college, and beyond.

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## SPORTS

Con't from page 6

season is off and running! Our soccer players demonstrated lots of effort in our tryouts and their soccer season is underway. Players are working on building their skills and look forward to their games this season against area schools. The girls volleyball team is trying out and looking forward to a successful season!

### Lower School Sports

Our Lower School Flag Football Clinic begins this September and players will work

on throwing, catching, running routes, and participating in scrimmages. The participants will learn about the game and have fun! Students also have the opportunity to play our After School Sports Activity as well which focuses on a variety of sports.

### Montessori Sports

Our 3, 4, and 5 year olds in our Motnessori preschool are starting their soccer experience on Thursdays and Fridays this week. They will learn the basics of soccer and have fun with their classmates!

The Athletic Department is busy at The Woods and is excited for a fun fall season. #GoMightyOwls

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**Jack Sullivan & Molly Tyson**  
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