



# OUR Parish Times

Summer Camp Special  
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MARCH 2016

Living the Faith Together

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## What's Your Passion?



Chuck Short

By Chuck Short

Before reflecting on this question, let's celebrate a few notable local Catholic achievements. Msgr. John Enzler, President of Catholic Charities, in priest at St. Bartholomew's, will receive the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless Distinguished Service Award at its annual gala on April 21. Fr. John is being honored for his enduring commitment to serving homeless people and in particular for his leadership in Montgomery County to engage faith communities in providing permanent housing and furnishings for homeless veterans. His passion to end homelessness among vets is an important reason why Montgomery County is only the second community in the nation to have officially ended homelessness

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## Welcome Home, Ms. O'Sullivan!

*St. Bartholomew School Graduate Josie O'Sullivan Returns to St. Bart's as a Teacher*

When Josie O'Sullivan graduated from St. Bartholomew School in 2003, she never dreamed that she would one day return as a teacher, but fate and good fortune eventually brought her back home to St. Bart's. Ms. O'Sullivan graduated from Marymount University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and has "worked with children her entire life." "I knew I wanted to be a teacher since fifth grade," she recalls. She told OPT, "After teaching at Stone Ridge, I heard that St. Bart's School was looking for a second-grade teacher. I loved the idea of coming back to Saint Bart's, so I sent my resume in; they called back a couple of days later and after many interviews, I got the job."

In August, when she was getting ready to prepare for the first day of school at St. Bart's, she wasn't nervous: "I knew the hallways, the classrooms, the teachers, the traditions; it felt like coming home and my transition from student to teacher was seamless."

Ms. O'Sullivan reports that St. Bart's School Principal Stephen Lamont and the rest

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St. Bartholomew School's second-grade class pauses for an OPT photo as teacher Josie O'Sullivan looks on.

## Advocacy for People with Developmental Disabilities



Betty Bahadori

By Betty Bahadori

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and April is Autism Awareness Month.

The Justice and Advocacy Council of the Archdiocese of Washington of Montgomery County advocates for the poor and vulnerable residents in the county. Along with issues such as access to low-income housing, job training, public transportation, and child care, we also work on behalf of vulnerable populations including those with developmental disabilities.

Each fall, we meet individually with County Council Members to remind them of the importance of adequate funding for disabilities services for developmentally disabled residents.

The funding of these services helps to ensure they receive the care they need; many of them need a direct care professionals around the clock. These caregivers do a job that is challenging and takes specific skills and training, but their wages often barely exceed the minimum wage. We are therefore concerned that an increase in the minimum wage without a commensurate increase in caregivers' wages could push them out of their jobs into employment that may even pay

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## Reflection and Renovation

By Michelle Ardillo

If you enjoy reality television, there are many ways to get your fix. TV writers and producers have drawn from many stereotypes to satiate our desire to see how the other half lives: bachelors, housewives, survivors, hoarders, singers and dancers, chefs, deep sea fishermen, and more. I am intrigued by the popular HGTV shows where houses are renovated and either returned to their former splendor or, better yet, completely transformed into something far better than the original,



shows such as *Rehab Addict*, *Flip or Flop*, *Property Brothers*, and *Love it or List it*. My all-time favorite, however, is *Fixer*

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## Poverty Education Week at St. John's



John Harrison of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau spoke to St. John's juniors about his personal experiences with homelessness.

By Kathy Howe

An essential element of a Catholic education, in the Lasallian tradition, is to learn of the Gospel mandate to be in solidarity with and in service to those in need, particularly the (economically) poor. In support of this moral obligation, the St. John's College High School community comes together each year for Poverty Education Week. This year's initiative, which took place March 7-11, offered lessons across the curriculum, along with presentations, displays and activities designed to deepen students' understanding of the causes and issues surrounding economic poverty.

This innovative program leaves a lasting

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John Glennon Jr., the new Headmaster of Georgetown Prep

## John Glennon Jr. named Headmaster of Georgetown Prep

In February, Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., President of Georgetown Preparatory School announced that John Glennon Jr. has been named the next Headmaster of Georgetown Prep, effective July 1, 2016. He will succeed Jeffrey L. Jones, who announced his retirement in May after nine years as the school's Headmaster.

No stranger to our community, John served in various administrative capacities at Georgetown Prep from 2001 to 2010. This past July, he returned to the school as Assistant Headmaster. Over the past seven

*Continued on page 3*



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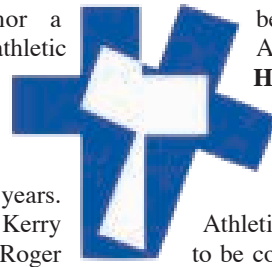
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## 2016 Youth Coaches Hall of Fame Nominations

Each year, CBN-MC gathers to honor a group of youth athletic coaches who have made extraordinary contributions to CYO and other youth athletic programs over the years. In 2015, we honored Kerry Durst of St. Raphael, Roger Kimiecik of St. Mary's, and Jack McGuinness of Little Flower. Nominations are now open for



our 2016 inductees, who will be recognized at the 17th Annual Youth Coaches Hall of Fame Luncheon on April 21, 2016 at Georgetown Preparatory School's Hanley Center for Athletic Excellence. In order to be considered for this award, each honoree must have at least five years of volunteer experience in CYO and other youth sports

programs.

Nominate your favorite coach, athletic director, CYO Coordinator, referee or umpire to the CBN-MC Youth Coaches Hall of Fame.

Submit your nomination online at: [cbnmc.com/members/coaches/nomination](http://cbnmc.com/members/coaches/nomination)

Nominees must have served a minimum of 5 years in the role for which they are nominated. Nominations must be received by March 24, 2016.

OPT

## All I Know about God I Learned in Lent

If you have a good memory, you may be looking at that headline and thinking, "Wait a minute. Didn't Father John say all he knows about God he learned in Advent?"

Well, yes, and the same is true of Lent. When I was growing up, these two seasons in our home and in our family taught me



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

an awful lot about God and how important it is to put God first in our lives. We have about two weeks left in Lent, and it's not too late to get in touch with this season of forgiveness and mercy, especially with Holy Week coming up.

I recently learned of a very touching story from Catholic

Charities' Sanctuaries for Life program, located in Wheaton. A woman named "Nina" came to us pregnant and living with a deep depression. Because she was unmarried, her family had all but stopped supporting her. And the father of her soon to be child was hardly involved, sadly. We asked her what she needed.

Sanctuaries for Life helps provide medical care and social work to support low-income pregnant women or women who might be considering an abortion, but Nina answered a little different.

"I need love," she said solemnly. Over the course of her pregnancy, Nina met each week with one of our most experienced social workers, Roz Williams, who often times was simply that caring friend we all depend on – listening to her worries, reassuring her, and troubleshooting problems as they came up. I am happy to report that Nina had a healthy baby boy about four months ago. The staff report that when they speak with Nina, it's like talking to a different person. She's back at work now, but she has overcome the depression she fought for so long.

The Church suggests fasting, prayer and almsgiving for our Lenten journeys, and I still focus on those. In this special Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, I'm trying to pay special attention to acts of penance, especially in ways that help me stand in solidarity more with people like Nina. Lent doesn't have to be about fasting, prayer and almsgiving in spectacular ways. One thing I try is to do "regular"

*Continued on page 3*

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## HEADMASTER

Con't from page 1

months, John has worked closely with Fr. Pilarz and Jeffrey Jones in the supervision of Prep's educational program and the making and implementation of school policy.

His wide range of experience at Georgetown Prep is complemented by his work in education outside our community. In 2010, John earned an Ed.M. in School Leadership from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. While in Boston, he served as a principal intern at TechBoston Academy, a pilot school in the Boston Public School System.

In 2011, John moved to Philadelphia to help found Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School whose aim is to prepare students from families with limited economic means for success in college and beyond. The school will graduate

its first class of seniors in June, 100% of whom have already been accepted to a four-year college or university. John served as Assistant Principal at the school, which opened in 2012, and was responsible for faculty and staff recruitment, curriculum development, family communications, and the academic support program. While in Philadelphia he also taught math and English.

John is a product of Jesuit education. He graduated from Boston College High School and earned a B.A. in Government with a minor in Economics from Georgetown University. He also received a Master of Public Policy degree with a concentration in education, social, and family policy from Georgetown. John lives in Silver Spring with his wife, Kim.

Fr. Pilarz stated, "I was very pleased by the number and quality of the candidates for Headmaster at Prep. I'm grateful to all members

of the Prep community who participated in the process, especially our Search Committee. Thanks to their hard work, we have found a first-rate teacher and administrator who knows our school and is steeped in the Jesuit educational tradition. John's experience and expertise will help us do even more remarkable things for our students and the greater glory of God."

John noted, "I feel humbled and blessed by this opportunity. Jesuit education has been challenging young minds and changing the world for over 400 years. Georgetown Prep has played an important role in that history. What's even more exciting is the impact we can have going forward. I look forward to supporting our students and faculty as we imagine and create that future together."

OPT

## ENZLER

Con't from page 2

things just a little bit better, and maybe that will help you, too.

For example, my prayer life always needs strengthening. Some people think that's not true of priests, but it's true of all of us. I find the liturgies and daily Mass readings to be very helpful throughout Lent. They are reminders of my need for more conversation with the Lord, and frankly, more solitude and quiet time in my daily life. Lent helps bring that into focus.

In terms of fasting, I give up certain foods and fast on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and additional days during Lent. I also try other things that are more personal to me. I do them because they are reminders. That empty stomach feeling on fast days is one very small sacrifice that reminds me of my hunger for God and the Lord's ultimate sacrifice for me. That desire for some-

thing I've given up reminds me of the Lord's desire for my love and how my greatest desire should be to love the Lord in return.

Almsgiving is the realization that God has blessed us in so many ways, and that we are called to share our gifts with those who might be less fortunate. There are a variety of opportunities to give back in Lent, such as the Rice Bowl program that so many parishes participate in, the Cardinal's Appeal, donating or volunteering with us at Catholic Charities, and more. Your help, however big or small, reaches someone like Nina.

As we look ahead to Holy Week, I think back to how that was the height of my Lenten learning experience. Our family went to all of the major celebrations: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Each has its own special liturgy and own identity as a Feast. I remember walking in the procession with palms on Palm Sunday. I remember watching carefully as

the priest washed the feet of fellow parishioners on Holy Thursday, including some who were my age at the time. Good Friday and reverencing the cross was a moving time for me, and as a priest all of these years later, I see that it is still special for so many people who want to be close to the Lord in his suffering and journey toward the resurrection.

These were all ways our family learned not just about the feasts themselves but about how much God loves us and how he died on the cross so that all of us could share the gift of eternal life.

Let's make it a strong finish to Lent. If you're anything like me, it can take a while to get your focus, so let's use these last couple of weeks to make this Lent meaningful. We can all be the caring, listening friend to someone in need. We can all make the small sacrifices to help someone else have a little bit more, and in doing so, remember who God has called us to be.

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Registration Includes:

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After school on Friday, April 22 from 12:30 - 2 PM; at the pre-race Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, April 22 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM; or on Race Day beginning at 7:30 AM

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## Kids' Night Bingo at St. John the Baptist

**"T**ony loves the screaming," says SJB mom Jennifer Margiotta. For most of us, if someone told us this was a child's favorite part of

an event, we might be reluctant to volunteer to help. Fortunately for SJB, Courtney Gardner said "yes" when she was asked to take over Kids' Night Bingo three years ago.

As Ms. Gardner puts it, "It really is so much fun; it's a difficult event to mess up."

Over 200 kids from SJB par-

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## Lenten Supper Talks at St. John the Baptist

**A** simple soup, bread and social justice summarizes the modest goals of Lenten Supper Talks at St John the Baptist. Lenten Supper Talks occur each Friday during Lent and provide a forum to

present information about a social justice issue and ways in which parishioners can make a difference. Cynthia Norris, SJB's Director of Social Concerns, organizes the presentation series each year. Ms.

Norris says the annual series began more than 15 years ago.

Ms. Norris relies on the support of a small committee to identify presentation topics. The committee

*Continued on page 38*

## Father Daughter Dance

St. John the Baptist's first annual dance for SJB girls and their fathers/grandfathers/uncles/godfathers took place the weekend after Valentines' Day in the school gym.



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(L-R) Gen. Mark A. Milley, Lt. Gen. West's son Logan, a Plebe at the Military Academy at West Point, her daughter Sydney and her husband, retired U.S. Army Col. Donald West.

## St. Jane de Chantal Parishioner Now Army Surgeon General

**O**n February 9, Lt. Gen. Nadja West, the 44th surgeon general of the U.S. Army and Commanding General of U.S. Army Medical Command, received her third star during a promotion and swearing-in ceremony at Fort Myer, making her the first African-American Army surgeon general and the highest ranking female to have graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

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Lt. Gen. West taking the oath of office administered by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Milley. The Bible used in the swearing-in ceremony belongs to Fr. Sam Giese, pastor of St. Jane de Chantal. Photo by James Caulfield



Fr. Sam Giese, pastor of St. Jane de Chantal and Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army National Guard in Washington, with Lt. Gen. West. Photo by James Caulfield

## DAR Honors St. Jane de Chantal Student Winners

by Mary Russell

**T**wo of St. Jane de Chantal School students, Cecelia Swartz and Conor Shaheen, have been honored by the Goshen Mills Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Cecelia is the Chapter's eighth-grade winner of its American History Essay Contest, and Conor is the seventh-grade winner. The students read their winning essays during the Chapter's February meeting and were presented with certificates, bronze medals, and Barnes and Noble gift cards. Cecelia lives in Bethesda and was joined by her parents, Sheila and Neal Swartz, and her sister, Nina, a fifth grader. Conor was accompanied by his parents, Maureen and Mark Shaheen, also of Bethesda, his twin brother, Timothy, his sisters, Erin and Maggie, both Georgetown Visitation students, and his grandparents, Dan and Joanne Shaheen of Rockville.

In a surprise announcement, the Chapter's American



Attendees at the DAR Celebration of St. Jane de Chantal Winners (L-R): American History Chairman Karma Beal, Nina Swartz, Neal Swartz, Sheila Swartz, Cecelia Swartz, English teacher Shannon Cron, Conor Shaheen, Maureen Shaheen, Erin Shaheen, Timothy Shaheen, Maggie Shaheen, Joanne Shaheen, Dan Shaheen, and Mark Shaheen.

History Chairman, Karma Beal, reported that a panel of independent judges has named Cecelia as Maryland's eighth-grade winner in the state-wide contest. She was honored at an awards luncheon on March 19 during the Maryland State DAR's

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**St. Jane de Chantal Parish**  
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**Susana and Mario Cerritelli,**  
OPT Editors

## Brother Ed: Reflecting Back and Looking Forward

Special contribution by  
Brother Edward J. Adams

**B**rother Edward J. Adams, an active member of St. Jane de Chantal Parish, celebrated his 70 year diamond jubilee as a De La Salle Christian Brother. He was honored at a February 7th mass, celebrated by Cardinal Wuerl, along with other women and men in consecrated life celebrating milestone anniversaries. In his own words, Br. Ed gave pearls of wisdom regarding the Church, to which he has devoted his entire life.

"It is rewarding to me to look back over ten intense years of Lasallian formation with holy men and being a member of the largest teaching institute in the world, imbued with the spirituality of St John Baptist de la Salle, universal Patron of Christian Teachers.

I was studying in Rome at the outset of the Second Vatican Council, inspired by the breaking Good News of Evangelization and the universal call of the laity to holiness.

After 35 years of teaching and Administration at St John's College, I responded to a call from Cardinal Baum to work with the Paulist Fathers in opening their National Office for Evangelization, which led to the NCCB and National Council of Christian Churches. Afterwards, I went on to CARA, the Church Research Center, and then to evangelization roles at



Brother Edward J. Adams

the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Looking ahead, while I see a drop off in numbers of nominal Catholics who pay, pray, and obey and occasionally go to Mass, I now see in the Church, including St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish, the emergence of lay people responding to the New Evangelization by truly living their faith. They are

bringing the Good News into our culture in their spheres of influence, demonstrating their genuine love for God and neighbor.

It makes a huge difference to see our clergy encouraging and empowering rather than controlling the laity. The role of the laity in the media, television (EWTN), Radio (1160 AM), on the Internet, and in special places such as the Basilica and the Ratner Museum fosters further education and dramatic growth ahead for the Church. I foresee lively member interaction in which love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable. When we see God in our neighbor we are in communion and become one in Christ's body. The Good News is that nothing except deliberate sin can separate us from the loving presence of God wherever we are, or wherever we go. This message of living in God's presence continues to resound in Lasallian schools worldwide to millions of students and is a reminder to billions of Lasallian alumni globally."

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## Lenten Activities at St. Martin's Parish

### • Lenten Retreats

Lenten retreats for Spanish speakers were held on Feb. 13 and for English speakers on Feb. 20.

### • Daily Mass at 12:15pm

Throughout the Lenten and Easter season enjoy this wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually and become closer to God. Masses will be celebrated Mondays through Fridays, beginning on Feb. 14 and concluding in May.

### • The Light Is On For You

On Wednesdays of Lent, two priests will be in the church for confessions from 6:30pm to 8pm.

### • Stations of the Cross

Join us every Friday evening in the Church for Stations of the Cross at 7 pm, followed by Evening Prayer at 8 pm. Both events are bilingual.

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## Kris Quinn and Zimmerman Automotive Nominated for CBN Honors

By Anne Gemunder

**C**ongratulations to two St. Martin's parishioners who were nominated as the Volunteer of the Year and Business Partner of the Year for the prestigious annual Catholic Business

Network awards. Both have generously supported St. Martin's in innumerable ways throughout the years.

Kris Quinn was named St. Martin's Volunteer of the Year. She has been a familiar face at the par-

ish and school for the past 40 years and has donated countless hours of support. Two of her children graduated from St. Martin's and one of her grandchildren is now attending. Kris is currently a School

*Continued on page 38*



St. Martin's students enjoy bingo during Catholic Schools Week. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

## St. Martin's Religious Education Program

By Cate Nora, Eighth Grader

**R**eligion education is very special and valuable. It something a person will keep for the rest of their lives, and St. Martin's has an amazing religious education program to provide knowledge about God to all. Not only does St. Martin's have provide English and Spanish classes for

grades kindergarten through eighth, but they also have classes for teens and adults. And, after every weekend class, there is always a Mass that students and families are encouraged to attend. Religious education classes teach students about their faith and how to live it each day. They also help students prepare for the sacraments.

Preparing and teaching students

is so important to religious education that there are over 130 catechists and over 60 assistants. In addition to classes, the help with retreats and field trips. Recently, thirty students visited the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in preparation for Confirmation. A day retreat for all the children receiving their

*Continued on page 34*

### St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Pastor

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**St. Martin School**  
**Andrew Piotrowski**  
Principal

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**Catherine Cooksey**  
Parish Editor  
240-477-8706  
[www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)

**More St. Martin of Tours**  
**News on Page 38**

## Choosing to March for Life

By Christopher Rodriguez, Eighth Grader

**O**ver 10,000 people made the choice to go outside, down to Washington D.C., and stand for life in 2016. Ten thousand people sacrificed their Friday, time, and warmth just to tell others that abortion is wrong. The March for Life was a very moving experience. You learned why people support life. March for Life really tells you what it means to speak for the unborn. It opens your eyes. You learn what it really means to be "pro-life" because a lot of people that go to March for Life don't take

part in any other pro-life event until the following year.

Abortion and euthanasia happen all the time, and many people only give one of 365 days to these people. March for Life helps you think about what you could do as a Catholic to help always be in support for those who can't speak yet. It teaches you all life is equal, no matter how young or old. Finally, it shows you how all these people, no matter how different we look and are, we all are against the killing of unborn babies that could've really changed the world if they had lived.

OPT



# Small Groups Lead to Large Success for Youth Ministry

By Maureen Stiles

One of St. Mary's greatest gifts is our Youth Ministry (YM) leader, Matt Curley. Matt took over the program a few years ago and has seen it grow and thrive ever since. Perhaps his own involvement with Youth Ministry as a teen gives him the perspective to structure a program that draws kids to religion at a time where many their age wander away.

Matt, also a teacher at St. Mary's school, grew up in Damascus Maryland where he attended public school and then went to UMD for undergraduate studies.

"I was always involved in YM as a teen," Matt says. "Right after my confirmation I wanted to make my relationship with God the center of my life, so I started going to St.

Paul's Youth Group as soon as I could and remained involved in it as a student leader all through High School. I then participated in and helped out at the Catholic Student Center at the University of Maryland where I was also a student leader for a number of years."

Under Matt's leadership, the program retains its long standing goal of forming teens as intentional Disciples of Christ and giving them an environment where they can develop Christ-centered relationships between their peers and adults. However, he put a twist on how he achieved that goal.

"We adopted a small group model of Youth Ministry," Matt explains, "Where 5-8 teens would meet with their peers and 2 adult leaders every week to go through different top-

*Continued on page 10*

## Catholic Education Week: Faith and Fun



The faculty is ready for the annual Faculty vs 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball game



Teacher Melissa Barr with students baking cookies to thank local firefighters



Monday's Pancakes and Pajamas got everyone excited for the week

By Maureen Stiles

One of the highlights of each school year is Catholic Schools Week. This year, the event followed a full week off due

to the Blizzard which only served to heighten the excitement. After a beautiful Mass and Open House on Sunday, students arrived Monday morning wearing pajamas and ready

*Continued on page 24*

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Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor  
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More St. Mary News  
on Page 24



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### Thousands of Sandwiches

Fourth graders at St. Patrick's School in Rockville are undertaking an annual Lenten service project to prepare bagged lunches for the homeless. Each week, the students make 400 bologna and cheese sandwiches, which throughout the course of the Lenten season, will result

in 2400 sandwiches. Students in other grades at the school support the project by donating fruit and decorating lunch bags. The bagged lunches are donated to the Men's Emergency Shelter on Gude Drive in Rockville, thus serving the needy directly in the school's community.

Sarah Siegle, a fourth grader, commented, "It brings great joy knowing you are helping make a difference by feeding the homeless." Her classmate, Namika Sekamanya agreed: "I enjoy making the sandwiches, because everyone can help out with this service project. Ms. Marianne Bonanno, the fourth-grade teacher directing the project, is proud of the teamwork and participation demonstrated by her students. "Helping my fourth graders each week make hundreds of sandwiches for the homeless truly is an amazing experience. The students are so joyful and proud to know they are making a difference for those who are less fortunate," said Bonanno. She is grateful the school supports many service opportunities during Lent, and throughout the entire school year.

#### St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road  
Rockville, MD

Rev. William E. Foley, 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

### On Top of the World

Sixth-grader Aaron Siegle will represent St. Patrick's School in the Maryland State Geography Bee on Friday, April 1, in Owings Mills, Maryland. After winning the school-based Bee held in February, Aaron took a written test which qualified him to compete in the State Geography Bee. The top 100 students from the state will compete in the State Bee with the winner advancing to the National Geography Bee to be held in May in Washington, DC. Thousands of American students participate in National Geographic Bees each year.

For Aaron, "studying geography has always been fun and relaxing." He commented, "It is definitely a passion of mine." Aaron is preparing for the competition by using the daily quizzes offered on the National Geographic website, studying with his father, and reading National Geographic magazine. He has noticed that many questions are based on magazine articles so he tries to stay current on the topics presented in the magazine. Aaron doesn't just study facts but seeks "to understand how everything is connected and how you can use geography in life," he remarked.

OPT



### ADVOCACY

Con't from page 1

the same but with less demanding responsibilities.

An exodus of direct care professionals would hurt the developmental disabilities community. These professionals provide vital support to disabled residents. The caregivers help them to make better nutritional choices at the grocery store and assist them with cooking and other household tasks such as feeding, bathing, dressing, and toileting; they work to secure adequate housing for low-income participants and to facilitate access to state and local benefits; they are also an advocate, counselor, educator, nurse, housekeeper, driver, cook, personal shopper, and friend. To ensure that these caregivers can be secured and retained, the County usually supplements the funding provided by the State of Maryland in this regard.

As in the previous years, the Justice and Advocacy members testified at County Executive Isiah Leggett's Budget Forums in

The next meeting of the Justice and Advocacy Council will be held Wednesday, May 25, 2016 from 7:30-9:00 pm at Holy Redeemer Church Hall, 9705 Summit Avenue in Kensington. For more information, please call Ann Barbagallo at 202-746-9861 or Cathy Couch at ccouch1940@aol.com.

January to express our hope that the Fiscal Year 2017 budget will include supplemental funding to increase the wages of these direct care professionals.

Last year the budget included this supplement, but when the County faced a financial shortfall, it initially cut out the supplement. However, as a result of the advocacy efforts of the Justice and Advocacy Council and other organizations, the County Council fully restored the supplemental funding.

This year we will continue to advocate with the County Executive and to County Council Members for a supplement to increase the wages of direct care professionals. Autism

and other developmental disabilities are life-long conditions that need life-long care.

As the parent of a twenty-eight year old son with autism, I know firsthand how challenging it is to secure services that enable him to live a full and productive life. I am grateful to the Justice and Advocacy Council for their help and support.

OPT



Betty and Cyrus Bahadori dancing at CSS Holiday Party

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## Christ the King Volunteers at Shepherd's Table

Every day local churches and synagogues volunteer at Shepherd's Table in downtown Silver Spring to ensure the homeless are fed an evening meal. Christ the King Parish is responsible for staffing the fourth Thursday of each month. There are 2 shifts of volunteers. The "early" shift from 4:00 – 5:30pm does food prep and sets the tables. The "dinner" shift runs from 5:30 – 7:45pm. Food stations are set up, water pitchers are filled, food is served, tables are cleared, dishes are washed, and then there is cleanup. Food is served to at least 125 people, and sometimes over 150 people beginning at 6pm.

Our parish has been involved for over 25 years. Thanks to the early crew: Marian Michael, Chris Tan, Art and Sigelinda Lord and the evening

shift: Liz Weiss, Chris Tan, Ellen McCloskey, Dave Belli, Jennifer Chaluga, Blanca Galdamaz. Also thanks to Bill and Judy Dinges (SJB parish) who have been on our CTK crew for over 25 years and Mrs. Pat Nigro who has given us reminder calls all these years.

In this Year of Mercy, volunteering at Shepherd's Table is a wonderful way for parishioners to help the homeless. More volunteers are always, particularly on the "dinner" shift. Please contact the Christ the King Rectory if you can help. Parishioners make the "zippy beef" casserole served at Shepherd's Table. Christ the King's Social Concerns Commission provides the recipe and the pans, in the back of the Church. Monthly the casseroles are taken to Shepherd's Table by volunteers. **OPT**



**L-R:**  
(Front) Creselda Paclob, Adela Peñate; (Rear) Maria Kendall, Inda Datuin, Christine Tan, Bridey Madeiros, Renate Mordecai, Edith Abellana

## CTK at the Archdiocesan Conference for Women

*By Chris Tan, former Christ the King editor for Our Parish Times*

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the theme for the fourth annual Archdiocesan Women's Conference was "Divine Mercy in Prayer and Action". The conference, co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Family Life and the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, took place Saturday, February 27, at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg.

There were two hundred twenty-five women attending, nine

of whom were from Christ the King. After attending Mass, celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville, the group separated to attend keynote addresses in either English or Spanish. These addresses were followed by a variety of workshops. This writer attended one entitled "The Works of Mercy in the Parish." Enthusiasm for parish work was very evident among the participants of the workshop and many good ideas exchanged. Following the workshops, the group met for a delicious lunch, to chat and get to know each other

better. The day ended with a talk on Divine Mercy and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. **OPT**

### Christ the King

2301 Colston Drive  
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**Rev. Jose Maria Cortes**  
FSCB Pastor

**Katie Holland,**  
OPT Editor

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kh7@georgetown.edu

### Silver Spring Catholic

Silver Spring Catholic Small Group, hosted by Christ the King Young Adults, invites all who are looking for an opportunity to deepen their Faith through a small community of other young adults. Silver Spring Catholic leaders Sarah Strenio and Dominic Nathan pulled together this weekly "Small Group" meeting as an occasion for young adults to talk, pray and read the Sunday Gospels, and enjoy light refreshments.

The Small Group meets on Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the Christ the King Rectory Basement through April 18th. Anyone interested should contact Sarah (smstrenio@gmail.com) or Dominic (dominic.nathan@gmail.com) for more information, or the parish bulletin or the Silver Spring Catholic Facebook page. **OPT**

**More Christ the King News on Page 20**

# ST. JOHN'S

## 2016 SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

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## MINISTRY

Con't from page 7

ics about living the faith. We also make sure to develop a dedication to the sacraments through offering frequent times for confessions during Youth Group as well as frequent time for adoration and prayer."

As a result, the youth group has grown in so many ways! We have roughly 45 teens a week participating and approximately 10 adult leaders. We have developed a meal ministry so that families and parish groups can help out by providing a meal to feed the kids. Ideally, Matt would like to see the families not only provide meals but also stay

and participate in the small groups within the appropriate format.

Matt adds, "Parents are the primary teachers of the faith to their children, so we want to try and develop a closer partnership with them so that we can work together in forming their children into lifelong disciples of Jesus."

Some of Matt's favorite group outings include the Mount2000 Retreat, Steubenville Ohio Retreat, Fall Retreat, Intramural Dodgeball Tournament, Fall Kick-Off, Soul Wash Car Wash and the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive. We think the teens would say Matt Curley is their favorite thing about the program, hands down. **OPT**

## RENOVATION

Con't from page 1

*Upper*, hosted by Chip and Joanna Gaines of Waco, Texas.

I was initially drawn to this show by the playful and spirited shenanigans of Chip Gaines, a sharp contrast to the down-to-earth but serious nature of his wife Joanna. The transformations they accomplish are nothing short of miraculous, given the initial dilapidated state of the homes their clients select at the beginning of each episode. Although the goal is to "fix up" a run-down house, they get to know the client and bring to the design things that will transform the structure not into just a new house,

but a home for that client's family. The tagline of the show is, "Are you ready to see your fixer upper?"

After following them on various forms of social media, I saw a different side of this couple with four young children; namely, that they are true Christians who turn to God to guide both their personal and professional lives. While I am sure they are financially successful, given the popular appeal of the show and their quickly growing chain of businesses, the wholesome and thoughtful approach they take to each job makes *Fixer Upper* stand out from other shows, such as *Flip or Flop*, where it is all about the profit they seek after the renovations are complete.

Many people use the season of

Lent to "fix" something in their lives, whether it be giving up desserts, junk food, or alcohol, with the goal of losing weight or developing better eating habits, all under the guise of sacrifice. For several years when I was young, my father gave up smoking, and to my knowledge never ever cheated—not even on Sundays which some people declare outside the forty days of Lent. However, come Easter Sunday morning, the first thing he would do was light up, and he all but chain-smoked his way throughout the next several days "catching up."

Recently I listened to a homily by our parish priest, Fr. Ken Gill, where he spoke of the Hubble space telescope, NASA's lens "allowing us to peer back almost until the beginning of time...with spectacular images of our universe, helping us to see where we couldn't see before". Just after Hubble's initial launch in 1990, however, a problem was discovered as early images were being returned to NASA. There was an error in manufacturing the mirror of the optical system and the telescope was not able to produce images with the anticipated sharp focus. The fix designed by NASA was to produce the same mirror in reverse, error and all, for astronauts to fit to the existing mirror, in essence a prescription lens to fix and correct the telescope's vision.

In Fr. Gill's homily, he went on to say that "Mercy is the lens in which we peer into the mystery of the heart of God... a heart filled with the beauty of compassion and tenderness..." Our own lens is much like the Hubble's, faulty, producing images that are not clearly in focus. We can use this time of Lent, made even more meaningful by the Holy Father's declaration of this Jubilee Year of Mercy, to sharpen that focus, to renovate ourselves. The prescription can be as simple as doing acts of mercy, whether corporal: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead; or spiritual: counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses, bear wrongs patiently, and pray for the living and the dead.

Whether we use Lent or the Year of Mercy as the impetus, we can reach out to extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need. Fr. Gill ended his homily with inspirational words, "...let us try not to let our eyes focus on the faults and shortcomings of others, instead let us make an intentional effort to allow Christ to amaze others...by the way we radiate His Mercy so that every soul we come in contact with may experience the joy of Christ within us."

The reality is that these simple actions will not only help others but transform ourselves in the process. Are you ready to see your fixer upper?

About the author: Michelle Ardillo teaches middle school language arts at Holy Redeemer Catholic School and is a parishioner at the Shrine of St. Jude. Read more of her essays at [www.michelleardillo.com](http://www.michelleardillo.com).

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Delara Farzin and Grant Ward are challenged by the attribute block matrix

## Mercy's Educational Extension Program Provides Depth to Learning

This winter and spring, Mercy students have amazing opportunities for many kinds of enrichment! Students can enjoy workshops that introduce them to both classic and pop artists and that allow them to create masterpieces of their own. At one recent workshop, students learned about Henri Matisse's perspective as expressed through his "Jazz Collection." They imitated his decoupage technique to create their own versions of

Matisse's "Trapeze Performers."

In addition to art, students have many other workshops to choose from. Our chess club, led by "Chess Wizards," is currently in its second session and challenges more than twenty of our students every week. Recently in one of our math enrichment activities, called "Learning by Logic," students used "attribute blocks" to enhance their abil-

*Continued on page 37*

## Mercy's New Counselor Supports the Whole Child

Mrs. Susan Gibeson, Mercy's new guidance counselor, makes many stops on her way down the school hallway. She pauses to check in with a child who was sad the day before, to encourage another child on an upcoming test, or to meet with teachers to set up workshops for a whole class of students. Everyone wants time with Mrs. Gibeson because she brings warmth and creativity with her wherever she goes.

In order to reach all members of the Mercy community, Mrs. Gibeson has big, innovative plans! Beginning this spring, she hopes to include parents in her work. She is designing a parent book group that would allow parents to come together to discuss issues related to the challenges of raising children. The books will range from topics on communicating with children to meeting children's social/emotional needs. Mrs. Gibeson also plans to establish a "Friendship Garden" for students and teachers. She imagines that individuals as well as groups will find that working in a garden will be very therapeutic. And perhaps most essential to her role in the school is the time she spends supporting teachers with workshops for each grade. The topics might include respectful communications, friendship groups, or bullying.

In all of Mrs. Gibeson's work,



Susan Gibeson, Mercy's new counselor, has a smile for everyone

she uses a highly creative, hands-on approach to therapy. As students read instructive stories, they might draw pictures to express themselves. Often puppets are used to share ideas, or else students are asked to create three-dimensional projects. Mrs. Gibeson believes in using many kinds of techniques to help students feel heard. She asserts, "My approach is designed to support the whole child by encouraging positive emotional and social development. I look forward to working with the Mercy community to create a positive and supportive environment where children

*Continued on page 37*

## "Stars and Stripes for Syrian Refugees"

This was the name that the student council chose for the dance that took place at Our Lady of Mercy on October 30. A big red, white, and blue sign announced to all of the eighth graders from Mercy and surrounding schools that this dance would be in support of an important cause. The dance's theme was chosen by the student council after they researched a variety of possible charities that might receive the proceeds from the dance. They contacted Catholic Relief Services for suggestions and were struck by the urgent needs of Syrian refugees.

As the night of the dance approached, the school gym was transformed into a patriotic space because the students focused on the idea of Americans helping Syrians. Students and their parents used real American flags as well as homemade centerpieces to decorate. Streamers, and flowers, and pin-wheels filled the gym. Students also added Halloween candy to feed the energetic dancers, as the dance was held on Halloween weekend.

Mercy's own eighth-grader Michael Conlan acted as DJ for the dance. He played popular music as well as some of his own remixes. In addition to dancing and listening to music, students could play a game of cornhole at one of the many stations set up around the gym. This game was again meant to help create an atmosphere of American charm.



Mercy eighth-grade students show their stars and stripes!

In their letter to Catholic Relief Services, student council co-presidents Ellie Brewer and Emma Horrigan wrote, "We hope that this money will positively impact the lives of the Syrian refugees. We thank you for devoting so much time and energy to helping this great cause." The students themselves had devoted great time and energy to the event. They managed to raise more than \$1000 and entertained over one hundred students in the process.

OPT

### Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive  
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Fr. William Byrne, Pastor  
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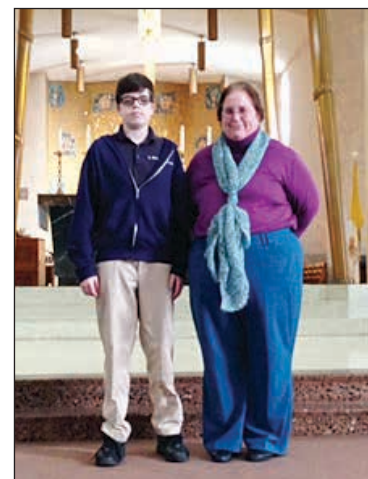
# St. Bernadette School News



St. Bernadette School had a wonderful Awards Assembly last week. We recognized the students that exemplify Citizenship along with the Student Council and their advisor, Mrs. Pryor.



We also recognized our top three spellers in the Scripps Spelling Bee. In addition, we had special awards for the following: Best Sportsmanship, Best Enunciation, Camaraderie, Poise and Spirit. Congratulations to all the students.



Our National Geographic Geography Bee finalist, Matthew Murphy qualified for Nationals and is pictured with our teacher and his sponsor, Miss Cooper.



The Accelerated Reader program gives ribbons to the students that accumulate the most number of points and have the best accuracy in reading comprehension.



Our H.S.A. had a Parent Chili Cook off and Student Bake Off and the student winners received their trophies. (L-R): Olivia Ott, William Wallish, Ava and Sophie Zanger.

## St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East  
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. K.  
Bartholomew Smith

## Pastor

301-593-0357

## St. Bernadette School

Mrs. Cheri Wood, Principal  
301-593-5611

## O'SULLIVAN

*Con't from page 1*

of the school staff "have been so wonderful and supportive" during her first year back at her old school, which she attributes to St. Bart's "strong sense of community." Mr. Lamont told OPT that Ms. O'Sullivan possesses a true passion for children and "jumped right into a new teaching experience with a new grade level and sought to find out everything she could about the content and her incoming class."

Ms. O'Sullivan's second graders keep her on her toes, and think it's hilarious when she shows them her Eighth-Grade class picture in the school hallway. She summed up as follows: "The best part about this experience is that I know this has always been God's will; a couple of months ago I found one of my student's sweaters on the floor. I read the tag and it had the student's name on it, but underneath crossed out was my name from over a decade ago."

Welcome Home, Ms. O'Sullivan!

OPT

## BINGO

*Con't from page 4*

ish and school participate in Kid's Bingo Night each year. Kids range from Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Preschoolers may participate and enjoy the treats but they are not eligible to win the main prizes. Kids' Bingo Night started as a celebration for Catholic Schools Week. It is always the Friday night at end of CSW and a way to thank the kids for a rewarding but busy week. Bingo Night still has the same timing but has a wider invitation list. Parish children who do not attend the parish school are welcomed, as are friends of SJB kids. Bingo Night features 20 bingo games, which means lots of prizes. Ms. Gardner takes advantage of end of summer sales and post Christmas sales to stock up on prizes. This year's prizes included Maryland Men's basketball tickets, a Vera Bradley bag, Orioles baskets, an ice cream maker, a zippy sled, a spa gift certificate, a giant stuffed animal, and a movie gift card. The grand prize this year was a hover board.

While Kids' Bingo Night is a lot of work, Ms. Gardner says "the best thing about Kids' Night Bingo is it is truly just for fun and the energy in the room is off the charts. It is loud, it is messy, and everyone's having a good time." When the kids are asked what the best thing about bingo is, they are evenly divided between the prizes and a fun night with friends. Fourth grader Tony Margiotta says "it's a good time with your friends and the snacks are good". His little brother Nico says "the best part is winning prizes." Eighth-grader Lulu Wooldridge won basketball tickets and was "crazy excited." Sienna DeGross, also an eighth grader, enjoys both friends and prizes. As she puts it, "Bingo is a time to gather with friends (and sometimes with family), have a great time and best of all win prizes!"

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## Holy Cross 2016 Middle School Science Fair

**O**n Sunday, January 31, 2016, Holy Cross hosted its middle school science fair. For the students, it was a chance to flex their creative muscles, show off their creations, and maybe even walk away with a prize recognizing their efforts. For onlookers visiting the science fair, it was a glimpse into the future from a crop of young minds that have only just begun to take shape!

The 2016 science fair was a culmination of four very busy months of work during the 1st quarter of the current school year by 67 middle school students who presented their projects to parents, judges, and fellow students that evening. Twenty-seven volunteers from the parish as well as parents from the scientific com-

munity shared their time and talents to help judge the projects. For the students, preparing for the science fair is like "doing homework on steroids," but very rewarding nonetheless. Quite a number of Holy Cross' students and their parents are invested in STEM education. For example, 11 students from this year's science fair will be competing in the Montgomery County Science Fair on March 12, 2016. Holy Cross believes that its science fair allows students to develop both science and social skills due to the presentations of their projects to the science fair judges.

Middle School Science teacher, Mrs. Shari Connor, expressed her gratitude to the parents and judges for sharing their time, talents, words of encouragement,

and their wonderful support to the students through the entire process. Mrs. Connor stated that, "I'm never surprised, but always incredibly proud of the work the students at Holy Cross produce for the science fair. Every year, there is something new I've never seen, and always a different way to attack a familiar problem. I'm always very thankful for the hard work by the students, the support from the parents and the interest from the wider community."

The results are now in, the research data has been analyzed, and what we have found supports our original hypothesis which is that the Holy Cross 2016 Middle School Science Fair was an outstanding success!

OPT



Michael Reid (sixth grade) and Tara Anders (seventh grade), discuss the results of their investigations at the Holy Cross Middle School Science Fair on January 31



Mesmerized by *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss! students at Holy Cross celebrated Read Across America Day on March 2.

## Bonding Over Books & Bagels

**F**rom there to here and here to there, books and bagels were everywhere! Holy Cross parents and grandparents shared the morning of March 2 with their children in Pre-K through Grade 2, to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and the annual Read Across America Day sponsored by the National Education Association.

A happy murmur of voices filled the air – along with some giggles – as parents and grandparents read aloud from favorite stories. Kindergarten student, Casey, told us she read *Wacky Wednesday* by Dr. Seuss. "I love that one!" she exclaimed. Her enthusiasm was shared by all.

"It was so nice to see families enjoy time reading with the children. It was very sweet to see older siblings read to younger siblings,

or friends huddled over the same book laughing at a funny scene in a story," said principal, Mrs. Kane. "It's something we look forward to every year."

OPT

### 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@hccross.org

**More Holy Cross News  
on Page 34**

*I am a thinker, an athlete, an artist.*

## SUMMER AT HOLY CROSS

### Co-Ed Summer Enrichment

#### High School Placement Test Prep (HSPT) Course

June 20 - 24

Morning Session:  
8:30 am - 12 pm

Afternoon Session:  
1 pm - 4:30 pm

### Girls Summer Sports Camps Grades 1-10

Volleyball, Soccer, Session 1: June 20 - 24 • 9 am - 3 pm  
Softball, Lacrosse, Session 2: June 27 - July 1 • 9 am - 3 pm  
Field Hockey

Basketball Session 3: July 11-15 • 9 am - 3 pm

### Soccer Camp, Directed by Coach Mastro Grades 7-12

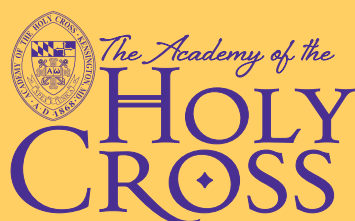
August 8 - 12 • 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

### Co-Ed Summer Stock Performing Arts Grades 6-11

July 5 - 15 • 9 am - 3 pm

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## HR Students Prepare for the Living Stations of the Cross

By Michelle Ardillo

The annual tradition of staging the Living Stations of the Cross continues at Holy Redeemer School in Kensington. Middle school students act out the Stations of the Cross while narrators read the prayers and meditations. The Living Stations of the Cross are performed in front of the school on the last day before Easter break as well as on Good Friday in Holy Redeemer Catholic Church for parishioners.

Moderators for this school activity include kindergarten teacher Pam Hurley, who is also the moderator for the Religious Life Committee and middle school science teacher Danielle Trotta, with music provided by the HR Honors Choir under the direction of Kristin Brown, HR music teacher. The narrator for this year's Living Stations will be eighth-grader Dominic Welsh. Students participating in the Living Stations are eighth-graders Peyton Hinton, Matthew Wyble, Dylan Hitt, Maggie Lucas, Stephen Beins, and Kevin Harper, and seventh-grader Blaise Ryan. Honors Choir members include fifth-graders Milena Colaanni, Maggie Foxman, Julia Vaughan, Olivia Vaughan, Kathleen Brown, Zoe DeArmas, Rachel Styslinger; sixth-grader Claire Morin; seventh-graders Megan Toner, Clara Henne; and eighth-graders Jackie Gonella, Eliza Henne, Ella Keegan, Henry



Holy Redeemer seventh and eighth graders participating in this year's Living Stations of the Cross



Holy Redeemer Honors Choir rehearses for Living Stations of the Cross

Smith, Lucy Daignault, Lauren Gaston, and Siobhan Wampler.

The performance of the Living Stations of the Cross helps to give students and the HR school community a more visual representation of this ancient Catholic prayer marking the "way of the cross". Student actors provide a tableaux or "still frame" of each station, while narrators explain the station and lead the school in a prayerful reflection. This year's performances of the Living Stations of the Cross will take place on Holy Thursday, March 24 at 11:00 in the school auditorium, and on Good Friday, March 25 at 12:00 noon in the church. All are invited to attend either or both performances.

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### Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue  
Kensington, MD

**Rev. Mark Hughes**  
Pastor

301-942-2333

### Holy Redeemer School

**Mrs. Colleen Ryan,**  
Principal

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**More Holy Redeemer News  
on Page 39**

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Holy Redeemer parishoner  
& school parent



## Holy Redeemer Moms Create Fun Memories with Sons

The Mother-Son Shake and Shoot event is popular and special night at HR. Moms are able to spend an evening eating, dancing and playing games with their Preschool through 8th grade boys. Mothers and sons alike don their favorite jersey; many moms proudly wore their son's own sports jersey.

This year's event had a



Mothers and Son shaking it down!

crowd of over 250 enthusiastic participants in sports games, DJ-led competitions, and a lot

*Continued on page 36*

## HR Spanish Students: Making New Friends in Bolivia

By Veronica Rozier and Claire McKenna

The eighth-grade Spanish class students at Holy Redeemer are looking forward to corresponding with a partner student in Bolivia this semester. With the support of Father Hughes and Principal Colleen Ryan, Claire McKenna, an HR alumna class thought of the idea of establishing a cultural exchange through written dialogue between HR Spanish students and her English class students in Bolivia. Claire just graduated from University of Vermont last semester and is teaching English to students in Bolivia.

Cabezas, Bolivia is a small rural community about two hours south of the city of Santa Cruz. The town centers around the local parochial school and church, Nuestra Señora del Carmen. Though it has devel-

oped immensely in recent years, by many standards the people of Cabezas still live in poverty. Most of the students there



Making friends in Bolivia

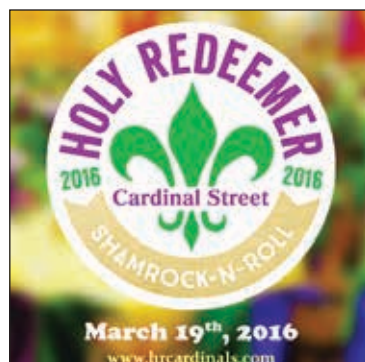
are able to afford the school (as well as many other amenities) through a program called Educate the Children, founded

*Continued on page 36*

## HR's Shamrock N Roll Is Just around the Corner!

The Holy Redeemer Home and School Association is preparing for the 2016 ShamRock-n-Roll being held March 19 at the school's Herb Young Auditorium. The ShamRock-n-Roll is an auction hosted biennially and our largest Parish event. Funds from the event support our high standard of Catholic education, maintain our facilities, and allow us to update our students' academic and athletic options.

The event is named because of the traditional proximity to St. Patrick's Day however slight variation of the theme change each auction year. This year's theme "A Night in New Orleans" will serve as a backdrop to a fun night of fun-



draising, Louisiana food and great music. Holy Redeemer receives exceptional community support allowing for wonderful silent auction items and an always thrilling live auction. Holy Redeemer is also

excited to debut a new cell phone bidding option for all attendees.

In preparation for the event, all HR students are allowed to wear their New Orleans styled 2016 ShamRock-n-Roll t-shirts to PE class for two weeks and participate in a special "Kid's Rule" auction. The kid's auction raffle includes exciting items such as Lego sets and 'Free Shoe Week' for the winner's class.

All are welcome and information for the event and raffle ticket sales as well as silent and live auction item descriptions can be found at [www.hrcardinals.com/srr/](http://www.hrcardinals.com/srr/). Our sponsors can be found on this same site and we thank them for all their support!

OPT

## Appreciating our Priests

By a Holy Redeemer parishioner

It occurred to me that we parishioners are at some level and in different degrees so prone to take our priests for granted. If we stopped to consider for any length of time how much they do for us, how their lives are lived more for us than for themselves, we would have to agree that it is cause for celebration and especially for recognition. It is more than appropriate to recognize these men as chosen by the Lord to guide us, help us and share with us the supreme gift of Christ Jesus that comes to us in the

*Continued on page 36*



## The Shrine of St. Jude Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary, 1956-2016

The Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church and Regional School celebrates 60 years as the Beacon of Christ on the Hill this year. In the spring of 1956, then-Cardinal O'Boyle laid the cornerstone and consecrated our original chapel and school. Sixty years later, St. Jude remains a diverse, vibrant community with over 1,600 families from approximately 80 national heritages, 34 apostolic ministries, and its ever-growing regional school. Under the leadership of our pastor, Fr. Paul Lee, the entire parish family is engaged in our celebratory year.

Last fall, the children of St. Jude Regional Catholic School designed banners and posters marking the 60th anniversary. Selected banners will be displayed on the driveway light poles through the remainder of the year. On March 12, more than 300 former and current



parishioners, parents, and staff attended the "Diamonds Are Forever" Gala, a night of food, fun, and silent and live auctions.

*Continued on page 35*

## International Day at St. Jude Regional Catholic School

*By Mrs. Katharine Neale Balog, Fourth-Grade Teacher, St. Jude Regional Catholic School*

St. Jude Regional Catholic School recently celebrated its diversity with a first-ever International Day celebration.

For the past year, each classroom has studied a different country from around the world. Teachers incorporated their designated country into various subject areas, including literature, arts/crafts, geography, and history. Students created artwork based on the artistic styles from that nation, and learned about



Parents like Rosamma Stanley and Efgia Mendes, pictured above left to right, helped make International Day a success.



Mother and Daughter Maryelly Leon and Isabella Grijalba get into the spirit of International Day at St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

the different cultures, music and dance.

Parents and students then came together to celebrate the school's diversity with the culminating event: International Day. Parents set up booths with artifacts, pictures, and flags from their home countries. Additionally, they brought food that represented the cuisine from their nation for the students to try. Students each received a "passport," and took their passport to the different booths where they were stamped. Some of the countries that were represented were: The Philippines, Greece, Italy, France, Columbia, Brazil, Hungary, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Ireland, USA, China, Guatemala, Senegal,

*Continued on page 35*

### Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD

**Rev. Paul Lee, STD,**  
Pastor  
301-946-8200

**St. Jude Regional  
Catholic School**  
**Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal**  
301-946-7888

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

**More Shrine of St. Jude  
News on Page 39**

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday has been a long-standing tradition at the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church. However, this Sodality-sponsored event, held on Feb. 9 this year, might not have happened if the predicted snow storm had stayed closer to Rockville. Regardless of the forecast, Pat Black (pictured at right), long-time chair of the event, diligently went about ordering food and getting volunteers lined up to set up the Thaddeus Room and flip pancakes. The supper was a success and all enjoyed camaraderie. After chairing this event for the last 15



years, Pat has decided to lay down her spatula. We salute and thank Pat for her valiant efforts year after year!

OPT

## Cupcakes for Life!

The annual Shrine of St. Jude Pro Life Committee Cupcake Sale in January was again a roaring success, raising enough money to pay for a bus to take

parishioners to the March for Life and to make a contribution to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth, and Family.

Many thanks to all the parishioners who baked, frosted, and decorated 100s of cupcakes, which were all sold by parish volunteers. Extra special thanks to those who bought the cupcakes or made a donation.

Pictured are some of the many volunteers, bakers, and buyers! In foreground on left is Valerie Kuzma, and on right are Patrick McAuliffe and Rebecca Welton.

OPT



## Attic Treasures Sale, March 31-April 2

Like to go treasure hunting? The Shrine of St. Jude Sodality, Our Lady of the Wayside, is gearing up for its Attic Treasures sale. The sale offers anything that is in good condition, including small working appliances, china, lamps, pictures, baskets, jewelry, toys, and

clothes. Sale times are: Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1, 12 noon-7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Proceeds help various Sodality outreach projects.

Do you have items to donate? Donations will be received from 9

*Continued on page 34*



Elizabeth Seton High School

### Open House

Thursday, April 28, 6:00-8:00pm

Please join us at our **Spring Open House** to learn more about how we prepare young women for college, career and life. Guided tours of the campus will be given by student ambassadors. Faculty and administrators will also be available to speak with you.

### SUMMER CAMPS 2016

Girls grades 2-12

Film & Broadcasting Workshop	June 20-24, 9am-3pm	Grades 7-12
Introduction To Dance	June 20-24, 9am-12pm	Grades 5-12
Music: I've Got Rhythm	June 20-24, 9am-4pm	Grades 5-12
All Sports Camp	June 27-July 1, 8am-4:30pm	Grades 2-9
Lacrosse Camp	July 11-14, 9am-1pm	Grades 4-12
Sports Medicine	July 25-29, 9am-3pm	Grades 6-9
Summer Coding Boot Camp	July 25-29, 3pm-5pm	Grades 6-9
Girls Summer Stem Camp	August 1-5, 9am-3pm	Grades 6-8

### VOLLEYBALL CAMPS & CLINICS, girls ages 7-17

Session 1	July 11-14, 9am-3pm
Session 2	July 18-21, 9am-3pm
Passing & Setting Clinic	Saturday, June 25, 9am-12pm
Hitting & Blocking Clinic	Sunday, June 26, 1pm-4pm
Serving Clinic	Saturday, July 16, 10am-11:30am

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## ST. JOHN NEUMANN

## Year of Mercy Events

Everyone is encouraged to join us for  
the Jubilee Year of Mercy

JANUARY 12 — 7PM

**What is Mercy? A Biblical Perspective**  
A talk presented by Fr. Andrew Davy, MIC

FEBRUARY 26 — 7:30PM

**MERCY: God's Greatest Attribute**  
Inspirational talk presented by Sister Confida  
Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy

MARCH 12, 13, 14, 15

Father Sean will preach at weekend  
Masses, with Mission talks in main  
church at 7pm MON/TUES

MARCH 25 THRU APRIL 2

**Divine Mercy Novena**

Good Friday at 3pm the parish-wide  
Divine Mercy Novena begins

APRIL 3 — 3-4PM

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

Join us for this hour of infinite mercy of God

JULY 2 — 8AM-4PM

(SEE SUMMER BULLETINS FOR DETAILS)

**Parish Pilgrimage**

Bus pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National  
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception: Jubilee Year  
plenary indulgence, pass through the Holy Door,  
Mass at Basilica, visit Shrine of Pope St. John Paul II,  
lunch, tour Franciscan Monastery.

OCTOBER 21, 22

10/21—7-9PM FILM VIEWING

10/22—8:30AM-12:30PM  
FAMILY MISSION

**Full of Grace: Movie / Family Mission**

*Full of Grace* tells the story of the Blessed Mother's  
final days on earth. "A breathtaking film and cele-  
bration of faith. I have not been moved by a film  
like this since *The Passion of the Christ*." — Fr. Peter  
John Cameron, O.P., Editor-in-Chief, Magnificat

NOVEMBER 17, 18, 19

17th—7pm Talk/Healing (SPAN)

18th—7pm Talk/Healing (ENG)

19th—8:30am-3pm RETREAT (ENG)

**PARISH ADVENT MISSION**  
**The Mercy of God Brings Us**  
**to Trinitarian Delight**

Presented by Fr. Philip Scott  
Founder, Family of Jesus the Healer

## Year of Mercy

## Planning Notes from Fr. Joe Rogers

This March and April marks the Centenary of when an angel appeared to the three shepherd children of Fatima to prepare them for the coming of Our Lady. Next May 13, 2017 will be the hundredth anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. At the base of our church altar, we currently have two painted icon images of Jesus and Mary with the words the Fatima angel spoke to the children: "The hearts of Jesus and Mary have designs of mercy upon you."

As Pastor, my simple desire is for us as a parish family to be open to the designs of mercy that the hearts of Jesus and Mary have upon us...to be open to and receive the

Lord's mercy as frequently as we need it...to listen to the Lord, to become what God wants each of us to be, for his designs of mercy to be accomplished.

Our Parish has planned numerous activities to celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Universal Church between now and November 20, 2016. These events are to be encounters for each of us to experience the Divine Mercy of God.

Of special interest, beginning Good Friday, the parish will pray a daily Divine Mercy Novena together.

Then all will be invited on April 3rd,  
*Continued on page 17*

## Fr. Andy Davy Opens SJN Year of Mercy Events

By Rus Wester



Father Andy Davy, MIC is the first parishioner to receive all of his sacraments, including Holy Orders, at St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg. Shown here with loving parents, Deacon Mike Davy and KC Davy.

In his opening talk, Father Andy explained why Mercy is so important to us: "Because it's the very nature of God. It's who he is. As we're more united to him, we seek his will and become better messengers of who he is...our merciful God."

Fr. Davy came home to his childhood parish to kick off what promises to be an incredible year of spiritual activities and events as we celebrate the Church's Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Father Andy's biblical perspective for explaining Salvation history and the role of mercy confirmed that God's desire to create us is an act of mercy. Establishing a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses and to choose Israel as his people is an act of mercy.

"Mercy is the essential heart of the Gospel," said Father Joe Rogers. "John Paul II wrote in his encyclical on Divine Mercy, it is the touchstone of Jesus' own understanding of his mission as the Messiah, to reconcile us to God the Father. Through devotion to Divine Mercy during this year, we can all experience the mercy and love of Christ as he leads us on a path of forgiveness, healing and restoration."

SJN's Year of Mercy events continue through November 20, 2016.

OPT

## Mercy: God's Greatest Attribute

By Rus Wester

Many of us walked into the church lobby for our February 26th "Mercy Event" and greeted these two nuns with "Sisters Faustina...welcome to the parish!" It was pretty amazing and rare to see TWO religious dressed in the habit of Saint Faustina, the messenger of Divine Mercy.

The good sisters were here to share first-hand knowledge of the journey of Saint Faustina, another member of their religious order, Our Lady of Mercy. Father Joe was touched by Sr. Confida's talk: "Her presence was clearly a gift to us as she spoke about the 'proof of God's existence', telling us that 'forgiveness is one of the greatest proofs of the existence of God, because forgiveness is Divine. We forgive out of love for God and forgiveness is a choice, an act of the will.'"

OPT



Sister M. Caterina (L) and Sister Confida (center) of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy are welcomed by SJN Pastor, Father Joe Rogers. Sister Confida offered a talk on Mercy: God's Greatest Attribute.

## OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL



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# St. Elizabeth School News

Thank you, Monsignor Macfarlane, for leading us in prayer on Ash Wednesday and for reminding us about the importance of preparing for Jesus's Resurrection at Easter.



To bring Catholic Schools Week to a close, St. Elizabeth's students gathered in the MAC to cheer on the eighth grade as they played a series of exciting volleyball games against the St. E's faculty. A wonderful time was had by all!



Congratulations to our St. Elizabeth School Robotics Team, which earned two trophies (First Place: Best Performing Robot and Second Place: Mechanical Design) during the First Lego League Competition held at UMBC. These are major accomplishments! Hats off, Gentlemen!



St. Elizabeth hosted its annual CYO Co-Ed Basketball Tournament. We sure do have a lot of school spirit! Go, Saints!!



St. Elizabeth School is very proud of eighth grader, Meaghan Kilner, who recently qualified to compete at the state of Maryland level in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Go, Meaghan!

## YEAR OF MERCY

*Con't from page 16*

Divine Mercy Sunday, to return to our church for the holiest of hours to receive unfathomable graces from our Lord.

The message of Divine Mercy, as given to St. Faustina and promulgated to the church through

John Paul II, has five essential dimensions: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Image of Divine Mercy, the hour of Mercy at 3pm every day, the Feast of Divine Mercy – culminating in the 3pm hour on the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, and proclaiming Divine Mercy to the world.

The mystical heart of Divine Mercy is that 3pm hour, on Mercy Sunday. Through St. Faustina, the Lord promised that the gates of heaven will be open in a way beyond our imagining, for the conversion of sinners, for the forgiveness of sins--both those we've committed, and temporal punishment due to sin. The Hour of Mercy is perhaps the most powerful moment of missionary prayer in the life of the Church. We encourage everyone to join us.

In the words of Pope Francis: "Let the Church always be a place of Mercy and Hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."

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**St. Elizabeth Parish**  
917 Montrose Road Rockville, MD  
**Msgr. John Macfarlane, Pastor**  
301-881-1380  
**St. Elizabeth School Principal**  
**Vincent P. Spadoni**  
301-881-1824  
**Gerry Moore, OPT Editor**  
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# Golden Parish Anniversary and Parish-Proud School

By Nina Cardillo

St. Raphael's founding pastor, Msgr. Thomas Duffy, once wrote, "When a parish is in its early years, a great spirit of enthusiasm is abroad...One of the challenges of any institution is to survive the change in spirit that takes place once the structure of the institution is in place." That was in 1972, six years after the establishment of St. Raphael Catholic Church. Since its inception—a parish of only 400 families and where the first three Masses were held in the Herbert Hoover Junior High School cafeteria—many changes in spirit, structure, and community



The Catholic Schools Week opening Mass was a community-wide celebration enjoyed by St. Raphael School, Nursery School, and parish. With this image, SRS won the daily photo contest sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association during CSW. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School



New middle-schoolers at St. Raphael School? Nope, teachers Kristin Talaga, Caitlin Stonesifer, and Nichole Isola on Wacky Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week! Photo by Kasey Trees

## St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road  
Rockville, MD

Rev. Jim Meyers, Pastor  
301-762-2143

Teri Dwyer, Principal  
301-762-2143  
tdwyer@straphaels.org

MJ Zafis-Garcia, OPT Editor  
301-762-2143  
mjgarcia@straphaels.org  
www.straphaels.org  
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have taken place. Now with more than 3,000 households, numerous active ministries, and a vibrant school and nursery school, we are grateful to be commemorating 50 golden years!

Reuniting after a weeklong blizzard break, St. Raphael School, Nursery School, and parish came together at a Sunday Mass for the opening of Catholic Schools Week. With a spirit of gratitude, students showed their admiration for the teachers, clergy, and parents who make Catholic education possible

and extended mercy through community outreach efforts. Students provided diapers for the DC Diaper Bank and prepared hundreds of sandwiches for homeless shelters. More than 125 winter coats were collected for Catholic Charities' Coats of Many Colors Drive, with pockets full of heartwarming notes from our students. More messages of hope were delivered to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to encourage service members and express thankfulness for their sacrifice. As a proud parish

school, we also appreciate the support from our parish community and recognize that, by sharing the value of Catholic education, together we nourish the foundation for the personal growth and individual success of each student.

We join in celebrating St. Raphael Parish's golden anniversary on May 14, reminiscing the years and rolling out the fun with food, music, and casino-style games—hope to see you there!

OPT

## Ending Veteran Homelessness

### ZERO: 2016 GALA

**When:**  
Thursday, April 21, 2016  
6:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

**Where:**  
Bethesda North Marriott  
Hotel & Conference Center  
North Bethesda, MD

**Co-chairs:**  
Mayor Jeffrey Slavin, Town of Somerset  
Tammy Darvish, PenFed Credit Union

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Father John Enzler  
Catholic Charities



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For more information, contact Debbie Ezrin at  
[dezrin@mcch.net](mailto:dezrin@mcch.net)  
or 301-917-6644

## Led by the Lord's Loving Kindness

With the words, "...in the faith that you have professed in the presence of his family," Grant Dudley, Dahliaardini, and Annalea Vigilante (all SRS second-graders) were received into the Catholic Church through the laying of hands and prayer led by our parochial vicar, Fr. Francisco Aguirre. This grace-filled moment took place at a special Morning Prayer as family members and the entire school witnessed our Catholic Church flourish



St. Raphael School second-grader Tristan Baacke looks on in wonderment moments before she is baptized. Photo by Patty Quinn

and returned the children's joyful smiles with welcoming applause. While SRS is open to all faiths, it is a blessing to play a role in the Catholic journey for these new members who are part of the school and parish family that help us grow stronger together. For this gift and privilege we humbly acknowledge, as Fr. Francisco said in the prayer, "His loving kindness has led you here."

Led indeed. Baptized Greek Orthodox, Dahlia,

Continued on page 28

## Observed in and around the School

Ever wonder what it would be like to step into someone else's shoes? What a typical day might be like for an FBI special agent or a priest? SRS students in fourth through eighth grades experienced just that at this year's Career Day, while kindergarten through third grade had an opportunity to dress in attire representing the career of their choice. Speakers introduced students to different professions, including research science and IT management, and such industries as futures trading and inter-government relations. Young minds had much to ponder

regarding prospective jobs with such diverse presentations. We are grateful to all who made this event possible.

Also, in remembrance of important people and events of the African diaspora, second-graders brought "wax" figures to life. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Owens, Louis Armstrong, and Condoleezza Rice were just a few of the many famous African-Americans who appeared at the annual SRS Black History Museum. In respectful observance of Black History Month, students in full costume presented biographical

Continued on page 28

## Planned for the End of the School Year

**April 16: SpringFest** builds community through a night of festivities and fundraising with food and entertainment. Tickets are now on sale.

**April 22-23: School Play—My Son Pinocchio** guarantees to delight all ages with its presentation of a clas-

Continued on page 28





St. Bart's students enjoy favorite snacks with their Bingo.  
Photo by Barb Henry

## St. Bart's School Rocks with Sixth-Grade BINGO!!!

By Barb Henry

**O**n Friday, February 5 the St. Bartholomew's sixth-grade class hosted Bingo Night to raise funds for sixth-grade Outdoor Ed. This annual event is one that our entire community anticipates with great excitement. The venue was packed with students, parents, parishioners, friends and neighbors.

Bingo winners were able to choose from a great selection of prizes including board games, sporting equipment and crafts. The sixth-grade class worked extremely hard all night selling snacks, calling out BINGO numbers and cleaning up the church hall once all the festivities were completed. All the hard work paid off with the sixth-grade class raising over \$1000 to use towards the Outdoor Ed program.

OPT



St. Bart's students assemble "Soap and Socks" bags for a local homeless shelter as a service project for the less fortunate. Photo by Barb Henry

## Soap and Sock Service Project Successful at St. Bartholomew School

By Barb Henry

**M**ost Friday afternoons at St. Bartholomew School, one will find our students engaged in a school-wide service project before Friday afternoon Mass. Service projects are coordinated with the faculty and include relevant instruction the week leading up to the service time. The students not only perform a service project, but also gain an understanding of how their efforts are helping others.

On February 19, our student body conducted a "Soap and Socks" service project for one of the local homeless shelters. Families in each class sent in donations of warm socks, bars of soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Our older students working with the younger grades assembled 600 "Soap and Sock" bags! Included in each "Soap and Socks" bag was also a short note of encouragement, love and support.

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## Volunteers Prepare "Breakfast to Go" Bags at St. Bart's

**"S**erve Before Service," a new tradition at St. Bartholomew Parish, takes place monthly on Sunday nights when parishioners and friends gather in the St. Bart's Parish Hall to serve God by serving those in need in the local community. This service opportunity is especially convenient for local Catholics who attend St. Bart's popular 8:00 p.m., Sunday Mass, featuring Christian contemporary music, which immediately follows the service project.

On Sunday, February 21, the Hall was filled with busy workers, assembling healthy "breakfast to go" bags to be distributed to area shelters, which together provide a safe bed for 1000+ women and men each night. Coordinator Brooksley Jones told OPT, "We made 340 breakfast bags for the homeless for distribution throughout the local shelters." Brooksley advised, "The



Busy volunteers in the St. Bartholomew Parish Hall preparing "Breakfast to Go" bags for the homeless. Photo by Barb Henry

next Serve Before Service (Sunday night date to be determined) will be making activity books and puzzles

for children in hospitals and shelters!"

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Pastor

301-229-7933

St. Bartholomew School  
Stephen Lamont, Principal  
301-229-5586

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor  
202-512-8226

More St. Bartholomew News on Page 39



The St. Bartholomew Youth Group enjoys an afternoon of bowling at Bowlmor in Bethesda

## Youth Group Stays Busy During Lent

**T**he St. Bart's Middle School Youth Group started the New Year with a full schedule of sports, games, and service and faith activities. The group started the year with bowling at Bowlmor in Bethesda. Other activities included sports, guest speakers, Movie Night, and service activities including preparing care packages for St. Ann's Center for unwed mothers

and children. The St. Bart's Middle School Youth group is made up of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders interested in serving our neighbors, playing together, and getting to know our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome. For more information, contact John and Maria Archer at 32kaufmann@cardinalmail.cua.edu.

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## National Award for Innovation

The March issue of *Today's Catholic Teacher* magazine has announced that Saint Francis International School has won an Innovations in Catholic Education Award for its new program called "Make Us Instruments of Peace." The new program is designed to enhance the Franciscan charism within Saint Francis International School by intentionally giving students peacemaking tools and skills that they can use to create a stronger school community.

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> annual ICE Awards and Saint Francis International will be honored specifically in the category of "promoting Catholic identity." This will be the second national award that Saint Francis has received in the last two years. Last year, the National Catholic Educational Association presented SFIS with the Catherine T. McNamee Award for leadership in promoting diversity in Catholic education.

The "Make Us Instruments of Peace" initiative has been made pos-



sible through a grant from Catholic Charities and a partnership with the Little Friends for Peace. SFIS intends for this initiative to be an ongoing part of its annual character formation program. Last summer, SFIS renewed its mission statement to say: "Saint Francis International School is a Franciscan family that nurtures children to become instruments of God's peace, scholars, and global citizens."

The SFIS community is proud to be honored nationally for actively and intentionally living its mission!

OPT

## Good Nutrition Leads to Strong Minds and Spirits

Saint Francis International School has focused on meeting students' needs "mind, BODY, and spirit" since it was founded in 2010. A major component of Saint Francis' efforts to meet students' physical needs has been the creation of a comprehensive nutrition program. Today, SFIS serves nearly 1,000 meals every day to keep students healthy and happy.

Every day, all students at SFIS eat breakfast provided by the Saint Francis Café (the school cafeteria). With help from the State of Maryland and the federal government every student is offered breakfast every day at no additional cost to the school's families. Daily breakfast is served in the classrooms before Morning Meeting and ranges from cereal and milk to hot egg and cheese sandwiches. All students at SFIS start the day off on equal footing with full stomachs regardless of families' financial resources or morning time constraints.

Saint Francis Café also partners with the Maryland State Department of Education to use federal funding to offer free and reduced price meals at lunchtime. Saint Francis Café has worked hard this year to create an even healthier menu that includes more



Third Graders serve fresh, garden-grown salad as part of Saint Francis Café.

fresh fruits and vegetables served every day. A cool new component of the Saint Francis Café program has been the ability to include salads grown by the SFIS 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classes in the school garden as a monthly vegetable option at lunchtime.

In addition to breakfast and lunch, Saint Francis Café also serves snacks to all SFIS students who participate in After Care and other after school activities like Science Club. During the summers, Saint Francis Café

not only provides breakfast and lunch for students who attend the Saint Francis Summer Academy, but also provides free lunch to children in need at the Catholic Community of Langley Park. SFIS looks forward to continually improving the menu and offerings provided by Saint Francis Café into the future with the belief that schools must meet the comprehensive needs of students in order to help students develop to be their best selves!

OPT



Ms. Dillon Cool speaks at the SFIS Mission Fair about the needs of poor children in Uganda.

## Making Lenten Almsgiving Personal

Each year, starting with the kick off at Mission Fair, the Saint Francis International School community raises funds during Lent to help a specially chosen charity or mission. This year, the students at SFIS are raising money for two groups; one here in the US and one overseas.

During the first half of Lent the SFIS community raised over \$600 to send to the Arlington Academy

of Hope in Uganda. The school was chosen because this March one of the first grade teachers at SFIS, Ms. Dillon Cool, traveled to Africa with a group of graduate students from Marymount University to provide professional development to teachers in rural Uganda. At the Mission Fair assembly at the beginning of Lent students at the school got to hear Ms. Cool speak passionately about how their collection of alms during Lent would directly affect the children at the school she was to visit in Uganda.

During the second half of Lent, the students at SFIS have been raising funds to help the ministries of the Oblate Sisters of Providence who are based in Baltimore. Later this spring, the entire SFIS Middle School will travel on a pilgrimage to the Oblate Sisters' motherhouse to learn about Mother Mary Lange, their foundress, who is currently being considered for canonization by the Catholic Church.

OPT

### Christ the King

## Holy Week at Christ the King

### Vigil and Passion (Palm) Sunday Masses & Services

#### Saturday March 19

4pm: Vigil Mass (English); 5:30pm Vigil Mass (Spanish)

#### Sunday March 20

8:30am Mass, Blessing & distribution of Palms in the vestibule; 9:30am Palm Sunday joint service with St Paul UMC at 2601 Colston Dr. Chevy Chase;

10:30am Sunday Mass, Blessing & distribution of Palms at Our Lady statue (English);

12:30pm Sunday Mass, Blessing & distribution of Palms at Our Lady statue (Spanish);

4pm Sunday Holy Week concert Johann Ernst Bach's Passion Oratorio

#### Wednesday March 23

6pm service with songs and readings to recreate the Passion of Our Lord; Penance Service follows at 7:30pm.

#### Holy Thursday March 24

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight (the regular 7am Mass and all day Adoration will not occur).

#### Good Friday March 25

3pm Stations of the Cross and Liturgy (Spanish)

5pm beginning of Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet

5-6pm Confessions

6:30pm Celebration of the Passion, followed by Stations of the Cross outside (the regular 9:15am daily Mass will not be celebrated)

#### Holy Saturday March 26

3-5pm Confessions

8pm Easter Vigil Mass (the regular 4pm anticipatory Mass will not occur)

#### Easter Sunday

Masses will be at the regular times: 8:30&10:30am (English); 12:30pm (Spanish).

Worthy of note, for those who receive this issue of Our Parish Times prior to the weekend Masses, and, prior to the start of Holy Week, the Christ the King Young Adults will sponsor a **Fish Fry dinner March 18** directly after the conclusion of the Friday Stations of the Cross, roughly 8pm, in the Colonial Room. Only a donation of \$5 per adult is requested to offset the costs.

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### St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

**Tobias A. Harkleroad,**  
Principal

**St. Camillus Campus**  
1500 Camillus Drive  
Silver Spring, MD 20903

**St. Mark Campus**  
7501 Adelphi Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20783

## The Year of Mercy at Christ the King

In this Year of Mercy, Christ the King has had a series of talks and a concert on the Year of Mercy entitled "Merciful Like The Father." The talks have, and will be held on Saturdays in the Religious Education Building from 5-6:30PM, the concert on a Sunday in the Church at 4pm.

- April 17, Sunday: Mercy in Concert, directed by Ms Katie Yeago, Director of Music at

Christ the King with professional chamber consort, vocal quartet and the Christ the King Schola, featuring the works of J.S. Bach and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

- May 7, Saturday: God, Rich in Mercy, encyclical of St. John Paul II, Guest Speaker, Fr. Antonio Lopez, FSCB, Provost/Dean and Associate Professor of Theology at the

Pontifical John Paul II Institute for studies on Marriage & Family

- June 11, Saturday: Mercy and Justice in the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, the guest speaker to be announced. No registration is required. All events are at Christ the King Church, 2300 East-West Highway in Silver Spring.

OPT



# Building up Our Church

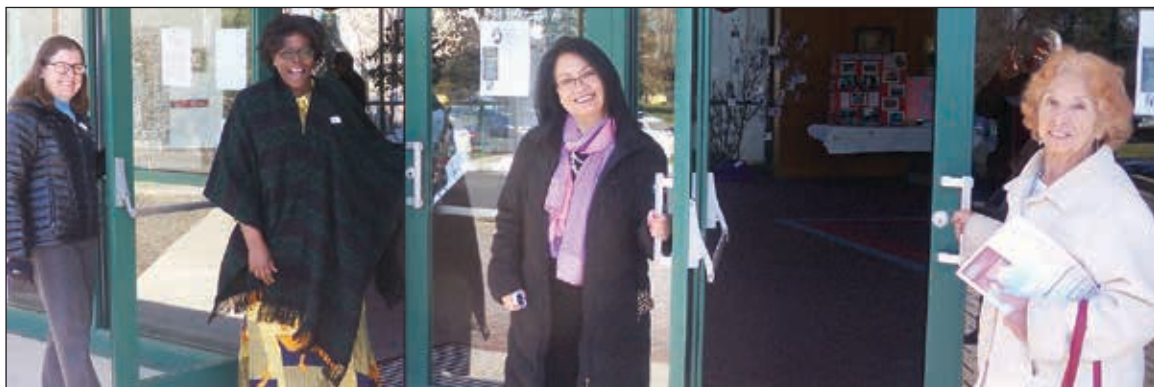
## St. Francis Aims to Revitalize Parish

By Melissa Egan

In 2014, the First Synod of the Archdiocese of Washington laid out a spiritual blueprint for improving the archdiocesan church. For local pastors the question became how to cultivate passionate disciples at the parish level to

affect change. Our answer is in full swing, thanks to the leadership of Deacon Dan Finn and many dedicated parishioners.

The “Build up Our Church” initiative has a simple mission: to make a good parish even better. Led by Deacon Dan Finn, over two dozen parishioners began dis-



Joyful Greeters preparing to greet parishioner before Mass. L-R: Mary Cutting, Agnes Nagadya, Eleanor Alcanites, Teresa Krafchik



Information Desk Volunteers Fred and Kathy Able providing information to parishioner Betty Baklarz. Information is available for new, want to be new and existing parishioners.

cerning the effort’s areas of focus in the fall of 2014, deciding upon social concerns, faith formation, community building, liturgical and administration ministries. From there, they developed 13 priorities they hoped would enhance these five focus areas in the parish community.

The first of the new initiatives, the Joyful Greeters ministry, kicked off in December 2015. Members of this ministry help set a joyful tone for people attending Mass by opening the church doors and greeting individuals as they enter and leave. So far, over 60 people have signed up for this ministry.

Helen Hayes, who helps coordi-

nate the Joyful Greeters ministry, describes the community building effort this way-- “I think it’s the type of ministry that does a lot to deepen the way that people get to know one other, that carries over from week to week. And, it doesn’t take that much effort.”

Discussions were informed by a number of books that church leaders found to be useful in considering the First Synod’s statutes and recommendations. While enhancing the liturgical experience is a high priority, the group has also identified services that fill unmet needs, such as an Information Desk at Masses that allows questions to be answered that would normally

go to parish staff, and child care during faith formation sessions.

Ken Raker, a volunteer coordinator of adult faith formation, said “I feel like I’ve learned so much about the inner workings of the church. It’s such a welcoming environment, you don’t experience this by just going to Mass and reading the bulletin until you get involved.”

Fr. Dillon hopes the effort will guide our parish to develop a network of faith sharing groups that meet on a regular basis. Some of these of networks already exist, such as Marriage Encounter, Couples for Christ and Teams of Our Lady.

OPT

# Twenty-Eight Year Relationship with Haiti Parish Producing Results

By Daniel F. Cardile Photography by Michael J. Charbonneau

In the late 1980’s, St. Francis “twined” with The Conversion of St. Paul parish in Leon, Haiti. Located in the rugged mountains of Grand Anse province, the town of Leon is comprised of about 20,000 poor, but warm and kind people. They asked for help with health care, education, and economic development. During the last 28 years, through the generosity of the St. Francis parishioners, and the involvement of many volunteers, we have addressed those needs.

Education: The parish school has gone from a handful of students in a few primary grades to a school of hundreds of students in a primary and secondary school, called Bon Pasteur. In 2015 St. Francis



Dan Cardile with Bon Pasteur students, February 2016

contributed \$22,000 to subsidize teachers’ salaries, plus individuals have directly sponsored the poorest students who could not afford the low tuition.

Health Care: We now support a year round clinic, plus run five, week-long, medical missions each year. The clinicians are doctors, nurses, and pharmacists from St.



Dr. Kathy Jobe with patient, February 2016 Medical Mission

Francis and our partners (Seattle King-County Disaster Team and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing). Each week, they see about 800 patients, who would otherwise have

no access to medical care. The providers pay their own costs. St. Francis pays for medications and special treatments. In 2015, over

Continued on page 33

# St. Francis of Assisi Hosts Dignity of Life Seminar

By Betty Baklarz, RN, FCN, Coordinator of SFA Health Ministry

The SFA Health Ministry, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Washington Life Issues Department, cosponsored an “Honoring the Dignity of Life in Sickness and Death Seminar” on February 20. About 35 were in attendance. Dr. Kevin Donovan and Attorney Elena Boisvert, discussed the ethical and legal aspects of medical decision making in times of illness and at the end of life.

Dr. Donovan, Director of the Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University



Betty Baklarz (at podium) moderating Q&A with Dr. Kevin Donovan and Elena Boisvert, Esq.

Hospital, presented the criteria for making an ethical and morally acceptable decision regarding med-

ical interventions in times of illness. He also discussed the immorality of the Physician Assisted Suicide bill,

SB 418, which was being debated in the Maryland Senate.

Ms. Boisvert, an eldercare attorney, explained the use and scope of the advance directive (living will). She also discussed the legal implications of having, or not having, a durable power of attorney for healthcare decisions, and the Maryland Orders for Life Saving Treatment (MOLST). She stressed the need for family members to have conversations with each other about all aspects of care in advance of a life threatening illness or crisis.

A lively question and answer period followed the presentations. Many take home references were provided. Father Dillon closed by

noting that subject of advance planning is pertinent across all adult age groups, not just for the “elderly.”

OPT

**St. Francis  
of Assisi Parish**

6701 Muncaster Mill Road  
Derwood, MD

**Rev. John J. Dillon,  
Pastor**

301-840-1407

**Rose Attig and John McCarthy,  
OPT Co-Editors**

240-447-2286

jfmamm@gmail.com





Mother Seton's RCIA Candidates

## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at Mother Seton – Scrutinies

Over the next few weeks the Catechumen and Candidates in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will be undergoing the Rites of Scrutinies. These rites were celebrated on March 13. The Scrutinies, which are solemnly celebrated on Sundays and are reinforced by an exorcism, are rites of self-searching and repentance and have above all a spiritual purpose. The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good. The Scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and

deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.

The Catechumens are: Issam Ahmed, Jack Lam, Gary Marquez, and Daphne Brigitte M'Bayo. The Candidates are: Xeniz Barnes, Marion Chakiath, Astrid Correa-Abdullah, Joseph Evans, Jonathan Lee, Diana Manos, Rodolpho Rodriguez, and Silvia Rodriguez. Please pray for these men and women as they continue their journey of faith to the Easter Vigil where they will be Baptized in Christ, receive the Eucharist for the first time and be Confirmed in the Holy Spirit. We, as members of the Body of Christ at Mother Seton Parish have the privilege of seeking ways in our own spiritual lives to pray and celebrate their entrance into our Catholic Christian Community.

OPT

## Mother Seton Parish Lenten, Triduum and Easter Schedule

### Confessions during Lent:

- Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. (English and Spanish)
- Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Saturdays from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturdays from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
- Good Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, March 20, 2016

- Masses: Saturday March 19, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Spanish) and Sunday March 20, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.
- The Solemn Entrance and Blessing of palms will take place at all the Masses.

### Holy Thursday, March 24, 2016

- Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:30 p.m.
- Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the Parish Center following the 7:30 p.m. Mass until Midnight

### Good Friday, March 25, 2016

- Stations of the Cross – 12:00 Noon; 4:30 in Spanish
- Service of the Lord's Passion and Death and Veneration of the Cross – 5:00 p.m. (Spanish)
- Service of the Lord's Passion and Death and Veneration of the Cross – 7:30 p.m.

### Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil, March 26, 2016

- The Solemn Easter Vigil – 8:00 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

- Masses – 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. (Spanish)

OPT

## Mother Seton's Black History Celebration

By Dorrette Paulin

Sunny, warm and cloudless, these were the weather conditions for Mother Seton's Black History Celebration which was held on Sunday, February 28; unlike last year's snow and ice that hindered the participation of many of the performing choirs. However, in the early afternoon on this particular Sunday, the caravan of performers from Nativity Gospel Choir, Washington, D.C., St. Joseph's Gospel Choir from Lanham, the GARBO's, our local choir, and the Grace's Favor Dance Troupe arrived in the parking lot to join Mother Seton's Mass Choir for a lively high-spirited performance while the attendees waited in anticipation in the Parish Center.

Sharply at 2:30 p.m., our Mistress of Ceremony, Nadine Davison signaled the beginning of the program and everyone



Mother Seton Choir

stood to join the choirs in the singing of "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Francine Grey-Theriot captivated us with an oral presentation, and our Pastor, Father Lee Fangmeyer welcomed everyone to the program and said the opening prayer. We were on our way

to an afternoon of foot-tapping and hand-clapping to lively praise music.

The attendees were not disappointed. Mother Seton's Choir led the program with stirring renditions of "Only This I Want", and "Lead Me, Guide Me", the talented young instrumentalists from St. Joseph's provided accompaniment to the adult choir, Jeff Corry, music director from Nativity moved through the crowd and had us all singing and clapping. GARBO's director, Larry Plummer enthusiastically led his choir in "Jesus Cares" and Doree Osborne from Grace's Favor Dance Troupe leaped effortlessly across the floor through two numbers which left us all breathless and in awe. Father Blake Evans, a former Parochial Vicar of Mother Seton, closed out the program with a benediction and everyone was treated to refreshments.

OPT



Nativity Gospel Choir, Washington, D.C

## Faith Community Nursing at Mother Seton Parish

By Mary Beth DeLuzio RN, FCN

The Health ministry at Mother Seton is thriving and growing in many different directions. We are blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who want to put their FAITH IN ACTION. Recently, we have had two healthy cooking demonstrations. We are happy to have Nikki Haddad, who is a healthy cooking instructor at Holy Cross Hospital and Suburban Hospital, come do a demo on "Healthy eating after the holidays" and in honor of heart health awareness month "An Affair of the Heart". We got to sample the recipes and they were delicious. Nikki has so many healthy tips for us. You would not believe how easy it is to make something healthy just by using herbs, spices and lower fat versions of various ingredients. As Nikki says, "a recipe is a roadmap that has many many detours." We have one more demo in the series. It will be titled FOODS OF THE BIBLE. It will be exactly like the title says, foods eaten in biblical times. It will take place Saturday April 9 from 11-1 in the parish center. The cost is \$20 per person and this includes the recipes, samples of food and all the healthy tips Nikki can give us in two hours. Pre-registration



AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART cooking demo on February 20

with payment is required. If you are interested please go to [www.mothersetonparish.org](http://www.mothersetonparish.org) and look under new & events.

Other things we are doing in the Health Ministry are; monthly blood pressure screenings, caregiver support group, a spiritual guidance after a loss group. Mother Seton brings Communion to the sick and homebound. A new special needs

ministry with a hope to have an adaptive religious education starting up soon. Montgomery Hospice will be here in May to offer a six-week parent loss group. For any information or questions on any of these groups or activities, please contact Mary Beth DeLuzio RN, FCN at [parishnurse@mothersetonparish.org](mailto:parishnurse@mothersetonparish.org) or 301 924 3838 ext. 222.

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**Mother Seton Parish**  
19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard  
Germantown, MD

**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer**  
Pastor  
301-924-3838

**Juliana Ordoñez**  
OPT Editor  
[Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org](mailto:Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org)



# Newest Eagle Scout at Resurrection

**T**ravis Armbruster, a senior at Paint Branch High School in Burtonsville, became the seventh youngster at Resurrection Church to attain the rank of Eagle Scout since 2001.

Travis, the son of parishioners George and Maureen Armbruster, received the award, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program, during Court of Honor ceremonies Jan. 31 at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Colesville.

Larry Perry, former Scout Master of Troop 1444 and currently the troop's council chairman, presented Travis with the Eagle award.

The Church of the Transfiguration has sponsored the Boy Scouts of

Troop 1444 since the mid-1960's, and Travis became the troop's 106th Eagle Scout since then. Other recent Eagles from Resurrection include Timothy Lidiak in 2014; Robert Korycinski in 2011; Michael Twigg in 2006; Jason Meola and Daniel Meola in 2003; and Michael Laudwein in 2001.

Earning the Eagle rank requires earning 21 merit badges, while serving in the troop in a leadership position for at least six months, and planning, developing and giving leadership to others in a service project helpful to a religious institution, a school, or the community.

Armbruster's project was to build a 6-foot high, 90-foot-long stockade fence on the Church of the

Transfiguration's property, replacing a decades-old chain link fence.

Travis received support in applying for the building permit and reviewing the proposal, and reports from adult leaders, including Perry, Marvin Arthur, Steve Van Albert, Steve Bettinger, Rob Zepp, Lynn Schilling, Ellen DelSole and John Ager. Many adults and fellow Boy Scouts and friends helped clear the area, dig the post holes, and assemble and attach the fence sections.

Travis plans to attend Towson University after graduating from Paint Branch in June and pursue studies in digital media and journalism.



Travis Armbruster receives his Eagle Scout rank Jan. 31 from Larry Perry, Council Chairman of Troop 1444 at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Colesville, while Travis's parents, Maureen and George Armbruster, look on. Photo by Paul Meola

OPT

## Resurrection Staff Has Some New Faces

By John Small

**T**he Resurrection Church staff has some new faces on the scene in the past few months, replacing others who long-served the bustling parish in Burtonsville.

One of the new staffers is Maggie Walker, who took over as parish Communications Director in November, replacing Beth Amenabar in working on the church's website, the Bulletin, social media, and other communications.

Maggie, whose parents are long-time Resurrection parishioners Wendy and Terry Walker, grew up in the Burtonsville neighborhood and attended local schools – including Banneker Middle School and Blake High School.

She also is a Catholic University graduate with a bachelor of musical theater and has been performing as a singer-actress in live productions in recent years, including as Sister Margaretta in the Sound of Music in Annapolis and Ft. Collins, Colorado. She also had a leading role in a production of Hairspray in Colorado, as well as a role in Bat Boy at the



Maggie Walker is the new Communications Director at Resurrection parish. Photo by Lynne Kingsley, courtesy of BlackRock Center for the Arts

1st Stage Theater in McLean, Va., and in a live show at the Amish Acres Historic Farm and Heritage Resort in Nappanee, Indiana.

Walker, who also is employed at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown, can be contacted at [mwalker@resurrectionadw.org](mailto:mwalker@resurrectionadw.org) or (301) 288-4661 with any website, Bulletin, or social media announcements.

Two other new staffers are Carol Williamson and Louise Locke, who began in December as Pastoral Associates at the Riderwood seniors community, serving some 850 Catholic resi-

dents who are part of the Resurrection parish.

Williamson and Locke succeed Linda Carey and Maura McMullen, who served 14 years and eight years, respectively, in Resurrection's pastoral ministry at Riderwood.

As pastoral associates, Louise and Carol work as a team in a variety of activities in support of the residents and the Resurrection priests and deacons who serve them. Those activities include helping with Catholic masses and other liturgy; facilitating Bible study classes, lectures and discussion groups; giving communion, ministering to and visiting residents in assisted living; working with families on funeral and memorial preparations; and providing all kinds of day-to-day support.

"A lot of it is just life encouragement," Williamson says. "The residents are just so grateful for everything we are able to do." There is great variety of needs here, and "every day is a new day," she adds.

The Resurrection program is part of the overall pastoral ministry at Riderwood by a variety of churches, with the motto from Micah 6:8 – "acting justly, loving mercy, walking humbly with our God."

Williamson is a native of Union City, N.J., with a bachelor and master's degree in psychology from Kean University. She worked many years in her home state and Maryland as a mental health worker with children, and in family support organizations, doing community outreach, advocacy and managing group homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Now a parishioner at Resurrection, Carol worked at the ARC of Howard County in human resources before coming to Riderwood.

OPT

## Riderwood to Hold Big Earth Day Celebration

**T**he Riderwood seniors community will hold its annual Earth Day celebration Tuesday, April 19, continuing a tradition of many years.

The big event, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. April 19 in Montgomery Station's Maryland Hall and Chesapeake Rom, will feature exhibits, presentations on sustainability and other topics, short film clips on environmental topics, and plants for sale for spring planting.

The Riderwood event coincides with celebrations of Earth Day in Washington and around the world

the week of April 17-23. An estimated 1 billion people in nearly 200 countries take part, including Earth Day on the National Mall with live performances by musicians, speeches by celebrities, and green-themed interactive exhibits and demonstrations.

The Riderwood event will include a presentation by the Watkins Nature Center in Upper Marlboro; a talk by paleontologist Peter Kranz on the dinosaur Nature Fund; and the sale of recy-

*Continued on page 33*



Youngsters in grades 6-12 lead the Stations of the Cross at Resurrection Church and the Riderwood seniors' community during Lent, including a Holy Week service that is televised throughout the center. Photo by John Small

## Youth Lenten Stations Include Televised Re-Showings

**Y**oungsters at Resurrection Church again are leading the Stations of the Cross on several occasions during Lent, including a Holy Week ecumenical ceremony that is taped and televised at the Riderwood seniors' community.

Carrying six-foot crosses from the 14 stations commemorating events in the crucifixion of Christ, the 20 youngsters in grades six through twelve lead the parish in recitations, meditations and prayers during the devotional service.

### Church of the Resurrection Parish

3315 Greencastle Road  
Burtonsville, MD

**Fr. Jeffery Defayette**  
Pastor

301-236-5200

**Parish Editor**  
John Small

[johnny1944@hotmail.com](mailto:johnny1944@hotmail.com)

301-318-4247

*Continued on page 33*



Carol Williamson (left) and Louise Locke (right) are the new Pastoral Associates for Resurrection at the Riderwood community. Photo by John Small



## EDUCATION

Con't from page 1

impression each year, and each day offers a new lesson and opportunities for St. John's students to gain a new perspective on the world.

"This week is when the school shines light on the fact that there are people out there that do not have all the basic necessities of life and that it is our responsibility to do something about that," said senior Elon Epps. "I think that this week is truly educational, because most students do not know the extent of poverty that exists not only in the U.S., but right here in D.C."

On Monday, St. John's kicked off the week with sandwich-making for Martha's Table in the cafeteria during all lunch periods. Students stopped by throughout the day, and the school was able to meet its goal of 1,000 sandwiches! They will be distributed to low-income and homeless children, families and individuals in Washington.

On Tuesday, St. John's welcomed two speakers from the National Coalition for the Homeless, Penny Callan and John Harrison. Both are both part of the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau, which is comprised of "extraordinary people who have given of themselves to share personally and powerfully with others about their own experiences of homeless-



Clockwise from top left) Seniors Cal Paul, Kaitwan Jackson, Luke Wardour, Priscilla Felten and Josh House shared their service experiences with freshmen and sophomores as part of Poverty Education Week.

ness." Throughout the day, these speakers generously shared their stories with the junior class in De La Salle Chapel, putting a face to the global issue of homelessness.

"It has really opened up my mind and showed me how big our world really is," said senior Will Greening. "There are so many people who need help, and so many ways that people can help them."

On Wednesday, six St. John's seniors shared their personal experiences with service – on a local and global level. Priscilla Felten, Mina Larraquel, Luke Wardour, Josh House, Cal Paul, and Kaitwan Jackson spoke to freshmen and sophomores about serving the DC

area, traveling to South America with the Amigos de las Americas program and taking part in St. John's weeklong service immersion trips. Recent trips have included Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Walls, Mississippi; the De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, Montana; the Oscar Romero Center in Camden, New Jersey; and the St. Vincent de Paul Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The seniors encouraged the underclassmen to get involved in their communities, local and global, to open themselves up to new experiences and to find a way to make a difference in people's lives. "No matter where we are, as long as we

recognize the needs of others, we should spread the volunteer culture and help," Jackson said. "It's a lot easier to make a difference in someone's life than you usually realize," Paul added.

On Thursday, St. John's Mothers' Club sponsored the Hunger Banquet. During their lunch period, each student received a slip of paper sorting them into three groups: low, middle and high income. The low-income students, which included the majority of each group, received only a bowl of rice for lunch and ate while sitting on the floor. The middle-income students received beans and rice and ate sitting in chairs. The few high-income students received the "golden ticket" and were served a three-course meal. This exercise paints a stark portrait of the income disparity seen around the world.

"This week has not only opened my eyes to the struggles facing those stricken with poverty; it has made me aware of the sheer number of people in the U.S. and across the world living under these conditions," said senior K.P. Rurka.

In addition to each day's programming, St. John's also offered several weeklong initiatives supporting Poverty Education Week. Each class included lessons around this topic, and many of the school's departments found ways to further educate the school community.

Student-artists created exhibits on the plight of the poor that were

displayed around campus. They also made bowls for the So Others Might Eat (SOME) Empty Bowl Project, which raises awareness of hunger in the Washington, DC, area. In addition, the Counseling Department shared themed prayers and statistics each morning during homeroom announcements and the Fitzpatrick Library created a themed book display and web quest for students to complete during free periods.

The St. John's community also came together to provide tangible support for several partner organizations. The school held a fundraising drive for the Child Discovery Centre, St. John's sister school in Kenya, and for the De La Salle Blackfeet School in Browning, MT. The SJC Reading Partners Club also sponsored a used book drive to collect books for Reading Partners and Young Ladies of Tomorrow.

"Poverty Education Week is a thoughtful reminder about how lucky we are as students at SJC, and how many people around the world are in need," said senior John Dour. "It's a call for us to give back and to recognize that we are called to be one through community. We can help others through even small actions, which go a long way."

*Kathy Howe is the Director of Communications at St. John's College High School.*

OPT

## SHORT

Con't from page 1

among local veterans. You can join the celebration to honor Fr John while supporting the work of the Coalition by attending the gala. It's inspiring and it's fun. More info at: [www.mcch.net/events/2016gala.html](http://www.mcch.net/events/2016gala.html).

Also on the "party circuit" PCR's annual Patricia Sullivan Awards dinner will be held on April 16. PCR was founded over twenty years ago by a group of parents of disabled adult children at Our Lady of Mercy. This is a truly joyful event with great entertainment. PCR will be honoring several individuals for their passion to promote inclusive communities. Honored this year are: Geraldine and Neil Coakley (posthumously) with the Patricia Sullivan Award; Lilly Paro and Molly Shriver (Holy Child students) as Youth Volunteers; Catholic Charities Parish Partnership Program with the award for Outstanding Community Partner; and Rene Dobriyal as Outstanding Staff Member. For more information, go to: [pcr-inc.org](http://pcr-inc.org).

Kevin Sexton is stepping down as CEO of Holy Cross Hospital this month after 18 years of remarkable leadership and successful service. I could easily write a column about Kevin's accomplishments and contributions to health care in Montgomery County. In summary, Kevin expanded access to health care to thousands of uninsured and insured people in our county by opening a new hospital in Germantown; vastly upgraded the hospital in Silver Spring; assured quality prenatal and maternity care for low income mothers; and established several community based

health centers throughout the county; all with uncompromising commitment to excellence in health care delivery. Kevin will be honored at the William F Bolger Center in Potomac on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Every Catholic, every Montgomery Countian should be grateful to Kevin and the Sisters of the Holy Cross for their passion for health care for all. For more information go to: [www.holycrosshealth.org/news](http://www.holycrosshealth.org/news).

Finally we celebrate three local Catholic High Schools that are ranked by NICHE K-12 as among the nation's top 25 Catholic high schools. Congratulations to St Anselm's (10), Stone Ridge (22), and The Heights (23). Several other local Catholic high schools made it into the top 100. We're proud of them all and honor their passion for high quality Catholic education.

On Palm Sunday we read the lengthy Passion of Jesus during Mass. As Catholics, we often associate the word passion with the suffering and death of Jesus. For our reflection, I suggest a broader definition, simply stated as Christ's intense feeling. **The greatest Passion of Christ is the immeasurable and unconditional love He has for each human being as demonstrated by his life on Earth.** Throughout the Gospels, Jesus shows His love for us, not only by the extraordinary pain of the cross. He mercifully forgives sinners, compassionately heals the sick, patiently tolerates humiliation by Pharisees and other disbelievers, and joyfully accepts Jews and Gentiles as disciples and friends. Christ's true passion is God's love for us and God's wish that each of us live eternally in heaven.

So, what's your true passion? Likely not as profound as Christ's!

Unlike Christ, the intensity of our passion will not cause our tears to change to blood, but at a minimum it should cause an emotional if not physical sweat.

As Catholics, the passion to serve God and others is indelibly imprinted in our DNA by the gift of the Sacraments. So, aware or not, each of us is instilled with a great passion to serve the Lord. Golf, football, texting, music and fashion are not the passions the Holy Spirit bestowed! Intense interests, perhaps, but not passions. The virtues that lead us to serve God and others are the inevitable passions, discovered by listening to the voice of God in our hearts. Our unique passion may be for service; for parenting; perhaps a call to religious life; to work for peace or justice; for the dignity of life; to teach or heal or to protect the vulnerable. Like the man in Jesus's parable who found treasure buried in a field and immediately used all his worldly resources to buy the field and obtain the treasure, when we find our passion, surely God's peace and joy will follow. To help you discover and clarify your passion if you haven't yet, I suggest reading the Beatitudes or Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25. And anything by Pope Francis or Mother Theresa. Or reflect upon the passions of the four celebrations above. The passionate humanitarian Albert Schweitzer said "I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve".

Good luck with your search and your passion and a blessed Easter.

Chuck Short

## St. Mary



### Read Across America

Because we all know a book is worth a second look, the seventh-grade students read to their Little Buddies as part of Read Across America March 2. The day marks the birth of author Dr. Seuss.

## FAITH AND FUN

Con't from page 7

for a pancake breakfast. And that was just the beginning.

Teacher appreciation day, spirit day, community service projects for each grade, school wide Rosary

service and Family lunch filled the week. The highly anticipated Faculty vs eighth grade volleyball game led to yet ANOTHER VICTORY for the faculty. Their winning streak seems unstoppable... must be divine intervention!

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# HUD to Test New Approach to Help Low-Income Seniors Age in Place

In January, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it is making approximately \$15 million available to test a promising housing and services model for low-income seniors to age in their own homes and delay or avoid the need for nursing home care.

HUD's Supportive Services Demonstration for Elderly Households in HUD-Assisted Multifamily Housing will offer three-year grants to eligible owners of HUD-assisted senior housing developments to cover the cost of a full-time Enhanced Service Coordinator and a part-time Wellness Nurse. The purpose of the Demonstration is to test the effectiveness of this enhanced supportive services model for elderly households and to evaluate the value of enhanced service coordination paired with affordable housing for seniors. The demonstration will be independently evaluated to determine the impact of the enhanced supportive services model on:

• aging in place in HUD-assisted senior developments;

• avoiding early transitions to institutional care;

• preventing unnecessary and often costly health care events – such as some emergency room visits and hospitalizations – for residents in HUD-assisted senior developments.

HUD and the U.S. Department of

Health and Human Services (HHS) collaborated on several research initiatives to inform the design of this Demonstration including a study in 2010 to identify promising models

for aging in place in assisted housing and to develop a design for a seniors and services demonstration intended to support aging in place, and an evaluation launched

in 2012 of the Support and Services at Home (SASH) demonstration in Vermont. Lessons from each have informed the design of the demonstration announced in January,

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## CDC Announces Critical Component in Elder Abuse Fight

In February, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the much-anticipated *Elder Abuse Surveillance: Uniform Definitions and Recommended Core Data Elements*.

The field of elder justices has long struggled with the challenge of comparing data from different jurisdictions or sources, each of which uses their own definition of "abuse" or "neglect." By establishing and normalizing consistent definitions and data elements, it should become easier to compare apples to apples in order to better understand, and more effectively combat, elder abuse.

CDC worked with a wide range of stakeholders to develop its recommendations, which are designed for professionals in the field of elder abuse. CDC also released a two-page fact sheet, *Understanding*



*Elder Abuse*, which provides a basic overview of elder abuse. Intended for the general public, *Understanding Elder Abuse* is available at:

[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/elderabuse/](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/elderabuse/)

If you are, or if you suspect that someone you know, is the victim of elder abuse, please call National Center on Elder Abuse's Elder Care Locator at 1-800-667-1116.

Visit their Web site for more information: [www.ncea.aoa.gov/](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/)

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Article 1

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, and establish the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.





**M**arch is National Nutrition Month, when the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics reminds everyone to return to the basics of healthy eating. It is also the time of year when the Academy celebrates expertise of registered dietitian nutritionists as the food and nutrition experts.

The theme for 2016 is "Savor the Flavor of Eating

Right," which encourages everyone to take time to enjoy food traditions and appreciate the pleasures, great flavors and social experiences food can add to our lives. How, when, why and where we eat are just as important as what we eat. Develop a mindful eating pattern that includes nutritious and flavorful foods – that's the best way to savor the flavor of eating right!

OPT

By Marisa Moore, MBA, RDN, LD

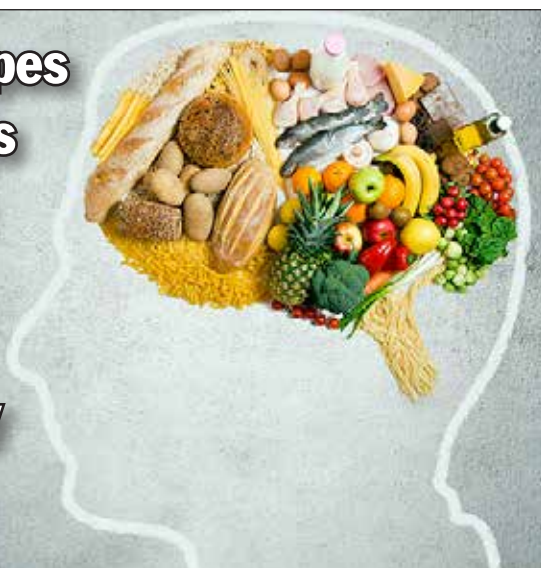
**I**f you're feeling forgetful, it could be due to a lack of sleep or a number of other reasons including genetics, level of physical activity, and lifestyle and environmental factors. However, there's no doubt that diet plays a major role in brain health.

The best menu for boosting memory and brain function encourages good blood flow to the brain — much like what you'd eat to nourish and protect your heart. A recent study found that the Mediterranean Diet helps in keeping aging brains sharp, and a growing body of evidence links foods like those in the Mediterranean diet with better cognitive function, memory and alertness.

Strengthen Recall by Adding These Foods to the Rotation

Eat your veggies. You're not likely to forget this message. Getting adequate vegetables, especially

## Four Types of Foods to Help Boost Your Memory



cruciferous ones including broccoli, cabbage and dark leafy greens, may help improve memory. Try a raw kale salad or substitute collard greens for the tortilla in your next sandwich wrap. Broccoli stir-fry is also an excellent option for lunch

or dinner.

Be sweet on berries and cherries. Berries — especially dark ones such as blackberries, blueberries and cherries — are a rich source of anthocyanins and other flavonoids

*Continued on page 27*

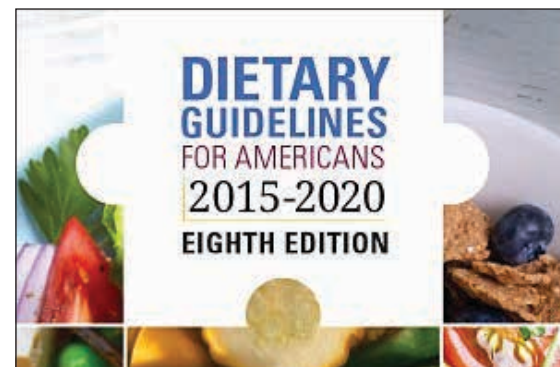
## New Dietary Guidelines Encourage Healthy Eating Patterns to Prevent Chronic Diseases

**O**n January 6, Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia M. Burwell and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack released updated nutritional guidelines that encourage Americans to adopt a series of science-based recommendations to improve how they eat to reduce obesity and prevent chronic diseases like Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. The 2015-2020 Dietary

Guidelines for Americans is the nation's trusted resource for evidence-based nutrition recommendations and serves to provide the general public, as well as policy makers and health professionals with the information they need to help the public make informed choices about their diets at home, school, work and in their communities.

Based on a review of current scientific evidence on nutrition, the 2015 edition includes updated guidance on topics such as added

sugars, sodium, and cholesterol and new information on caffeine. For example, the 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines is the first edition to recommend a quantitative limit to consume less than 10 percent of calo-



ries from added sugars. This edition also reaffirms guidance about the core building blocks of a healthy lifestyle that have remained consistent over the past several editions.

The 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines is available exclusively on [health.gov](http://health.gov). In the coming months, the U.S. Government Publishing Office will release a printed edition and a downloadable PDF will become available online.

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**A** National Institutes of Health website ([nihseniorhealth.gov/videolist.html](http://nihseniorhealth.gov/videolist.html)) features short videos on a wide-range of senior health issues. The health videos offer up-to-date medical information, tips for healthy living, and inspiring stories of older adults who are coping with diseases or conditions of aging.

#### Health Video Topics

Alcohol Use and Older Adults  
Alzheimer's Caregiving  
Alzheimer's Disease  
Anxiety Disorders  
Balance Problems  
Breast Cancer  
Cataract  
Colorectal Cancer  
Complementary Health Approaches  
COPD  
Depression



Diabetes  
Dry Mouth  
Eating Well As You Get Older  
Exercise and Physical Activity for Older Adults  
Falls and Older Adults  
Glaucoma  
Gout  
Hearing Loss  
Heart Attack  
Hip Replacement  
Kidney Disease  
Knee Replacement  
Long Term Care  
Low Vision  
Macular Degeneration  
Medicare

Osteoarthritis  
Osteoporosis  
Paget's Disease of Bone  
Peripheral Arterial Disease  
Problems with Smell  
Prostate Cancer  
Rheumatoid Arthritis  
Quitting Smoking for Older Adults  
Shingles  
Skin Cancer  
Sleep and Aging  
Stroke  
Surviving Cancer  
Taking Medicines  
Talking with Your Doctor

## SOAR Spring Trips!

Registration begins at 8:30am on Monday, February 3 at 8:30AM

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation has released its Spring 2016 Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation (SOAR) travel program for active adults age 55 and over. Unless noted, all transportation is provided on rest-room-equipped motor coaches.

You may register for a SOAR trip in any of four ways. The fastest and easiest way is to use the internet and go to [ACTIVEMONTGOMERY.ORG](http://ACTIVEMONTGOMERY.ORG). You may also mail your trip application, fax it to 240-777-6818, or register in person at 4010 Randolph Road.

If you have questions about the registration process, please call

240-777-6840. If you have questions or require more information about a specific trip, call the SOAR Coordinator at 240-777-4926.

Spring trips include:

#### Roads, Rails and Runners – A Transportation History

April 6, 7, \$80

#### Cherry Blossom Cruise and Lunch

April 13, \$85

#### Guided Tour of James Madison's Montpelier Estate

April 20, \$70

*Continued on page 34*

## MEMORY

*Con't from page 26*

that may boost memory function. Enjoy a handful of berries for a snack, mixed into cereal or baked into an antioxidant-rich dessert. You can reap these benefits from fresh, frozen or dried berries and cherries.

Get adequate omega-3 fatty acids. Essential for good brain health, omega-3 fatty acids, docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) in particular, may help improve memory in healthy young adults. "DHA is the most abundant fatty acid in the brain. It makes sense that if you have higher levels of DHA in the blood, then the brain will operate more efficiently," says Andrea Giancoli, RD, registered dietitian and past Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokesperson.

Seafood, algae and fatty fish — including salmon, bluefin tuna, sardines and herring — are some of the best sources of omega-3 fatty acids. Substitute fish for meat a couple of times each week to get a healthy dose. Grill, bake or broil fish for ultimate flavor and health. Try salmon tacos with red cabbage slaw, snack on sardines or enjoy seared tuna on salad greens for dinner. If you don't eat fish, discuss supplementation with your doctor or registered dietitian nutritionist. You can get omega-3 fatty acids from fish oil, seaweed or microalgae supplements.

Work in walnuts. Well known for a positive impact on heart health, walnuts also may improve working memory. Snack on a handful of walnuts to satisfy midday hunger, add them to oatmeal or salad for crunch or mix them into a vegetable stir-fry for extra protein.

These foods are not just good for the brain, they sustain a healthy heart and all parts of the body. While there's no guarantee that these foods will help you remember where you put your keys tomorrow, over time they can support lifelong good health.

Marisa Moore, MBA, RDN, LD, is a registered dietitian nutritionist and spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

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[www.VictoryHousing.org](http://www.VictoryHousing.org)





# Why should everyone respect life?

By Adrianna Robinson, Our Lady of Lourdes School eighth grader

My generation should be the one to end abortion, euthanasia, and any forms of assisted death. Our vision for the world should be one where every child is loved and accepted from the moment of conception and every person lives until the moment God has destined for them to die. Life is sacred and should be respected. Society should treat life as the precious gift it is. This simple idea goes back to Catholic social teaching. As a Catholic, I am called to love and respect all forms of life, young or old. We need to band together as children of God to create a loving society where every



Addie Robinson  
Photo by Freed Photography

parent has the tools and resources to raise a child and every person has

the resources to be cared for until their last breath.

I can help to build a pro-life generation by inspiring other young people by my example. One reason I believe people choose abortion is because they don't think they can support the child once it is born. I think we should support struggling families. An example of one way my schoolmates and I help support parents struggling to make a pro-life choice right now is by filling up baby bottles with change to be given to new mothers to buy diapers and other baby supplies. Supporting families shows them and others that our community loves them and their babies, and that we truly believe they made a loving choice by choosing life.

I think we should value elders for wisdom and experience. Our society has medicaid, so that elders can receive assisted living. I think that assisted living is great, but I have seen first hand how much love helps elderly people prosper. I see how my grandmothers can make my grandfathers, who both had health issues, smile just when they walk into a room, and how seeing their grandchildren and listening to their stories makes them happy. For elderly people I think love is the best support we can give them.

Another example of a way I could help my generation band together to value life is to spread the word using social media. One reason I think this is a good idea is because I know about charities

that help people who are struggling, but maybe the people who need help don't know about them. Using social media could help put people who need assistance in touch with charities that will help them. Everybody is on social media at one point during their day, and one ad could get people talking about building a pro-life generation.

Love, social media, and support for families are just a few of the many ways I could contribute to help build a pro-life society. If everyone contributed in his or her own way and valued life as sacred, it would be easy to build a pro-life generation. I respect life and everyone else should too.

OPT

# Why should everyone respect life?

By Maximilian Walsh, Our Lady of Lourdes School eighth grader

When I say that I'm pro-life, people call me conservative, devout, and even crazy. I just call myself a Christian. People these days are more concerned with the death penalty than with abortion. Murderers are put in jail where they receive comfortable rooms and food, while the U.S. president is supporting the killing of innocent babies. So how can I help? It's as simple as praying for the doctors performing abortion, the babies being aborted, and the parents choosing abortion. Prayer is our biggest weapon against all evil.

I have stood outside abortion clinics trying to persuade families not to undergo an abortion,



Max Walsh  
Photo by Freed Photography

and praying for the doctors inside. Those who continue to walk inside

do not leave feeling as good as they expected they would. There is no relief, and I see their sadness. I can tell by their forced smiles and sometimes sense I their regret. I know that they will carry the weight of killing an innocent baby for the rest of their life.

Every state has legalized abortion, and by doing so, they might as well legalize murder. That is simply what it is. Doctors tell their patients that there is something wrong with their baby and that they should have an abortion. None of us are perfect. Does that mean we should all be killed? Some ask, "What if a woman becomes pregnant unwillingly? Shouldn't she be able to have an abortion?" Think about it, why should that baby have to be

killed for his father's crime? Do you think that's fair?

When we can't see the value of even a newborn's life we lose respect for all life.

Hospitals aren't even letting people live their full life anymore. When there is still a good chance of survival and recovery, doctors convince the families that there is none. And when the family has been persuaded that this is the compassionate way, they stop feeding the patient and they are left to die without dignity. This goes to show that if we can't respect life at the moment of conception, how can we respect any life?

I can continue to stand up for those babies who cannot cry out and defend themselves. I can also build

the pro-life generation by denouncing organizations like Planned Parenthood, who are illegally selling aborted baby parts, and having conversations about their illegal abortions, and laughing about it, while still being funded by the United States government. I know I will have arguments about this topic, but I hope those with whom I disagree, will go home and think about what I have said, and have a change of heart.

All the ridicule and all the hate is worth it if I can save even one life. I will continue this effort, and hopefully others will have the strength to do the same. And we need to pray for those people killing innocent babies, and love them nonetheless.

OPT

## Maryland Right to Life Essay Winners

Our Lady of Lourdes School eighth-grader Adrianna Robinson won first place in the 2015/2016 Maryland Right to Life Foundation Essay & Oratory Contest in the Grades 7-9 category and her classmate Max Walsh took second place. All essays entered in the competition addressed the question: Why should everyone respect life?

Adrianna's essay is now entered in the Jane B. Thompson Oratory Contest sponsored by the National Right to Life Committee.

OPT

## KINDNESS

Con't from page 18

through her Palestinian Catholic background, family pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and firm Catholic foundation, desired full communion with the Catholic Church. Annalea was baptized Orthodox in the Armenian Apostolic Church and, with strong similarities about the beliefs of the Catholic faith and particularly of the Eucharist, shared the same desire. What a gift to be

able to embrace the richness of various cultures through the unity of the Church and support of our school and parish!

Still more good news...Tristan Baacke, also an SRS second-grader, received the Catholic sacrament of baptism at Mother Seton Parish after a prompting of her heart. The expression on Tristan's face as Fr. Lee Fangmeyer prepares to baptize her was one of pure wonder. And Grant's younger brother, Kyle (SRS kindergartner), as well as his father, Allen Dudley (affectionately

known as "Mr. D"), will come into the Catholic Church at St. Raphael's Easter Vigil. A Southern Baptist converted to Methodist and now becoming a Catholic, Mr. D said that his journey began nine years ago when he started working at SRS as a physical education teacher. While he has felt the call to convert over the years, the turning point came when a young parishioner asked him to be a confirmation sponsor. Deeply honored, he regrettably had to decline because he was not a Catholic. Now that is

changing, and this May, Mr. D will receive the sacrament of confirmation along with the student who inspired his conversion and other students who mean so much to him and have been part of God's plan in his faith. With a smile, he remembers our late pastor, Fr. Bill Finch, also a Southern Baptist who converted to the Catholic faith, every day as he passes by his memorial picture in school lobby. Surely heaven smiles too!

OPT

## SCHOOL

Con't from page 18

knowledge and intriguing facts about these notable figures.

Finally, fourth-graders shared their Lenten footsteps through an exhibit of handmade crosses. Reflecting on the time Jesus spent praying and fasting in the wilderness, the students designed unique crosses that characterize the Lenten season. Displayed together, the crosses bring visual form to the array of individual walks toward God during this time. These beautiful crosses can be seen on the bulletin board outside the classroom.

## PLANNED

Con't from page 18

sic tale of truthfulness, self-sacrifice, and courage. Get your tickets early and enjoy the show!

**May 1: Confirmation** for our eighth-graders, who in this sacrament will be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and completed in baptismal grace. May they be strengthened for service to the body of Christ!

**May 7: First Holy Communion** for our second-graders and reli-

gious-education students who have been preparing for this sacrament of God's love. Please keep them and their families, as well as teachers and priests, in prayer.

**May 13: Mother's Day Celebration** gives thanks to mothers with a special Mass, light reception, and precious memories. Mark your calendars.

Visit our school website at [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) for details about these events and more.

OPT

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street  
Bethesda, MD

**Msgr. Edward Filardi,**  
Pastor  
301-654-1287

**Patricia Kilroy McGann**  
Principal  
301-654-5376

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## Valentine's Day Service

This Valentine's Day, the fifth graders at Mary of Nazareth School used their class party time to give their valentine love to others. Rather than give each other candy and cards, our students celebrated the holiday by creating decorations to make the residents of Forest Oak Towers smile. Forest Oak Towers is a housing apartment in

Gaithersburg that serves low-income senior citizens. The apartment's lobby and common rooms were greatly cheered up by the Valentine's Day banners, paper chains, doily lanterns, and vases full of hearts. There is nothing like love from a class of sweet fifth graders to truly make St. Valentine's Day a joy!

OPT



Fifth-grade students made Valentine's party decorations for Forest Oak Towers in Gaithersburg, a residence for low-income senior citizens.



Kayla Waldron and Cara Ngo, Mary of Nazareth Spelling Bee winners.

## Spelling and Geography Bees

Congratulations to all students who participated in the 2015-2016 Mary of Nazareth Spelling and Geography Bees. All the hard-work and dedication by the students was evident throughout the competition.

Congratulations to the following Spelling Bee finalists in grades 3-8.  
First place: Kayla Waldron  
Second place: Rishab Sai  
Third place: Meghan Stone

Congratulations to the following Spelling Bee finalists in grades 1-2.  
First place: Cara Ngo  
Second place: Eli Ferrara  
Third place: Salesisha Sojan

Congratulations to the following Geography Bee finalists:  
First place: Max Filliben  
Second place: George Williams  
Third Place: Jacob Bryant

OPT



Faculty and Staff work together to package "breakfast-to-go" bags to benefit Catholic Charities' 'Cup of Joe' Program.

## 2016 Faculty & Staff Retreat benefits Catholic Charities' 'Cup of Joe' Program

For men and women staying in the five low-barrier overnight emergency shelters and three of the transitional shelters operated by Catholic Charities, mornings often begin on an empty stomach. This year, Mary of Nazareth Faculty and Staff contributed to Catholic Charities' cause by packaging and delivering "breakfast-to-go" bags for the 'Cup of Joe' program.

The 2016 Faculty retreat consisted of delivering breakfast, followed by attending Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral. MoN faculty is grateful for the opportunity to serve our neighbors in Christ, and honored to work alongside Catholic Charities.

OPT



Mary of Nazareth Geography Bee winner Max Filliben.

## First Annual Service Day Spreads Cheer to Senior Citizens

The Mary of Nazareth Social Concerns Committee would like to thank all the families that volunteered for our first Service Day! It was a huge success thanks to the participation and help of each volunteer. There were approximately 70 MoN students in attendance, 2 alumni students, and approximately 50 parents.

The Service Day was dedicated to helping bring sunshine and cheer to many people through the crafts and book-bundling that were completed. There were seven different centers to create a variety of cheerful greetings, including "hand hugs," bookmarks, origami, painted prayer rocks, designer cards, place-mats, and bundled books for A Wider Circle. In total, 45 "hand hugs," 101 pieces of origami, 51 cards, 29 placemats, and 90 book-marks were made.

All the projects that were completed will benefit local Senior Citizen facilities, nursing homes as well as those in extended stays in local hospitals, and families



MoN students volunteer their time and talent to bring cheer to local senior citizens.

receiving services from A Wider Circle outreach programs. Special thanks to members of the Mary of Nazareth community that made this special day of service possible.

OPT

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

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

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

**Mary of Nazareth OPT Editor: Beth O'Connell,**  
boconnell@maryofnazareth.org

**Website:**  
www.maryofnazareth.org

Affiliated with the following parishes:  
Mother Seton, Germantown; St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine, Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg; St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the Visitation, Darnestown.

**It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times**

## Student Government Election at Mary of Nazareth School

Our school's Student Government is pleased to announce that the middle school students have elected four new officers to lead us. Our president is Josh Gonsalves, Vice President Brandon Rodriguez, Secretary Elizabeth Clarke and Treasurer Daniel DeLude.

Our most recent meeting was welcoming our new student representatives and delivering empty baby bottles to the classrooms. Our students will fill these bottles with coins to benefit the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center.

The following students are the class representatives of our Student Government:

**Eighth grade:** Conor Fagan, Nyawa Allieu and Claire Cerone

**Seventh grade:** Jacqueline Albero, Kayla Waldron, Brendan Snocker, and Lindsay Barrow



Newly elected Vice President, Brandon Rodriguez, addresses the middle school study body.

**Sixth grade:** Sofia Guillamon, Kendra Soewandi, Maya Yapur and Harrison Cerone

Student Government Moderator is Mrs. Anna Savage

OPT





**Honoring Polish Saturday School Teacher.** Mrs. Vera Szerszen was at the microphone while OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, honoree Ewa Chlebowska, and Polish Saturday School teachers Malgorzata Firek and Wieslawa Wisniewska, along with parishioners and friends, listened on February 14 in the OLQP Parish Hall.

## Polish Saturday School Teacher Honored

By Bozenna Buda, OLQP Editor

**O**n February 14 after the noon Mass Ewa Chlebowska was honored for her service to the OLQP Polish Saturday School. She has taught here for 25 years and has been the director of the school for the last 15 years.

OLQP Pastor Jerzy Frydrych, parishioner Mrs. Vera Szerszen, and others thanked her for her dedication. Parents of past and present students at the school expressed their appreciation.

find themselves. St. John Paul II said of this great work, this great deed, during the Canonization Mass for Queen Jadwiga of Poland in 1997, 'the strength of the country, as the strength of the church have their source in the careful education of the people.' PSS [Polish Saturday School] is a continuation of the work of Polish parish schools (which grew in number in Poland since the 13th century) as well as a continuation of the 'careful education of the people' of which St. John Paul II spoke."



**OLQP Polish Saturday School students prepare to recite verses in honor of Mrs. Ewa Chlebowska.**

John Armstrong, a parent of former students at the school, spoke on behalf of other parents when he said that:

"The school is an integral part of the great work of educating the Polish people, where ever they may

Mr. Armstrong noted that, "PSS is important (and therefore the work of Director Chlebowska is important) because it teaches our Polish language, Faith, history and culture. It teaches how to be a Pole here, in America. This is very important, as the Polish presence, our presence, in America is permanent, not transitory. As the Noble Prize winner Henryk Sienkiewicz wrote, 'Our Polishness, our culture, should shine.'"

Along with Ewa, there were present several of the other dedicated teachers from the Polish Saturday School as well as current and past students.

We congratulate Ewa and wish her many more years at the Polish Saturday School!

OPT

## Celebrating 20 Years of the OLQP Living Rosary

By Bozenna Buda, Editor

**P**arishioners and friends gathered in the OLQP Parish Hall after the 12 noon Mass on February 7 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Living Rosary Society. It was also an opportune time to thank Elizabeth (Ela) Siwanowicz for her 19 continuous years of service heading the Rosary Society. In February 2015, Mrs. Siwanowicz stepped down and Joanna Roberts assumed leadership of the Rosary Society.

The Society was formed on February 11, 1996, while Rev.



Some of those celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Living Rosary at OLQP on Feb. 7 were Janina Mols, Mr. & Mrs. Marciniak, Maria Obrzut, Ewa Syska, and Joanna Roberts.

Continued on page 31



Children and youth from Polish Saturday Schools celebrated "Carnival" before Lent at the Knights of Columbus Hall across from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, after Mass on January 31. They dressed in costumes, danced, and played games.



All age groups were present at the "Carnival" on January 31. Pictured here, on the right, is our distinguished OLQP parishioner, Walter Zachariasiewicz, with his wife Sandra. Walter celebrated his 104th birthday last November. Near the center of the table, wearing a wreath, is junior parishioner Ola Cieciewicz.



OLQP parishioners and friends enjoyed camaraderie and good laughs when members of the amateur Polish Drama Group presented a cabaret in the OLQP Parish Hall on February 7. Shown here are Anna Janiak, Dorota Ponikiewska, Filip Golebiowski, Richard Okreglak, Mirek Podloch, and Jarek Trocki. Ms. Ponikiewska directed the skits.



Some of the members of the OLQP Living Rosary Society who traveled to the Chapel in Caldwell Hall on the campus of the Catholic University of America, to participate in the devotion venerating a relic of St. Maksymilian Kolbe on February 18.



OLQP parishioner Ola Abramowicz, on guitar, led the singing of a special hymn, with active participation of children at the youth Mass on March 6. OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Fiedurek was at the altar celebrating Mass.



Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, prays during the Spiritual Adoption ceremony on March 6. OLQP parishioner Jacek Marczyński and participants held lighted candles as they pledged to pray for nine months for one particular, but unknown to them, baby in danger of abortion. Mrs. Maria Obrzut was the contact person.

More OLQP News on Page 38

### Our Lady Queen of Poland

9700 Rosensteel Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD

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

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



## Scout Sunday Celebrated

**O**n February 7 the Scouts of the parish, their families and friends gathered together at Mass to celebrate Scout Sunday, to recognize their faith, their parish and the many religious organizations across the nation that sponsor scouting. The 12th point in scout law, "A Scout is reverent," emphasizes that spirituality and duty to God are core to the scouting program.

Scouts at St. Andrew's serve as lectors, altar servers and ushers. In uniform on Scout Sunday, their service was visible to all. After Mass the celebration continued in the All Purpose Room, thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, who provided snacks and drinks. **OPT**



Adult leaders Paul Sanneman, Rick Hopkins, Mike Synder and Dave Savolaine with members of the various Boy and Girl Scout troops sponsored by St. Andrew Apostle

## It Began With Prayer

**O**ver three hundred fifty women registered for the Day of Reflection held January 16 at St. Andrew Apostle Church. St. Andrew's pastor, Father Dan Leary, was principal celebrant and homilist for the opening Mass and offered a reflection during Adoration later in the day while several priests offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Kathleen Beckman, L.H.S. was the guest speaker. Mrs. Beckman is an author, radio host, cofounder and President of the Foundation of Prayer for Priests. She has written several books on prayer and Eucharistic life, and is an international retreat director and speaker for priests, seminarians and laity.

In the nine days leading up to the retreat, Mrs. Beckman asked the participants to prepare their hearts by uniting in prayer through the novena to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. Early each morning, the retreat team emailed the registrants the day's novena instructions. Through the novena, the women sought the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession for themselves and others, to help undo the "knots" in the ribbon of their lives, problems and struggles for which they saw no solution.

More than eighty parish volunteers attended to the many tasks necessary to ensure that the day ran smoothly, that the participants felt welcomed and part of the St. Andrew's community, and that they found friendship, support and kind-



A quiet time for prayer during the Day of Reflection at St. Andrew Apostle Church

ness. They prayed that each woman listened to the Word in Scripture and heard the messages shared in the talks. They hoped that the women found healing, and asked Mary's intercession to guide them closer to her Son and know God's unconditional love and abundant mercy.

The Day of Reflection was an invitation to mercy, to an encounter with the Father. Father Leary said, "Mercy has legs. Mercy goes looking for people who want to receive this gift. Mercy is Christ, the face of the Father. Mercy goes out into the world to tax collectors' desks and fishing areas and calls them to 'Come follow Me'. Mercy invites you to come out from behind your obstacles and seeks to commune

with you."

Mrs. Beckman challenged the women to open their minds and hearts to be the saints of our time. She encouraged them to stay together as a family of women that support and love one another and to grow in holiness through forgiveness, through the Eucharist and through Adoration. She invited them to be women configured to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to pray as spiritual mothers for priests who bring us the Eucharist.

The day ended with Father Leary offering healing prayers through the priesthood during afternoon Adoration.

The recorded talks are available on the parish website at [www:st-andrewapostle.org](http://www:st-andrewapostle.org). **OPT**

## ROSARY

Con't from page 30

Stanislaw Hajkowski, S.Chr., was pastor at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish. Since then, some of the original members of the Rosary Society have moved away or gone to their eternal rest yet it keeps on thriving as new members join and replenish it. Presently, there are three active

"roses" or groups. The newest one was formed just this past January.

The members of each group undertake to say the 20 mysteries of the rosary—together covering the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries. Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries in October 2002 and they were added to the rosary. They pertain to the public ministry of Jesus. Each group member reflects on one mystery, which is selected espe-

cially for that person each month.

The Rosary Society members pray for general, mission, and parish intentions. They make pilgrimages, as they did last summer to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. They do charitable works, such as the recent collection of books to donate to a mission school library in New Zealand.

Above all, their social gatherings are joyful and cheerful events. **OPT**



Soldiers rehearse for *Born for This*

## Lenten Tradition Continues

**I**n its fifteenth year at St. Andrew Apostle School, *Born for This*, a musical dramatization of the Stations of the Cross will be performed by the junior high students during Holy Week. Each Station of the Cross features a narrative reflection along with acting, dance and song. This year, 36 junior high students will act, dance, and sing the roles of Jesus, Pontius Pilate, Mary, Simon, Veronica, soldiers and weeping women. Five students will narrate and the school's large junior high choir will accompany.

The production is a mixture of original music and songs written by Joanne Boyce in England in 1994 with the inspiration of moving prose written by Jude Martin. In 2001, Sheila Martinez, then-seventh grade teacher, introduced the production to St. Andrew's School. For 15 years, in cooperation with CJM Music, St. Andrew's junior high students have joyfully prepared for this moving dramatization.

Theresa Trigiani, the school's music teacher, has directed "Born for This" since 2011, and has this to say about the endeavor: "*Born for This* is definitely a labor of love. The children sacrifice a lot of free time and recess time to rehearse and yet they never complain. *Born for This* is part of their Lenten journey. The sacrifices they make are small in comparison to the sacrifice of



*Born for This* dancers practice

Jesus giving his life for our salvation. The beauty in all of this is that the children truly understand this concept. What they bring forth through the narration, acting, music and dance is truly God working in them to bring people to Jesus. I am constantly in awe of how the Holy Spirit works through the children to touch hearts and save souls."

Come and be inspired by our Lenten offering of prayer through music, acting and dance. Performances will take place in the church at St. Andrew Apostle, 11600 Kemp Mill Road in Silver Spring, on Wednesday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. and on Good Friday, March 25 at noon. **OPT**

## Partners in Prayer

**L**ast month a "Prayer Buddy" program was launched for the school students preparing to receive First Communion and the St. Andrew Seniors' Group. Each student wrote a personal note to a senior inviting him/her to be a prayer buddy. From February to May the student and his/her buddy will stay in contact via notes.

Students will keep their buddy posted on how they are preparing for the sacrament and the seniors will follow up with notes of encouragement letting their buddy know that he/she is being prayed for during this time of preparation.

As they learn that, through Baptism, they become members of the Church, a goal of this program is that the students come to understand

that their receiving sacraments is important not just to them and their families but to their Church family as well. The first notes have been exchanged and both the children and the seniors eagerly anticipate sending and receiving others. **OPT**

### St. Andrew Apostle Parish

11600 Kemp Mill Road  
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Daniel P. Leary,  
Pastor

301-649-3700 ext. 311

### St. Andrew Apostle School

Susan M. Sheehan,  
Principal

301-649-3555



# Witnessing the Holy Spirit in Action

**O**ur Confirmation Retreat on February 26 provided evidence, on so many levels, that the Holy Spirit is alive and well within the St. John the Evangelist parish. The day was filled with activities that gave the Confirmation candidates time for reflection and peer interaction, and allowed the opportunity to pray and play. Since September each member of the Confirmation class has been assigned to one of eight groups and each group has high school mentors.

The retreat began with the candidates quietly entering the Knights of Columbus Emerald Room in their groups. As the groups were joined by their high school men-



Confirmation candidates gathered with high school mentors and adult leaders at their retreat.



Teen mentors and confirmation candidates perform at the retreat.



The "Saint Ladies" eager to help look up details about the saints

tors, the room erupted in sound. The Commandments Group led everyone in a Prayer Service followed by the first round of "Intermission Saints" – teen leaders who throughout the day took turns talking about the saint they chose for Confirmation and why. In case the teens forgot a saint's story or feast day, we had some help on hand. The "Saint Ladies" (6-8 grand moms) come help us every year; they have stacks of saint books and do quick look ups for the teen leaders.

The Beatitudes Group introduced the Church Building activity by recounting that Pope Francis calls all Christians to be "living stones" of the Church, built upon the cornerstone of Christ. They handed out supplies to each group instructing them to build their Church with bricks that they labeled with words describing what the group members and their chosen saints bring to the Church. The Mysteries of the Rosaries Group then talked about the history of the rosary before they led the entire group in saying the rosary. Next, the groups practiced their Gospel Skits for the afternoon show. As props from years past were integrated into this year's skits, excitement filled the room and joyful noise increased.

*Continued on page 36*

## St. John the Evangelist School

### Creative Lessons Combine Learning and Fun

#### Third Grade Entrepreneurs

What do you do when your third graders say they want to hold a craft



Students from the third grade class display their hand-made crafts.

fair and sell the items they made (like duct-tape purses), and you are a bit skeptical? Well, you listen to your third graders, of course! The third-grade class at St. John the Evangelist School wanted to raise funds for St. Joseph's House, a non-profit daycare and respite home serving children with multiple disabilities. So they pitched an idea to their teacher, Mrs. Chris Calabro, to sell handmade crafts to the other students in the school. They set to work making friendship bracelets, scarves, little duct-tape purses, painted rocks, and much more. They planned to sell their wares during lunch on two consecutive Wednesdays. The result? They sold out of almost everything and made over \$100 on the first

day! Not resting on their success, they committed to make even more items for the following Wednesday. The enthusiasm and generosity of these third graders are traits we should all model. Turns out their business plan isn't too bad either.

#### High-Flying Science Club

Whether down to earth or in outer space, St. John the Evangelist School's Science Club is up for the challenge. Our Science teacher, Mrs. Milenka Gutierrez, and a generous parent, Mr. Curt Niebur, have teamed up to provide exciting and educational activities for the 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In one experiment, students endeavored to build the tallest tower they could using only marshmallows and spaghetti.

In another activity, they planned how to build a Mars base, finding the amount of food, water, oxygen, people, and shelter it would require. This was followed by construction of a Rover vehicle using rubber bands and a balloon as



A Science Club participant building a Rover



Dr. Rupar teaches students about their hearts.

fuel. With these budding scientists, our future is in good hands.

#### Real Hearts on Valentine's Day

When Mrs. Marilyn Whitney, St. John the Evangelist's Pre-

*Continued on page 34*

#### St. John the Evangelist Parish

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

Rev. Joseph Calis  
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School  
Mrs. Margaret Durney,  
Principal

301-681-7656

Monica M. Bradford, OPT Editor  
bradfordsm2@comcast.net



#### Youth Group spends day at Whitetail Resort

Fifteen students from St. John's Youth Group took a trip to Whitetail Resort for a day of skiing and snowboarding on Sunday, February 28. Chaperones included Kelly Burgess, Denise Culklin, Charlie Hathway, and Gina and Gerard Skinner.



#### RCIA Group Visits Basilica

Sr. Roberta and some of the candidates, catechumens, and sponsors enjoy the beautiful sculptures and chapels at the Basilica before the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion.



## St. Jane de Chantal



Parishioners gather for group discussions as part of the Lenten Series. Photo by James Caulfield

## From Ashes to Action: A Lenten Journey with Fr. Giese

St. Jane Parishioners are participating during Lent in a discussion series based on Matthew Kelly's bestseller book "Rediscover Catholicism". Prior to the beginning of the series, every member of the church was offered a free book, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus, Rock Creek Council. Every Tuesday evening during the six weeks of Lent, parishioners gather first in the church to listen to Fr. Giese's reflections, followed by small group discussions focused around specific questions inspired by assigned readings in the book, along with basic faith topics relevant to today's Catholicism.

The series was very well received and has been well attended. A substantial number of parishioners are participating on the reflection and discussions. As someone said during one of the group meetings, "It is very important to share with other



Fr. Giese addresses the participants of the Lenten Series. Photo by James Caulfield

members of our parish our thoughts and hopes for the future of the Church". Besides being relevant for our faith, these gatherings are also a great community building experience for our Parish.

OPT

## HAITI

Con't from page 21

\$30,000 went to support these missions.

**Economic Development:** In 2013, St. Francis helped organize the coffee growers in Leon to form an association under the auspices of the non-profit "Just Haiti, Inc". Just Haiti began in 2006, and now operates in five communities throughout Haiti. Their mission is to empower the coffee growers to substantially improve their incomes by the sale of coffee in the United States. In support, St. Francis formed "Cafe Leon"; once a month, volunteers sell coffee after Mass. We average 80 bags sold per month; the profits are returned directly to the growers. In 2015 the growers built a nursery which produced 2,000 new coffee trees that were distributed to the association members. This improves their incomes and enhances the lives of the community in general.

The needs remains great – the work never ends. You could help by supporting our fourth-annual "Hoops for Haiti" on April 9 at



Dan Cardile with Haitian coffee growers at coffee farm, February 2016

6:30 pm at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, 17301 Old Vic Boulevard in Onley, Md. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for students. Proceeds go to support our Haiti

education programs. Contact Dan Cardile, chairman of the St. Francis Haiti Committee at dancardile@yahoo.com.

OPT

## RIDERWOOD

Con't from page 23

cled jewelry collected by residents to benefit the Whooping Crane Restoration Project based at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge near Laurel.

The first Earth Day was orga-

nized by former Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson and held April 22, 1970, in response to concerns over air, water and soil pollution and the "dissipation of our resources." In recent years, increasing emphasis has been placed on climate change and sustainability – the concept that everything needed for our survival depends on our natural environ-

ment.

Some 850 Catholic residents at Riderwood (out of 2,600 residents total) are members of Resurrection Church and participate in parish life. All parishioners are welcome to the Earth Day celebration April 19.

OPT

## STATIONS

Con't from page 23

The youngsters led the stations at Resurrection on Feb. 19 and March 4, and were scheduled to do so again Tuesday, March 22, at the Riderwood community that is served by the parish.

Parish youngsters have been participating in the service about 15 years, including 12 years at Riderwood, according to Helene Stever, Resurrection Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry.

The dramatic ecumenical service at Riderwood is typically a "standing-room only event" and is

taped and re-shown throughout the day on Good Friday on the internal television station, available in all residences, Stever said.

The ceremony is conducted in a darkened church, creating the somber mood of the night when Jesus wearily and painfully walked to his death.

Two of the youngsters assume the roles of Jesus wearing the crown of thorns and the crucifer who helped Jesus carry his cross. All the youngsters proceed with their crosses to the church sanctuary where Jesus dies and is laid in the tomb in the final stations.

The 20 youngsters participating in the Stations of the Cross at Resurrection this year are: Ikenna

Ajene, Cheyenne Asong, John Basondole, Faith Dallo, Molly Dallo, Mary Jade Kalou, Shaznay Kalou, Tatiana Kalou, Porschderk Kargbo, JagPaul Kargbo, Kate Melgar, Abraham Ndour, Laura Ndour, Joseph Raniki, Ben Sheppard, Sam Sheppard, Sarah Sheppard, Mary Shawhan, Will Shawhan and Nicole Ude.

Six of the youngsters are Confirmation Candidates, and participation in the Stations is part of their preparation for receiving the sacrament.

On the other Friday evenings during Lent, the Stations of the Cross are led by the parish priests or deacons serving Resurrection.

OPT



Scout's procession and special display at the start of the Scout Sunday Mass.

## St. Jane de Chantal Celebrates Scout Sunday

As an annual tradition, St. Jane de Chantal celebrated Scout Sunday during a noon mass in February to recognize the religious element of the Scouting programs. The Parish has a large number of participants in Scout programs, and all the different troops were present at the mass to be honored.

After the mass there was a reception to recognize those Scouts that have earned special awards and to thank the Parish for its support. Fr. Cusick accepted a plaque on behalf of the church's leadership, in recognition of exceptional service to the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.



Fr. Cusick displays the plaque that was presented to the Saint Jane de Chantal Church, with Mary Hornyak, leader of the Cadettes/Seniors Troop 4959, at his side.

## FACES

Con't from page 23

Locke, who grew up in Montgomery County, has a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Maryland and an MBA from Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh. She worked for nine years in the business world--but was unhappy with that and then had a "Eureka moment" when she decided on a major life change.

She volunteered for three years with Catholic Charities and a food

ministry in rural Florida, then returned to school and earned a dual masters in counseling and pastoral studies from Loyola University in New Orleans.

Louise then worked for 13 years in Louisiana as a licensed professional counselor with a grief center, hospices and assisted living homes. When her sister died, she returned to Montgomery County in 2012 to help take care of her orphaned niece.

Now a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi in Derwood, Louise recently finished a chaplain residency at Georgetown University

and is working to get certified as a Catholic chaplain. She says that her "love and passion is providing spiritual support and comfort to the elderly."

Williamson and Locke can be contacted at Riderwood at carol.williamson@erickson.com or louise.locke2@erickson.com.

In another change at Resurrection, volunteers Albert Klavon and Sharon O'Brien have "retired" as coordinators of the parish Food Pantry after serving for many years in that capacity. At this time, the Food Pantry is being handled by various volunteers.

OPT



## Holy Cross

## Holy Cross 2016 Middle School Science Fair Winners

### Sixth Grade

First Place	Tyler Munson: Heads or Tails, Tapejara, Dimorphodon
Second Place	Mykel Bailey: Solar Heated Energy House
Third Place	Garrett Handelman: Moss Rocks!
Fourth Place (TIE)	Katie Zalewski: Does Price Influence Taste? and Ross Brown: Music and Mood

### Seventh Grade

First Place	Jan Haro: Kids vs. Adults
Second Place	Brendan Condron: Soda vs. Meat
Third Place (TIE)	Anne Paxton: Super Tasters and Lynn Clough: Animation in Education
Fourth Place	Moe Kirmani: Vitamin C in Green Vegetables

### Eighth Grade

First Place (TIE)	Maddie Zalewski: Emoji and Michael O'Reilly: Sun Seeking Robot
Second Place	Ella Weaver: DeSalination
Third Place	Luke Mitchell: Energy opportunities
Fourth Place	Katie Carter: What is Your Cover Up?

## A Wider Circle Gets a Hand from Holy Cross Eighth Grade

By Mrs. Amy Mitchell

On February 27, the eighth-grade class of Holy Cross spent the afternoon working together at A Wider Circle in Silver Spring. The mission of the organization, led by Dr. Mark Bergel, is to end poverty one individual and one family after another. It operates several different initiatives including its neighbor-to-neighbor program which provides household furniture and home goods to families transitioning out of shelters and into homes.

The Holy Cross students worked in the main warehouse helping to sort and prepare different items to go up into the showroom. One group worked in the children's corner, sorting boxes of donated toys and books into age appropriate categories. Another worked moving large furniture items from incoming trucks, and the third tested light fixtures to be sure they were in



Eighth-grade students from Holy Cross School gather to volunteer at A Wider Circle.

working order.

A Wider Circle feels it is important to only offer goods that any of us would be happy to have in our own homes. So, in each of the working groups, students also inspected items to be sure they were in good condition before preparing them for the showroom. This

volunteer opportunity was a great way for the eighth grade class to celebrate their years together at Holy Cross and to give back to the community. "It was awesome," said student Luke Mitchell. "It was fun and also felt wonderful to do works of charity."

OPT

## Bee Happy!

Holy Cross sixth-grader Ben Napolitano, the school champion of the National Geographic Bee, is headed to the Maryland State championship. He was one of only 100 students in the state to qualify for the state-level Bee. He will be competing for the chance to represent the State of Maryland at the National Bee in May.

Fourth-grader Elena Flaim has a lot to smile about. She clinched the title of school champion of the school-sponsored Scripps Spelling Bee after an exciting thirteen rounds alongside ten fellow students in grades four through eight. Elena will compete in the regional Spelling Bee on March 12, the next step towards qualifying for the National Spelling Bee in April.



Holy Cross School Bee champions Ben Napolitano and Elena Flaim

OPT



Eighth-grade students Zach Gibney, Ale Serrano, and Luke Mitchell check light fixtures at A Wider Circle

## LESSONS

Con't from page 32

Kindergarten teacher, planned Valentine's Day activities for her class, there was the usual cutting

and pasting of colorful hearts. But this year, she added a different activity. Pediatrician and Pre-K mom, Dr. Erica Rupar, came to class and explained to the children how their hearts function. She also brought along bright pink stetho-

scopes and taught the class how to hear their hearts working away. The normally boisterous class was quiet as they listened to the beating of their hearts. This is a Valentine's Day they won't soon forget.

OPT

## SOAR

Con't from page 27

**Spies of Washington Tour with Gary Powers, Jr.**

April 28, \$55

**Tour of Jeb Stuart's Ride to Gettysburg w/ Ed Bears**

May 4, 5, \$69

**Walking Tour of Annapolis and Ride on Harbor Queen**

May 12, \$65

**Tour of Wyeth Studio, House and Brandywine Musuem**

May 18, 19, \$80

**A Taste of Little Italy in Baltimore**

May 25, 26, \$70

**Sailing Trip on Chesapeake Bay**

June 1, \$80

**White Water Rafting Trip on the Shenandoah River**

June 8, \$85

**Tour of Sagamore Horse Training and Breeding Barn**

June, 15, 16, \$65

**Marine Corp Band Parade and Concert**

June 10, 24, \$30

**Major League Baseball**

Orioles vs. Yankees

(Night Game)

May 3, \$53

Nationals vs. NY Mets

(Night Game)

June 27, \$53

Nationals vs. LA Dodgers

(Night Game)

July 21, \$53

Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox

(Night Game)

August 16, \$53

OPT

## TREASURES

Con't from page 15

a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, March 28 through March 30. Acceptable items include: wearable clothing, books, linens, luggage, small furniture, kitchen items, sporting equipment, and tools. *Please note that the following items cannot be accepted:* mattresses, wigs, open cosmetics, large

appliances, computers or televisions, electronics (DVD players, CD players, modems, disk drives, cell phones, tablets, laptops, fax machines, printers), children's car seats, cribs and text books.

The sale will be held in the Thaddeus Room of the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church, which is located at 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville, MD. Ample free parking is available and is handicap accessible.

OPT

## EDUCATION

Con't from page 6

First Holy Communion is also held. Second grade students had adoration, created the Mass banner, and made their communion cross.

No matter what age, grade, or even race you are, you are always welcome. When you are there,

everyone makes you feel welcomed from the kind catechists to the amazing director Mrs. Mary Carmen Soler who has been there for eight years. She has worked at many schools and says that at St. Martin's you see and feel God in everyone; you experience the love from God and everyone. Come experience God with us. Contact Mrs. Soler at 301-990-2556.

OPT



## Soup, Bread and Reflection



Msgr. Tolentino tastes some of the soup made by parishioners. Photo by Araceli Kawakami

By Araceli Kawakami

**S**tations of the Cross are held every Friday during Lent season. This year St. Michael's hosted Soup, Bread and Reflection series following the Stations of the Cross. Parishioners from different ministries took turns providing soup and bread for their fellow parishioners. Every Friday of lent became a time of reflection and fellowship. The short reflections centered on the meaning of the cross.

OPT



Msgr. Tolentino presents a basket of appreciation to Aimee and James Valenzuela.

## Farewell

**S**t. Michael the Archangel bids farewell to Aimee and James Valenzuela. Aimee and James are moving out of state but have been involved with St. Michael's parish for over ten years. Both have served on the parish council, and James is a member

of the Knights of Columbus and Aimee a member of the Sodality. Recently both of them worked on the parish strategic plan. St. Michael's Young Adult Ministry honored them with the Young Adults Sunday brunch.

OPT

## ANNIVERSARY

Con't from page 15

Additional upcoming anniversary events include:

- Evangelization Workshop: April 2 and April 9
- Pentecost Sunday Intercultural Reception: May 15; following all Sunday masses
- 1956 Pizza and Movie Family Night: Thursday, May 19; 7:00
- International Carnival, Sunday: June 5; 2:00-5:00
- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass and Reception by Cardinal Donald Wuerl: Sunday, October 23; 10:30 mass

Memorial bricks are available for purchase throughout the year, to be placed in the courtyard by the statue of St. Jude for the Anniversary Mass. See the parish website ([shrineofstjude.org](http://shrineofstjude.org)) or its Facebook page for detailed information.

Throughout 2016, events and displays will celebrate our history and our future, in the mercy and hope of Christ.

OPT

## INT'L DAY

Con't from page 15

Australia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and India.

After students visited the different country booths, they performed a musical show that featured songs and dances from all the countries they studied. Lastly, three students performed dances from their own culture – Colombian dancing and Irish dancing.

It was a wonderful day and a great opportunity for St. Jude students to learn about all the different cultures that make the school and community so special.

OPT

## Town Hall

# Saint Michael's Parish Makes its Voice Heard

By Geoff Whiting.

**A**s part of its celebration of the 85th birthday of Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, our parish has recommitted itself to being a living, vibrant place that welcomes and nurtures all members of the community. Part of this includes discussions about what we would look to see for the future of our church.

Our Town Hall on March 5 brought parish participants together to discover the changes they would like to see at Saint Michael's and to describe what success would look like in five years. Mr. John Butler provided a series of exercises to help us create clear goals and see where we can encourage each other to participate and discuss.

### What Makes Us Unique

Part of the Town Hall discussion included a look at highlights from the 336 Parish Survey responses.

In our parish, we have more than 2,000 families and 4,000 registered parishioners representing 113 dif-



On March 5 over 150 parishioners listened to Parish Council Chairperson Doug Lawrence and facilitator John Butler regarding survey findings.

ferent countries. This makes Saint Michael's one of the more diverse parishes in our area and creates unique challenges and opportunities.

Our diverse community and the way it is represented – including multiple masses, choirs, and celebrations throughout the year – were identified as a point of pride for our parish and something we can use to evangelize our blessings and benefits here in Silver Spring.

### Saint Michael's Core Values

How we define the core values of our parish directs how we present ourselves to the community around us. Town Hall attendees were invited to share these values and what they wanted to see Saint Michael's become.

We came up with 5 core values that define how we see ourselves:

1. Community
2. Hospitality
3. Discipleship
4. Stewardship
5. Worship

These values will be brought to the Parish Council to be properly defined, allowing our community to turn them into shining beacons for our future.

### The Future of Our Parish

Town Hall attendees were given the task of thinking about how we want our parish to look and where it can improve in the next five years. The groups articulated this vision into a few main themes that will be brought to the Parish Council.

The top areas to focus on included:

- Communication between current groups so that we are better organized, stop duplicating work, and achieve greater participation;
- Youth participation should be higher and maintained after youth receive their sacraments. This can include more youth mass opportunities such as a youth choir in Spanish;
- Become a vibrant force in Silver Spring to share our worship in a positive way that reveres the Eucharist;
- Confession times and location could be improved for more access and more privacy;
- Parish ownership of our physical space, such as a chapel open 24/7.

As our vision is better articulated in a consensus of the parish, we will be able to set goals to accomplish and expand in the future.

Monsignor Eddie Tolentino extended his thanks to John Butler, Deacon and Kitty Ealey, the Parish Council, the administration, leaders of the ministry teams, and our entire parish for participating in the efforts to improve and strengthen our community.

OPT



Parishioners discussed the aspects of the survey that are most important to them for the future.

### St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,  
Pastor

301-589-1155

Joanie Heavey,  
OPT Editor

301-5891155 ext. 21



## BOLIVIA

Con't from page 14

by Father Robert Thames. While part of the Catholic Diocese in Fort Worth Texas, Father Thames ("Padre Roberto") lives in Cabezas, where he has dedicated his life to serving the people of the town.

The mission of the program is independence. With the help of his diocese and supporters of ETC, Father works to provide a comprehensive education as well as concrete knowledge of a trade to the children of Cabezas in order to move the town closer to self-sustainability. There is an elementary school, high school, as well as a center for Special Education. The children of Cabezas live simply, without excess as we know it here in the States. That being said, they lack nothing in enthusiasm and are eager to begin this exchange.

Through a written dialogue the students will get to know each

other and learn about their cultures. Each student will have an assigned partner, they will have a bilingual dialogue. HR students will be asking questions in Spanish and the Bolivian students will be answering in English and vice versa. Students will correct and give feedback on the proper use of their respective language.

The students as well as their teachers are very excited for this opportunity to reach across physical boundaries through the use of computers and language skills. This exchange will help the students become more confident using their second language. They will experience first-hand the value of communicating in another language to learn about other cultures. We hope the students will begin to see language as a tool for learning about a life different from their own. It will be a chance for the children of both countries to share something of themselves and gain a friend in return.

OPT

## MEMORIES

Con't from page 14

of whacky dancing. Stadium food such as soft pretzels, popcorn, and pizza was provided. Many moms mentioned how nice it is to have a forum to capture the moment.

Like many of the Holy Redeemer Home and School events, the Shake

and Shoot received lots of community support in prizes and donations. The community came together as a whole to make it a great night for our boys.

The girls will have their chance to share a special night with their fathers next year. The mother-son event takes place on alternate years of the Sweetheart Father-Daughter dance.

OPT

## PRIESTS

Con't from page 14

consecration at Mass. Then there are the myriad other ways they serve us, through baptisms, absolution through Christ of our sins, anointing us in illness and helping us in those difficult times in our lives when we so need to know that God cares and loves us and wants us to feel that love. How often they stand by the beds of our loved ones readying them for eternity, and how often their presence brings a special comfort to us at those times in our lives. The Mass they offer in our presence for our departed loved ones is such an important part of our saying goodbye, a testament to our belief that death is merely a transition not finality.

How many of us have had the experience of awakening on a morning that was cold, dreary, wet or snowy and with no qualms of conscience decided that staying abed would be a lot preferable to getting up and braving the elements? Priests can't do that when there is Mass to be celebrated and that day in and day out. Then there are times when we do fight our lethargy and go to Mass and find ourselves sitting or kneeling somewhat drowsily at times in chapel and our priests are there at the altar living the sacrifice of Christ, praying with us, exhorting us to continue our path to holiness. Perhaps we are all too ready to be lenient with ourselves when we decide in favor

of our own comfort and much less focused on the man at the altar and what he does for us not matter how he feels.

Dealing with people can be a challenge. Some we readily like, others fall in categories ranging from ho hum to simply don't like. We have to work at the commandment to love everybody and treat them alike. Priests are human beings with the same tendencies we have. Unlike us, however, they do not have the luxury of deciding not to engage with people who come to them, people they may know quite well in the parish but have at some level irritated or annoyed the priests. How blessed are we in Holy Redeemer to have two spiritual men who consistently rise above this preferential leaning. I expect there are many of us in the parish who have experienced the caring they have for us on a personal level, how they respond with compassion.

So, this is a thank you, Fr. Mark Hughes and Fr. Samuel Plummer, and thanks also to God for these two dedicated men who shepherd us in our faith and set a grace filled example for all of us. Let's also hope that parishioners everywhere will pray for their priests that they will continue to be there for us with the compassion, determination and discipline that their vocation requires, and won't be discouraged when challenges come along as they do for all of us. Pray also that the Lord send more laborers for the harvest.

OPT

# Senate committee passes Education Credit

The week of March 7-13, the Maryland Education Credit bills were heard in Annapolis. On Friday, March 11, the Senate version (SB 706) received a favorable report by the Budget and Taxation committee and will now move to the floor.

The Maryland Education Credit is dedicated to ensuring that every K-12 student in Maryland has access to high-quality, diverse, and affordable education opportunities. The legislation would provide any qualifying Maryland business with a tax credit equal to 60 percent of its donation toward education assistance.

Longtime sponsor Sen. Ed DeGrange (D-Anne Arundel County) told the committee Wednesday afternoon that 16 states currently offer a tax credit for education and that "it is time that we move this." The Senate passed the Maryland Education Credit in 2008 and 2010 but the bill has never

gotten out of the House Ways and Means committee.

"This Senate has always passed it," said Sen. Nathaniel McFadden (D-Baltimore City) said. "Someday the other side is going to pass it and someday this great country is going to understand that when you properly educate all of your children, we are going to be a great nation."

The tax credit incentive seeks to promote business investment to assist the state's public and non-public school students and their families.

On Monday, Del. Antonio Hayes (D-Baltimore City) made a passionate plea to the Ways and Means committee on HB 1343, asking delegates to create opportunities for inner-city youth.

"I represent a diverse community throughout west Baltimore," Hayes said. "In the last 90 days, we buried three black males below the age of 18. Many young people in Baltimore City and throughout the

state of Maryland that live in these challenged communities are facing great odds. The greatest injustice that we could provide as a state and a nation is denying our young people an opportunity to a quality education."

Monday's hearing also included testimony on two other education bills: HB 453 and HB 1213

A recent poll revealed nearly 70 percent of Marylanders support the Maryland Education Credit proposal and place great value on its potential to help lower- and middle-income families obtain a quality education in both public and nonpublic schools. Support is found in all segments of the electorate and in all corners of the State, peaking at 74 percent among African-Americans and 82 percent in Prince George's County. Support is also strongly bipartisan, with Democrats favoring it at a 69 percent rate and Republicans favoring it at 66 percent.

OPT

## DAR

Con't from page 5

annual conference. Her essay will now be judged along with entries by other 8th grade winners from the Mid-Atlantic States and the District

of Columbia.

The DAR sponsors the annual essay contest nationwide, and it is open to students in grades five through eight. The contest is designed to encourage the knowledge and appreciation of American history among our nation's youth.

In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Stamp Act, the students this year were challenged to describe a colonial family's discussion about the new tax on all printed paper and what role it played in organizing the colonists against the British King and Parliament.

OPT

## HOLY SPIRIT

Con't from page 32

Before lunch, the group was treated to a unique activity that took advantage of the retreat's location. The Fruits of the Spirit Group talked about the history of St. John's and gave a short timeline about Rev. John Carroll, the first Pastor at St. John's and first Archbishop in America. The talk was followed by a Cemetery Grave Contest – challenging everyone to find headstones of John Carroll's relatives. Supplies were provided for creating "tombstone rubbings" as proof of how many headstones were found.

Everyone was excited by the competition and discovering who was buried in our historic cemetery.

Two witness talks, one from Thea LaFond and the other from Denise Culkin, were the highlights of the afternoon. Thea, a recent graduate from the University of Maryland, participated in the Confirmation Program as an eighth grader and has never left. In her talk, Thea shared that her faith has always been strong, but after Confirmation her life of prayer and appreciation of the Holy Spirit working in her life has grown beyond her expectations. Because of her faith and very hard work, Thea is aiming to compete in track and field events in

the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. Denise, a wonderful spiritual leader in our parish and a "mom" to many, shared that a growing realization of the increasing role of the Holy Spirit in her life deepened her faith and guides how she lives her life today.

The retreat ended with Mass in the Historic Church. It was during this Mass that there was deep reflection about the day – a day filled with the Holy Spirit in and around everyone. It was almost like you could see the conversion on many faces as they sat in the pews and prayed.

OPT

Turning 65?



Happy Birthday!

You have choices and Medicare is one of them.

Important questions you need to think about now:

- Do you need to sign up for Medicare now?
- Can I work and get Medicare?
- Do you know the Medicare alphabet – A, B, C, and D?
- Where do I begin?
- Who can help me?

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)  
Attend a Montgomery County's Senior Information Session

Tuesday  
April 5

Chevy Chase Library  
8005 Connecticut Ave.  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

7:00-9:00 pm  
Registration not required

Wednesday  
April 13

Aspen Hill Library  
4407 Aspen Hill Road  
Rockville, MD 20853

7:00-9:00 pm  
Registration not required



For more information call SHIP  
301-590-2819

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The St. Rose Thank You party recognizes the gifts of Time & Talent parishioners share with the St. Rose Community throughout 2015. Examples of parishioners who give freely of their time to St. Rose include: Catechists, Liturgical Ministers, Music Ministers, Ministry Leaders, Christmas Fundraiser Volunteers, and Fiesta Workers.

OPT

## St. Rose Thank You Party



St. Rose staff members celebrate the service of parishioners at the annual St. Rose Thank You party.

## Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

The Mardi Gras Pancake supper is now a tradition at St. Rose of Lima (SRL). It is held on Fat Tuesday and sponsored by the SRL Knight of Columbus Chapter 14297. Several

Knights participate and serve approximately 200 happy parishioners. Once again, everyone had their fill of pancakes and sausage prior to fasting on Ash Wednesday.

OPT



The Knights of Columbus at St. Rose held their annual pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.



St. Rose Knights grill pancakes to serve parishioners

## PROGRAM

*Can't from page 11*

ity to see relationships among the manipulatives. By the end of the workshop students were creating their own grids for peers to complete. For students who are interested in leadership experiences, Mercy's Leadership Team sponsors speakers and activities. In one recent gathering, students engaged in a hands-on activity that emphasized strong communication skills and problem-solving as a team.

Finally, our enrichment opportunities would not be complete without robotics. Mercy is offering two brand new robotics classes begin-

ning in March, Space Engineers and Introduction to Robotics. In Space Engineers, students take on challenges like real NASA engineers, landing a rover on Mars or operating a hovercraft. In the second workshop, students get hands-on practice with real robots.

According to Christine Green, Mercy's Educational Extension Program Director, "The enrichment activities provide depth to a child's learning experiences. Some strengthen what a child already knows, while others open up new opportunities. Some showcase talents, while others develop new talents."

OPT

## CHILD

*Can't from page 11*

and families can thoughtfully talk about their feelings."

Mrs. Gibeson earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education from George Washington University at Mount Vernon College and a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pacific Oaks Graduate School in Pasadena, California. She has administrative, teaching, and counseling skills working in multi-cultural environments with children and their families. Mercy feels incredibly lucky to have her on board.

OPT



St. Rose parishioner Terry Meyer participates in the Rite of Election for catechumens and candidates who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation.

## Rite of Election

On February 21, the Rite of Election was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Catholic University, Washington, DC.

At the Rite of Election, catechumens and candidates were presented to the Bishop Martin D. Holley and received a call to continuing conversion. The Book of the Elect, where catechumens have inscribed their names, was presented to the Bishop Holley. The Church makes its "election" of the catechumens, now called "the Elect" or "the Illuminandi" (those who will be enlightened). Candidates are called to continue and deepen their conversion.

Following the Rite of Election,

catechumens and candidates begin a Period of Purification and Enlightenment – the final, intense preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, which are usually received on Easter Sunday.

OPT

### St. Rose of Lima

11701 Clopper Road  
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. Agustin Mateo  
Pastor

301-948-7545

Mary Zoccola, Parish Editor

mary.zoccola@gmail.com

240-401-0612



## St. Martin of Tours



## First Reconciliation

A second grader lights a candle after receiving his First Reconciliation on February 8. Photo by Jim McNulty



## National Geography Bee

Gabriel Amores will represent St. Martin's at the state-level competition of the National Geography Bee. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



St. Martin's eighth graders challenge the faculty and staff to a volleyball game during Catholic Schools Week. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

## Our Lady Queen of Poland

## Holy Lent and Easter Season Schedule 2016

Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish

## Stations of the Cross –Fridays at 7:30 PM

Lamentation devotions, “Gorzkie Zale”- Sundays at 11:30 AM

## Palm Sunday, March 20

Mass at 10 AM; procession with palms at 12 Noon Mass

## Holy Thursday, March 24

7:30 PM, Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper

## Good Friday, March 25

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross & Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Divine Mercy Chaplet

## Holy Saturday, March 26

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Easter Food & Bake Sale

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Blessing of the Easter food baskets every half hour

8:00 PM, Liturgy of the Paschal Vigil

## Easter Sunday, “Wielkanoc”, March 27

“Wesołego Alleluja!” Happy Easter!

10:00 AM, Resurrection Mass with procession

12:00 Noon, Holy Easter Mass

## Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3

10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon, Holy Masses

## Adoration after the noon Mass

2:30 PM, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Special Mass

## Parish Easter Dinner, “Swieconka,”

April 10, after the 12 Noon Mass

## Sunday, May 1, Solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Feastday

10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon, Holy Masses

1:30 PM, Parish Picnic

We invite you to come share the experience of the upcoming celebrations in our Parish!

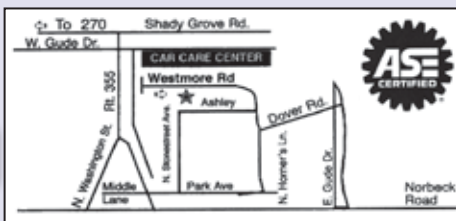
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## CBN

Con't from page 6

Advisory Board member and chairs the School Facilities Committee. Throughout the years she has chaperoned field trips, painted classrooms, helped at our Open House, and worked at Friday night bingo. She has assisted at various fundraisers such as Breakfast with Santa, our yearly Gala and Auction, craft fairs and Christmas tree sales. At the county fair, Kris could be found manning the St. Martin's food booth. Kris has been a leader when it came to soliciting pledges from parishioners for the construction of the Parish Center. She has also been instrumental in the planning and installation of mini-blinds for the classrooms years ago and most recently the cabinetry in the art and aftercare rooms. Kris also serves the parish as a Eucharistic Minister. When she is not helping our school and parish, Kris is reaching out to people who need help in her neighborhood and community. When asked why she has done so much for St. Martin's, she said, "I want to give back to a community that has instilled in my children the spirit of generosity and concern for others." She truly has a heart to serve and our community is indel-

ibly enriched by her generous spirit.

Dan Zimmerman was named St. Martin's Business Partner of the Year. Through his business, Zimmerman Automotive in Gaithersburg, Maryland, Dan has supported Catholic schools and St. Martin's in particular. Dan graduated from St. Martin's, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, and the Automotive Technology Program at Montgomery College. While working in the industry for many years, Dan's training and advancement gave him the opportunity and knowledge to establish his own car business. All the while he helped faculty and parents with

their automotive troubles. Once he opened his own business in 2009, he looked to see how he could help the St. Martin's School community. For years now he has supported our school by sponsoring school folders, magnate calendars, yearbooks, and our yearly auction. His professionalism and quality of work mirrors that of our school, and our partnership with Zimmerman Automotive has been invaluable throughout these many years.

Congratulations to Kris Quinn and Dan Zimmerman on these prestigious awards and thank you from the St. Martin's community for your dedication to the church and school.

OPT

## TALKS

Con't from page 4

starts with a broad theme but then attempts to address one principle of Catholic Social Teaching each week. According to Ms. Norris, the committee is "careful to select topics that will be well received by the leadership and parishioners... and will be of interest to many age groups". Once topics are selected, the challenge to find appropriate speakers. Speakers are sometimes identified by committee members

who have heard them speak previously or are pulled from the parish membership itself if SJB is fortunate to have parishioners who are active in the topic. When an active parishioner is the speaker, there is a double benefit – talk attendees not only learn more about the topic but also more about a fellow parishioner. Ms. Norris summarizes the speaker identification process as "a little bit of luck and a lot of prayer".

This year's topics included Voter Empowerment, Caring for All God's Creatures, Ending Poverty, Our Sister Parish in Haiti, and Veterans' Support.

OPT

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## Holy Redeemer

HR Varsity Girls City Champions

## March Madness Came Early for HR Basketball Program

With seven teams still in action in four different tournaments, the weekend of February 26-28 promised to be an exciting one at the very least. It did not disappoint! Both the HR boys and the girls Varsity teams made it to the Final Four of the CYO City Championship tournament with Coach Pat Williams' girls moving on to the championship where they were able to beat a tough Little Flower team 24-13 for the 2015-



2016 CYO City Championship! This talented group of girls took home the city title trophy only

months after securing the City Championship in soccer as well!

OPT

## St. Bartholomew



Front row: Matthew Culkin, Ryan Farren, Mark DeLuca, Will Triandafilou. Back Row: Cole Hessmann, Cary Abod, Coach Bowen, Sean Bowen, Nolan Bowen. Photo by Paul Bowen

## U10 Basketball Team "A Pretty Special Squad"

Coach Paul Bowen told OPT that his St. Bart's U10 team was "a pretty special squad." The players ranged from second thru fifth graders. Coach Bowen told OPT, "It was nice to have the older boys as an on the court coaches, and the younger boys respect the older boys and sometimes learn certain skills in a more effective way. The team gelled nicely through the year, with six victories. The team was truly unique as at we had numerous point guards and almost everyone was interested in playing all of the positions."

OPT

## The Holy Redeemer Shootout Tournament

An annual late winter tradition for the past 20+ years

Thirty five fifth and sixth-grade non-tournament teams from all over the Archdiocese of Washington vied for the championship this year. Holy Redeemer's talented and robust cheer squad helped create an electric atmosphere with as many as five games going on at the same time. This tournament is special as it embodies the true spirit of CYO Athletics. It allows teams that would not normally have a tournament at the end of their year to experience a highly competitive environment while having a lot of fun.

This year St. Peter's of Olney won the girls bracket while St. Pius won it on the boys side. Both championship games were played on the main court at the Georgetown Prep Arena after each player was announced to adoring fans and the national anthem was played!

A free throw contest is also part of the tournament with Holy Redeemer's own Matthew Millard taking home the boys championship going eight (8) out of ten (10). Nubia Matlock from St. John the Baptist won the girls side!

This early start to March Madness in Kensington was capped off with a victory by the Holy Redeemer boys third and fourth-grade team in the CYO Wide Victory Youth Tournament. Congratulations to Coach Mark Dunigan and team for a great tournament championship.

What a weekend!

OPT



HR's Matthew Millard wins the Free Throw Competition at the HR Shoot Out



HR's Cheer and Pep Team were excited to cheer on the teams at our HR Shoot Out

## Shrine of St. Jude

## Eighth-grade Boys End St. Jude Career with CYO Championship



Congratulations to the 14U St. Jude Bulldogs who capped off an 11-1 CYO record season with a Division Championship, beating St. Jane de Chantal by a score of 44-24 on Saturday, Feb. 13. Pictured above in front row are team members Tommy Kilmer, Nick Sanders, Dylan Monday, and Patrick Ribas. Team members in back row are: Joey Chupella, Jovan Navarra, Kevin Ourand, Joseph Byrne, and TJ Mouchti. The team is coached by Steve Monday (back row, left) and Tarik Mouchti (back row, right). "It is nice to see these boys accomplish something special together ending their St. Jude basketball playing career," said Coach Monday.

Joe Maier

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**For details contact Steve Riley at [sriley@pcr-inc.org](mailto:sriley@pcr-inc.org)**

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**About Potomac Community Resources, Inc.** Since 1994 Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR) has provided therapeutic, social, educational, and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences. PCR's dynamic, innovative programs are designed to encourage our members' personal growth, friendships, and healthy lifestyles, and to provide support to their family members and caregivers. PCR programs include music, fitness and movement, respite care for individuals with significant and moderate care needs, discussion groups for men and women, communication skills, basketball, art, a social club, photography, information sessions for parents of transitioning youth, and many special events throughout the year.



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