



# Parish Times

Special Edition: Catholic Schools Week  
Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner:  
See ad back page

JANUARY 2015

Living the Faith Together

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## Tenth Anniversary of the Murder of Sister Dorothy Stang to be Observed

*Her life and legacy to be celebrated in Washington and in events across the country*

In February 2005, Sister of Notre Dame Dorothy Stang was shot and killed by hired gunmen as she walked along a dirt road in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil.

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Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN

## Professors of the Practice



Chuck Short

Happy New Year! Best wishes to OPT readers and contributors for blessings of health and joy in 2015. I hope you are successful with your New Year's resolutions especially those which will enhance the lives of loved ones, support

the work of local parishes and improve our communities. Resolving to make life a little better for everyone is a wonderful and achievable goal, more so than losing ten pounds!

Our parishes are preparing to recognize Catholic Education Week, January 25-31. Before we reflect on this important annual celebration, I want to briefly celebrate the life of one of Christ's great teachers and servants, Edward Guinan, who died last month. Ed's life is a blueprint for Christian living. He was eloquently eulogized by Coleman McCarthy in the Washington Post on January 3, 2015 ([www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/j-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/j-)

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Fr. Cusick (left) and Director of Religious Education Sally Daniels (back row, far right), along with past and present Youth Group members, visited Butler's Orchard.

## Fun Outings and Activities with St. Jane's High School Youth Ministry

Members of St. Jane's High School Youth Group have been enjoying their time together during the past few months. Special outings included a game of laser tag in September,

a hay ride and bonfire at Butler's Orchard in October with story-

*Continued on page 5*

## International Students Welcomed at Holy Cross

With the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, The Academy of the Holy Cross welcomed eight students from China through a cooperative partnership with The Cambridge Institute of International Education. Although they are adjusting to a new culture, new language and new school, they have embraced the Holy Cross community, becoming true and loyal Tartans right from the start.

Last winter, the administration began the process of partnering with the Cambridge Institute. The team at Cambridge worked with the Admissions Office to develop a school profile for families in China to learn more about Holy Cross. Throughout the spring and summer, applications were submitted and reviewed.

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## Papal Nuncio to Ireland Speaks at Georgetown Visitation

The Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Charles J. Brown, spoke to two Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School freshman religion classes on Jan. 7. He visited at the request of his niece, Visitation freshman Mary Capretta. The Archbishop discussed his current role, his time serving the Catholic Church, and Ireland's historical and current relationship with the Church.

"I think it's a rare opportunity for the girls to put a human face and connection to the Church," said Capretta's freshman religion teacher, Luke O'Connell. "I wanted my stu-




The Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Charles J. Brown, and his niece, Georgetown Visitation freshman Mary Capretta.

dents to be exposed to the idea of the Church working in the world to make it a better place, to see the wonder and mystery of working for the Church, and that it's more than what they see on Sunday."

Archbishop Brown began his talk with a brief crash course on what a Papal Nuncio is: the ambassador to a country, representing the Vatican and the Holy See. In this role, he is the spokesperson for Pope Francis and the administration of the Catholic Church. In Ireland, the Papal Nuncio is also the dean of the diplomatic corps.

*Continued on page 39*





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*Message from the President*  
*Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County*

## Focus for 2015

### January 9, 2015

Since I became a member of CBN-MC in 2004, I've seen a lot of growth in the organization. Attendance has increased at our monthly breakfast meetings, which continue to present interesting and diverse guest speakers. Evening mixers are now held on a regular basis and draw a nice size crowd, including members who aren't otherwise available to attend our

breakfast meetings. Our December Christmas Mass and networking event featuring a wine-tasting by member John Treseler was a hit again this year.

A main focus of the Board this year will be to further increase membership, as well as encourage greater participation by all members. Several board members have volunteered to serve on a reconstituted membership committee, and they welcome the involvement by

other members who may be interested. Further details will be forthcoming over the next few months.

We are also excited about the potential social media possibilities that will be afforded us now that our new website has been rolled out. Additional tweaks are still underway, but we envision a significantly increased presence and better communication with our current and prospective members.

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## About CBN-MC

The Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County, CBN-MC, is an independent, non-profit organization of businesses and individual professionals working together to support Catholic education in Montgomery County Maryland.

We apply the principles of our faith in the marketplace, promote valuable networking opportunities among CBN members, as well as additional support within the County for the education of our young men and women. Any profits generated through the association, including several specific fund raising events during the year, go

to support Montgomery County, Maryland Catholic schools through the CBN-MC Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

From the beginning the members of CBN-MC have made Catholic Education the focus of their charitable work. In 2010 CBN-MC distributed more than \$90,000 in development grants to Catholic schools, essay scholarships and need-based scholarships.

As a networking center, CBN-MC has successfully pulled Catholic business men and women together across parish boundaries creating an increased awareness within the parishes of who is in busi-

ness and what goods and services are offered. Time is arranged at breakfast meetings for structured table networking. At each breakfast members report the deals they have made with fellow members in the recent past.

As an active CBN-MC member, you can be recognized at all events and occasions throughout the year for your leadership and support of Catholic education and the Catholic business community.

To review the benefits of membership and to join CBN-MC online, go to: <https://cbnmc.com/join/benefits>

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## Eight Georgetown Visitation Students Sign Letters of Intent for College Athletics

Eight Georgetown Visitation seniors recently signed letters of intent in the presence of Head of School Dan Kerns, including (seated) softball player Alea Burke (Notre Dame College), cross country runner Emily Kaplan (Yale University), soccer player Taylor Kirchgessner (Trinity College), Addie Zinsner (Yale University), (standing) lacrosse player Mary Cole (University of Denver), rower Mairén Hilary (Drexel University), lacrosse player Kirsten Swanson (University of California at Berkeley) and lacrosse player Maggie Jackson (University of Virginia).

*Never again alone!*

## The Adventure of Faith and Light

Marie-Hélène Mathieu, co-founder with Jean Vanier of the Faith and Light movement has published her book in English.

It all began with a rejection. That of two children too disabled to go to Lourdes on a diocesan pilgrimage with their parents. The family decided to go alone, but the welcome in Lourdes, the looks of fear, avoidance and rejection hurt them deeply. The idea then grew of a pilgrimage aimed specifically at people with intellectual disabilities, their parents and their friends. Together, they would be welcomed into the heart of the holy town and beyond that into the heart of the Church itself.

Marie-Hélène Mathieu, a specialist teacher and founder of L'Office chrétien des personnes handicapées (OCH) and the *Ombres et Lumière* magazine, along with Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, proposed the adventure and set the project in motion. So the families would never again be alone and people with intellectual disability would have their unique abilities recognized.

At Easter 1971, twelve thousand pilgrims from fifteen countries gathered in Lourdes demonstrating the burden of disability but mainly the immense joy awakened by love.

It wasn't a miracle of minds that was being asked for, just a miracle of



hearts. Faith and Light in the United States began here with people from the USA going on this Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lourdes, in France.

On the last day, the pilgrims were unanimous: "We want Faith and Light to live!" Jean Vanier replied: "Continue to meet in small communities. Do what the Holy Spirit inspires you to do." The Faith and Light movement was born. It has continued to develop throughout the world.

Today, there are one thousand six hundred and forty-eight communities that are growing in eighty countries on five continents.

This book, "Never Again Alone!" was necessary. It very accurately

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 **Parish Times**

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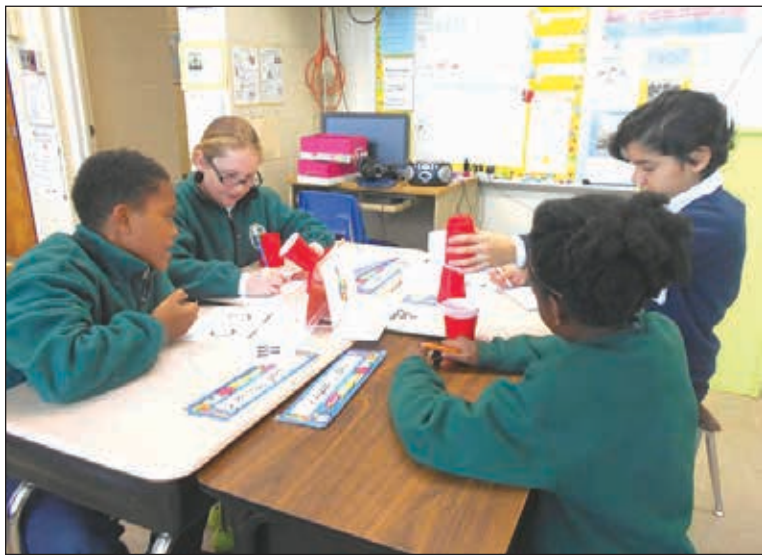
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Holy Cross students from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade participate in different “unplugged” programming activities in the first annual Hour of Code in December.

## An Hour of Code at Holy Cross

In December, Holy Cross School joined millions of students from over 180 countries around the globe for an Hour of Code, an event that introduces students to different aspects of computer programming. Activities are designed to help students of all age levels use problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. The goal is to spark an interest in any technology-related career path.

Technology Coordinator and teacher, Cate Krage, organized the

*Continued on page 33*

**Holy Cross Parish**  
4900 Strathmore Avenue  
Garrett Park, MD  
**Rev. Msgr. Cary Hill, Pastor**  
301-942-1020

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

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

**More Holy Cross News on Page 33**



### UPCOMING EVENTS



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

**Tartan for a Day Visit**  
*Monday, January 26*

**Performing Arts  
Night for Middle  
School Students**  
*Thursday, February 12  
7:00 pm*

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Pastor: Rev. Msgr. R. Cary Hill • Principal: Lisa M. Kane







St. Mary's participated in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive for the second year and improved on last year's totals. Despite inclement weather, the parish responded with countless volunteers and nearly 11,000 cans of food from 31 territories. A big thank you to everyone who participated!

## Berg Blossoms at St. Mary's

By: Maureen Stiles

When Music Director Sarah Berg joined the St. Mary's faculty this year, she took over an established music program that consistently earned acclaim both at competitions and within the parish itself. A mere three months into Ms. Berg's tenure, the Christmas performances proved that the program is flourishing under her direction.

On December 3, the Chorus and band had their winter concert with selections both traditional and more obscure. The chorus, a blend of children from grades 4-8, sang beautifully and enthusiastically. The highlight for the students was the now classic, "Hot Chocolate" from the movie *Polar Express*.

The following week the entire student body participated in the engaging play, "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen." The setting is the sleepy town of Bethlehem and the sheriff tasked with keeping order there on the night of Jesus' birth.

The eighth-grade students were assigned all the roles in the play with grades K-7 providing the musical interludes.

Though laugh out loud funny at times, the story accurately portrayed the events of that blessed evening punctuated with Christmas standards such as "Away in a Manger." Original compositions were also included adding to the entertainment.

Kudos to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders who really rose to the challenge, memorizing pages of dialogue and diligently practicing amidst HSPT testing and high school applications.

Thank you Ms. Berg! We can't wait for the spring show and the play.

OPT

One of St. Mary's most beloved traditions, the annual St. Nick Festival, was held on December 6. This parish-wide event is free to attendees and features snow-cones, a DJ, popcorn, games, prizes and of course a visit from Santa Clause. The festival was also a collection point for a toy drive to benefit Rockville kids in need.



### Robotics Team

Team Tribute competed in the FLL Robotics (First LEGO League) qualifying competition at Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville January 10th. The team placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 25 teams for table runs AND were awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for Robot Design. Team Tribute will be heading to the state competition on February 28<sup>th</sup>; one of only 5 teams to qualify. The team is comprised of both St. Mary's students and parishioners. Good luck Team Tribute!



St. Mary's pre-school is working their way through the alphabet and look what letter popped up just in time for Christmas! "N" is for Nativity. Just another example of the curriculum's balance of appropriate learning milestones, faith and fun.

## MINISTRY

Con't from page 1

telling, improv and simply enjoying each other's company around a bonfire.

Activities in December included a Christmas trash bag gift exchange in which participants exchanged

used items from home and a trip to a local ice skating rink. The group began 2015 with blanket volleyball and fish football in January. In February, the Youth Group will celebrate the Super Bowl with a get together of all teens to watch not only the game, but also the commercials!

OPT

### St. Mary's School

Mass and Open House  
January 25, 2015

9 am Mass  
10 am – 1 pm  
Open House

600 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, Maryland  
301-762-4179

See ad page 22

### St. Mary's Parish

520 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD

Msgr. Robert Amey,  
Pastor  
301-424-5550

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

Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor  
301-990-4329



# The Four C's and Catholic Schools Week at Holy Redeemer Catholic School

By Ann Enkiri

Courtesy...Compassion...Commitment...Community – these values inform daily life at Holy Redeemer School and will feature in the celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Students and faculty pray daily to offer their work to God and to ask for Christ's help to "speak and act with courtesy...treat others with compassion...show commitment to our faith, family, school work and activities...and build up our community by loving others". Each value serves as the theme of one academic quarter. This year, the week-long celebration of events and activities for CSW will include:

## ■ Saturday, January 24, 2015: Offering Our Week to God

Jumpstarting this special week, students, parents and teachers will gather with the parish community for Mass at 5:30 PM on Saturday, January 24th. HR students will participate as altar-servers, lectors, petitioners, gift-bearers, cantors, and choirs. Immediately following Mass, there will be a reception in the Herb Young Auditorium with the opportunity to tour the school and enjoy each homeroom's door decoration celebrating the third quarter's theme – community.

### Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue  
Kensington, MD

**Rev. Mark Hughes**  
Pastor

301-942-2333

### Holy Redeemer School

**Mrs. Colleen Ryan,**  
Principal  
301-942-3701

## ■ Monday, January 26: Speaking and Acting with Courtesy

Career Day has become a much-anticipated CSW tradition at HR. On Monday, January 26, students in every grade will get to practice their courtesy skills as they enjoy presentations by career speakers in the morning. From kindergarten through eighth-grade, students will learn about three different careers. Keynote speaker Doug Kammerer, NBC4 meteorologist, will address grades 5-8 at an afternoon assembly. Later, teachers will guide their students in the courtesy of writing age-appropriate thank-you letters to all the participants.

## ■ Tuesday, January 27: Treating Others with Compassion

Middle-schoolers will spend time praying for and learning about the needs of homeless men and women in our archdiocesan community and how Catholic Charities works to help them. Students will then fill 1,000 lunch bags, lovingly decorated by the Nursery/PreK-Grade 5 students, with donated breakfast items which will be delivered to Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program to area homeless shelters. Lower school homerooms will also make a variety of requested items to brighten daily life for children and families at the NIH Children's Inn in neighboring Bethesda.

## ■ Wednesday, January 28: Showing Commitment to Our Faith, Family, School Work and Activities

The school day will begin with an all school Prayer Service in the Auditorium at 8:10 in appreciation of our parents. From 10:00 – 11:30 AM, student ambassadors and parent volunteers will greet visitors—current and prospective parents—to

the Annual Open House (Feb. 11 Snow Date). Teachers and students are excited for visitors to see their commitment to the Catholic faith and to academics in a community that celebrates family and offers activities in sports, drama, music, Scouts, and service. Applications for the 2015-2016 school year will be available at the Open House.

## ■ Thursday, January 29: Building Up Our Community

Recognizing how important it is to take some time out for fun and friendly competition, the whole school will meet in the auditorium for a trivia quiz show, hosted by eighth graders and Student Government. School spirit will be visible as students enjoy a free out-of-uniform day to dress in the school colors, red and white. Friendly rivalry is sure to get "Go RED!" school spirit soaring.

## ■ Friday, January 30: Celebrating the 4C's – Courtesy, Compassion, Commitment and Community

The school community will close Catholic Schools Week as they began...gathering for 8:30 AM Mass, which will end with school principal Colleen Ryan presenting awards to middle school students who made the Principal's List and Academic Honor Roll. Mrs. Ryan will also recognize students for compassion and other hallmarks of achievement. At 10:45 AM, the entire student body will attend the annual Variety Show, showcasing performances by students in grades 3-8. While students enjoy an early dismissal, teachers will enjoy a special luncheon in appreciation for their service to Catholic education.

OPT

## Community News

# How Our Faith Can Impact Public Policy and Poverty

A presentation and discussion on "How Our Faith Can Impact Public Policy and Poverty in Montgomery County" will be held Wednesday, January 28, from 7:30-9:00 pm at Holy Redeemer Church (9705 Summit Ave., Kensington). Chuck Short, Special Assistant to County Executive Ike Leggett, will discuss how political advocacy by the Catholic community can help ensure adequate funding for programs serving people in poverty.

For more information, contact Cathy Couch, Chair of the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County, at 301-933-6120, or Michael Scott, Director of Public Policy for the Archdiocese of Washington, at 202-683-1721.

OPT



# UpCounty Community Resources Group

The December event for the UpCounty Community Resources Group was a trip to the Olney theater to watch "The Little Mermaid" on the 14th. 85 members of our group enjoyed the matinee show followed by dinner at Sol Azteca Restaurant located just down the road in the Olney Town Center.

The UpCounty Resource Group

is an organization of persons who believe that diversity in our community enriches us all. Our mission is to promote opportunities for individuals with, and without, developmental differences in a community that values each member. If you would like more information about our group and upcoming events, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.

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## Mother Seton

# Mother Seton Parish Pro-Life Events

By Dominique Seraphin, Director of Religious Education, MSP

Catholic Underground NYC comes to Mother Seton! The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFR's) and Mother Seton Parish Pro-Life Group hosted an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, dinner and a concert with Catholic recording artist Marie Miller on the eve of the March for Life (January 21, 2015). The celebration of life began with solemn exposition of the

Blessed Sacrament in the Church during which the Franciscan Friars led us in evening prayer followed by an hour of praise and worship and silent adoration before Our Lord.

The celebration continued in

the Parish Center as the friars and Marie Miller took center stage in a Catholic Underground gathering. The evening ended with night prayer led by the Friars and prepared all gathered to continue to fight for Life!

OPT

# Mother Seton Parish School of Religion

By Dominique Seraphin, Director of Religious Education, MSP

Mother Seton Parish School of Religion launched classes on September 8, 2014. We currently have 695 students enrolled in our program which include students from Mary of Nazareth in Darnestown, students who are parishioners of Mother Seton

parish.

The students who are from Mary of Nazareth that are enrolled the program are preparing to receive either the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or Confirmation. We have 112 students preparing to receive Confirmation on May 8, 2015 and 126 students preparing to receive First Holy Communion on May 2.

OPT

## Mother Seton Parish

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Germantown, MD

**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer**  
Pastor

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**Joyce McCarthy**  
OPT Editor

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## USCCB Chairman Responds to Supreme Court Decision to take Marriage Cases

The U. S. Supreme Court granted a request, January 16, to review the November 2014 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit upholding the constitutionality of marriage laws in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, responded to the Court's action saying, "A decision by the Supreme Court on whether a state may define marriage as the union of one man and one woman may be the most significant Court decision since the Court's tragic 1973 Roe v. Wade decision making abortion a constitutional right."

Archbishop Cordileone also noted,

### Men's Discernment Retreat Weekend

Friday, February 6-Sunday, February 8, at St. John Paul II Seminary. Men in their 20's-40's who are considering a call to the priesthood are invited to attend a discernment retreat. For more information, contact: Office of Priest Vocations, 202-636-9020 or vocations@adw.org

### CBN FOCUS

Con't from page 2

2014 was a successful fundraising year for CBN-MC. Our gala raised almost \$60,000 for need-based scholarships, which I believe is the most ever raised. Gala proceeds also allowed us to provide a \$1,250 grant to each of the 21 schools that submitted grant requests in the fall of 2014. In addition, through the generosity of our annual sponsors and other fundraising efforts, we were able to award 14 essay scholarships totaling over \$20,000. Thank you to everyone who made this support to Catholic education possible.

On behalf of the CBN-MC Board of Directors, I'd like to thank Rob Scanlon for his excellent guidance as president over the past year, and for agreeing to cover for me while I'm away these first two weeks of January. I'd also like to thank all of our Board members for their tireless service over the past year, as well as our administrator, Katie Shaffer, who is invaluable in keeping the organization running smoothly. Welcome also to our newest board members. I look forward to working with each of you as we strive for a productive and successful 2015.

We have many networking opportunities throughout the year. Please consider how you can further leverage these for your personal and business development, and encourage your friends, associates, and referral sources to consider joining.

—Barbara Murphy Kromer

"It's hard to imagine how the essential meaning of marriage as between the two sexes, understood in our nation for over two hundred years, and consistent with every society throughout all of human history, could be declared illegal. To those arguing for a constitutional redefinition of marriage, one must ask: when did the Constitution suddenly mandate a novel and unfounded definition of marriage? To ask such a question is not a judgment on anyone. It is a matter of justice and truth. The central issue at stake is: what is marriage? The answer is: a bond which

unites a man and a woman to each other and to any children who come from their union. Only a man and a woman can unite their bodies in a way that creates a new human being. Marriage is thus a unique and beautiful reality which a society respects to its benefit or ignores to its peril."

Archbishop Cordileone added, "Let us pray that the Supreme Court will be guided by right reason and render a true and just decision upholding the constitutionality of states to respect the institution of marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

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## Catholic Lobby Night

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SJB Students Welcome Santa with "White Christmas" Song and Dance

## Santa Comes to St. Johns

### *A Delightful Breakfast with Santa*

By Genevieve Maloney, Grade 8

St. John the Baptist had the honor of a visit from Santa Clause on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Over 400 people came to get a glimpse of Santa and tell him their Christmas wishes!

This year's theme for the breakfast was "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas". Fathers Brault and D'Souza opened the event with a prayer, and then the curtains on stage opened to reveal a special performance by a small group of students! The group included singers and ballerinas who reenacted the scene from the Bing Crosby version of "White Christmas". After singing "White Christmas" the star on the tree was lit by a little angel (Sadie Hazelton, Grade 4), and the group shouted with glee, "Look its Santa!"

Santa made a grand entrance, with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students dressed as princesses, princes and other characters. The room was exceptionally decorated with red tablecloths and beautiful handmade ribbon trees as centerpieces.

The food that was lovingly prepared by our amazing SJB parents was exceptional. Sausage, eggs, bacon, and pancakes - just what Santa and his elves love!

Many SJB parents and teachers worked long hours to make this year's arrival of Santa an extra special treat for our parish community. Cooks in the kitchen and a team of experts in the areas of costume coordination, decorations, ticketing and more, made this event a smashing success. It was a wonderful start to the Christmas season for all who participated!

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## Principal's Corner

### Observations from Principal Brian Blomquist

A principal's first year certainly has its highs and lows. The spirit and goodwill we felt during the Christmas Concert was a night I'll always remember. The helplessness as our drainage system clogged, causing us to turn off the water and close school for a day, will also stay in my memory, as will Father David's advice that day: "It's about maintenance, my son."

I feel like the luckiest principal in the world because I truly look forward to going to school each day. I spend time with the greatest staff on earth and won-

St. John the Baptist School  
Principal Brian Blomquist

derful children, who strive in their own unique ways to show what they've learned, please their teachers and parents, and play with friends.

Last month, we had an open forum for parents, sponsored by the Home School Association, to give parents a voice. All parents were invited, and encouraged to talk with teachers about how our school might improve. The event was expertly moderated by Fran Scango, former Blessed Sacrament Principal. The debate

Continued on page 35



SJB teens with our visitors from Kentucky prior to the 2014 March for Life

## Christian Meditation Group

### *SJB Introduces Parishioners to Centering Prayer*

By Molly Dipppo

St. John the Baptist's Christian meditation group began in 2008, according to Mr. Louis J. Milone, Director of Faith Formation. Originally the Centering

Prayer Group, the introductory workshop was led by the organization Contemplative Outreach. Out of this workshop the SJB group was formed.

Since the group's inception, Mr. Milone estimates that SJB has successfully introduced centering prayer to about 70 parishioners.

In 2014, Mr. Milone changed the name to the Meditation group. He said, "More seemed attracted by that title, and the group grew larger." "Once folks try centering prayer, they know whether or not it is for them. It is a wonderful way to get to know God directly in the silence of pure faith. Anyone can do it and there are no prerequisites. You can be anywhere on your faith journey."

Continued on page 34

### St. John the Baptist Parish

12319 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MDRev. Y. David Brault, Pastor  
301-622-1122Brian Blomquist, Principal  
301-622-3076Shannon Jordan Mulrooney,  
OPT Editor  
shannoncoll@comcast.net

## Friends from Kentucky – Visitors to St. John the Baptist for the March for Life

By Alison Fram

Since January of 2012, St. John the Baptist has hosted a group of students and adults from the Diocese of Owensboro,

Kentucky. The teens and chaperones stay as guests of SJB. They travel by bus for over 10 hours so they can attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. They are extremely grateful to use our parish

as a home base, and we will again welcome our visitors from January 21-24 this year.

Before their arrival last year, thirty-two teens from St. John's came

Continued on page 35

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# St. Elizabeth Parish Offices Suffer Serious Fire Damage

By Kathryn Swartz, Pastoral Associate, St. Elizabeth Parish

**O**n Saturday morning, January 10, about 8 am, St. Elizabeth pastor Msgr. Jack Macfarlane was in his office in the small modular parish offices building behind the church when he smelled smoke and noticed a haze hovering just below the ceiling. He walked outside to discover flames and smoke shooting from the east end, the opposite end from his office. He called 911 and 15 emergency vehicles and 85 fire fighters were shortly on the site and had the fire quickly contained.

No one else was in the building and no vital documents or equipment were lost but the offices at the fire end of the building were



St. Elizabeth Parish offices. Interior space directly below the source of the fire on January 10.

activities for both school and church continue as usual. Minor adjustments for space use will need to be juggled for those who'd been planning to use the Commons, but we are moving full steam ahead and coping as best we can!

We have been overwhelmed with offers of support and assistance from our incredible parishioners and others. We are so very blessed! We are most appreciative of this and will let those who've asked know as needs are identified. And our thanks too, to the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services, who were so responsive and professional in keeping us all safe and dealing with this fire in the extreme cold and the challenges that that presented.

So, please continue to keep us in your prayers and for at least the near future, you can find us in the Commons!

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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  
202-887-6475



Eastern end of the St. Elizabeth Parish offices where an electrical fire started in the overhead area

destroyed, and smoke and water damage permeated the entire building, rendering it uninhabitable. The fire department reported that the fire was accidental and related to heating equipment.

In addition to Msgr. Macfarlane, 10 parish staff members have been displaced for the time being, but all have taken the setback cheerfully and have relocated to temporary offices in the large gathering space in front of the Church, known as the Commons. Cubicles have been set up and everything needed for day-to-day operation is being dealt with: cables being run for computers and phones, office supplies being purchased, etc. All computer equipment and everything that survived the fire has had to be sent away for cleaning and rehab. Nevertheless,



St. Elizabeth School's fourth graders visit the Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

## Adoption Fall-Throughs and Divine Breakthroughs

By James McKenna, St. Elizabeth Parishioner

**"J**im, don't get your hopes up, but there was a baby born yesterday in Western Maryland. Let's hope this one works out."

For the last several years, so many wonderful people were keeping their eyes and ears open for us in our quest for adoption. So many leads....so many fall-throughs.

There was the time we went to meet an expectant birth mother in Arkansas. We called her twice a day for several days before our flight to be sure she really wanted to put her child up for adoption. Each time she replied, "I'm 100 percent certain."

When we arrived in downtown Little Rock, our agreed-upon rendezvous, she never showed up.

Then there was the dentist from Tulsa who had two little girls he wanted to place for adoption because his wife was in prison and had a drug problem. We spent part



Jim and Veronica McKenna

of the Christmas holiday with him and his daughters and helped prepare the girls, with whom we had grown attached, for their move to Maryland. The day before he was supposed to sign his termination of rights, he backed out.

There was a kind-hearted woman from Las Vegas who was raising two children on her own already and was pregnant again. She ultimately lost her unborn child to miscarriage. Then she offered to be a surrogate to us if we wanted that kind of support from her in the future.

Others were not so kind-hearted: fakers, scammers and people who asked: "How much will you pay me for my child?"

So when our pediatrician friend, Jack, called me to say there was a baby that had already been born (right here in Maryland, no less), it seemed too good to be true. I felt myself not believing. Subconsciously, I was already prepared to be disappointed again.

"Where are you right now?" Jack asked me via cellphone.

"I'm in New York. A family gathering, then a business meeting" I told him.

"How fast can you get to western Maryland?" he asked.

"As soon as I need to," I told him.

"Well, I showed the birth mother your Website. Let's see if she wants to meet you guys. I gave her the phone number for your babyphone also, so she might text you directly." (The babyphone is our separate phone whose number is posted on

Continued on page 31

More St. Elizabeth News on Page 36

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**St. Elizabeth School's Winter Open House will take place January 28th from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please contact Mary Penny, our Director of Admissions, if you have any questions at mpenny@stelizabethschoolmd.org.**



## Mary of Nazareth School Inducts New National Junior Honor Society Members

On the evening of December 10th, thirty-seven middle school students were inducted into Mary of Nazareth School's chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. In addition to maintaining excellent grades, these students were also recommended for membership by their teachers. They exemplify the five standards of the National Junior Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

At Mary of Nazareth, NJHS members serve their school through the Homework Helpers program. As Homework Helpers, they tutor younger students after school, providing academic help and serving as

excellent role models. "Service," stated seventh grader Jim Juhring at the ceremony, "is a willingness to work for the benefit of those in need without public recognition."

The new members of the National Junior Honor Society are:

### Eighth Graders

Arianna Checchia      Mariel Juwillie  
Mark Kelsey

### Seventh Graders

Tiffany Ahianor      Logan Rohde  
Kristen Puglisi      Regina Choi  
Jacob Bryant

### Sixth Graders

Hayley Abromavage	Vince Stefanelli
Dylan Olmsted	Max Filliben
Jacqueline Albero	Delia Teter
James Owan	Gates Griffin
Fouad Ayoub	Margaret Titus
Nicholas Palmer	Jacqueline Gilmore
Lindsay Barrow	Jack Tucker
Hackett Rascher	Sam Hough
Gabriela Cam	Christine Venable
William Scherer	Maeve McIntyre
Alex Castro-Conroy	Kayla Waldron
Luke Schlimm	Liam Melley
Elizabeth Clarke	Julia Wells
Julie Seminara	Zachary Merkle
Viktor Fedotov	

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**Mary of Nazareth School  
Open House  
Sunday, January 25, 2015  
1pm – 3pm**



Athena Armstrong, Alejandra Almeida, Kristen Puglisi and Riley Keller take a break from the slopes to warm up.

## See You on the Slopes

Ski Club is a long standing tradition for middle school students at Mary of Nazareth School. It is a well celebrated milestone and is often captured as their favorite memory in the yearbook. The energy in the halls the weeks of ski club is contagious!

Eighty six students, along with an abundance of chaperones, load their equipment into two buses for the trip to Ski Liberty Mountain. After an hour and a half of singing, cheering and chanting, the buses are unloaded and everyone is off to hit the slopes.

Ski Club is also a great way for our children to grow and show their maturity. They become responsible for remembering their passes, gathering their belongings and reporting back to the bus on time. These ski club students do not disappoint. Of course there is the occasional forgetting of a pass or misplacing a glove. But overall, the children rise to the occasion and help each other in the lodge and on the slopes. The program also provides a great bonding experience for their middle school years.

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### A Wider Circle

On Saturday, January 10th, Mary of Nazareth School faculty, staff, students and parents volunteered with A Wider Circle for a Winter Service Day. We had such an amazing turnout that three warehouse employees were able instead to make additional truck runs to collect donations. It was a great way to kick off the new year and give back to the community.

### Girls Intramural Superbowl Champions "Skittles"

Front: Regina Choi, Megan Johannes, Gabriela Cam, Clara Griffin, Mariel Juwillie, Julie Seminara, Caroline Brown, Hannah Kokinda. Back: Laura Rose Osei, Marguerite Saunders, Ava Zamora, Logan Rohde, Christina Vo, Julia Wells



### Boys Intramural Superbowl Champions "Akron All Stars"



Front: Brendan Snocker, Shalom Adewi, Mitchell Markoff, Nick Palmer, Jonathan Hofmann, Chase Grossnickel, Brian Nguyen. Back: Jacob Zeranski, Brian Murphy, Jacob Bryant, Aidan Escario, Oscar Lopez, Mark Kelsey. Center: Carson Schaefer

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Darnestown.



## St. Bernadette School Christmas Pageant

St. Bernadette School celebrated the Advent and Christmas season with a Christmas pageant directed by our music teacher, Sarah Rogevich, and our parish music director, John Henderson. Students in Grades K-8 performed traditional pageant songs, and our eighth-grade students created a beautiful tableau with Mary, Joseph the angels and the three Kings with real gold, frankincense and myrrh!

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St. Bernadette School First Grade students present their handmade "Bee" ornaments to their teacher, Miss McCoy, and teaching assistant, Mrs. Birk. It is nice to see the teachers smile!

## NEVER AGAIN ALONE

Con't from page 3

traces the facts, the meetings and the events behind the scenes of this sacred story. Also, it shares about the obstacles, the fighting, the light and dark times of a movement born without forethought which grew with the breath of the Holy Spirit creating numerous pioneers and so many humble servants.

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Graduates in white, current teams in blue

## St. Bernadette High School Girls CYO Basketball 6th Annual Alumna Game

Thirty girls from St. Bernadette classes of 2004 through 2014 faced off in the annual high school CYO Alumna Game on the Monday before Christmas. The two current St B's teams with freshman, sophomore, junior and senior players from Holy Cross, Georgetown Visitation, St Johns, Stone Ridge, Montgomery Blair and Good Counsel combined to take on a feisty group of players now attending or graduated from Xavier University, Miami of Ohio, University of Maryland, Montgomery College, East Carolina University, UNC Wilmington, Tulane, the University of Delaware and the University of Georgia.

Experience barely squeaked by youth, 38 to 34, in a back and forth affair featuring plenty of laughter and some decent hoops. Six sets of sisters, many of whom had never played with or against each other, made for

some interesting match ups on the floor. The tradition has been a great way to kick off the basketball and Christmas season and to keep the girls in touch.

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Pastor

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# SJE's Religious Ed Students Spread Christ's Love Locally and Abroad

Students of St. John the Evangelist's (SJE) Religious Education (RE) program, under the dedicated stewardship of Sr. Roberta Harding, I.H.M., live out lessons taught in the classroom of faith, hope, charity and love. During the Christmas season, and throughout the year, these lessons come to life through a variety of social service activities reaching both the local community and far beyond.

Take the "Adopt a Family" program. Annually the RE community "adopts" one family for whom they collect and distribute Christmas gifts. This year, the RE community outdid themselves by adopting a total of three families. It was a huge success. Table after table was covered with gifts collected and donated by the RE students, staff and families. Each adopted family



Sr. Roberta Harding, I.H.M. with gifts for the Adopt-A-Family program. Photo by C. Calabro



Santa and RE students share Christmas joy at the Adopt-A-Family assembly. Photo by T. Scharnberger

made possible by the tireless efforts of Sr. Roberta and the entire faculty, staff and families. Eleven faculty members, including one high school student who teaches under the supervision of a faculty member and the Director, instruct students from pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade. Approximately twelve high school students work as personal aides and/or participate with the Confirmation class, bringing an outstanding richness to the program. This year SJE's RE program serves 181 students

from 116 families. Some teachers have almost twenty years or more of experience. The teachers' unflagging commitment shines through the high-quality lesson plans and the personal attention given to students. The RE program continuously looks for new ways to support the community. Likewise, support from the community always is welcome. The RE students and staff truly are Christ in the world, for those here in the local area and even for some people oceans away.

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## St. John the Evangelist Parish

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

Rev. Joseph Calis, Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School

Sr. Kathleen Lannak, I.H.M.,  
Principal

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SJE Communications  
Committee, Editor

sjewebmaster@gmail.com

received three overflowing bags of gifts to brighten their Christmas morning. Although Sr. Roberta was not surprised in the least, she was deeply touched by the "overwhelmingly generous response this year." RE students shared more than material gifts with the adopted families; students shared their hearts and spirits. They brought prayerful reflection to the act of service by hosting an afternoon of fellowship for the RE students and their families. The assembly was organized and led by the eighth graders and their high school mentors. It includ-

ed student musicians, Christmas carols and even a visit from Santa (a high school mentor). Classroom lessons were personified in each person present as they celebrated the birth of Christ.

Another powerful example of how the RE students are learning to transform teachings about their Catholic faith into action is the students' response to the annual mission. Each year the RE program, together with the SJE parish school, raises funds for local, and sometimes not-so-local, emerging needs. This year students used part

of the mission funds to buy a boat for a family in the Philippines who lost their belongings in the devastating Typhoon Haiyan. The RE program dedicated remaining mission funds to the families adopted at Christmastime--grocery store certificates were added to their gift bags. The RE curriculum's message of social service and Christ-like love evidently is making an impact on SJE RE students. Their love and compassion reach far beyond the classroom.

SJE's RE program serves a critical function in the parish and is

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## Catholic Schools Week at St. John the Evangelist

Every year, St. John the Evangelist school enthusiastically anticipates the last week of January when Catholic schools across the nation observe "Catholic Schools Week" (CSW). A celebration of the contributions that Catholic education makes on every level, CSW allows the entire SJE community to reflect on the value of the educational opportunities our parish provides. The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) establishes a theme for CSW and provides information and materials for schools to use during the week. The theme this year is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service." Here at St. John the Evangelist School each of the elements of the theme is abundantly and joyfully lived.

Any visitor to the SJE campus and parish immediately understands that SJE is different from the many other fine schools



SJE students dress creatively for Wacky Tacky Day during CSW. Photo by C. Zarzecki



Joe and his grandfather Jerry Comello at the 2011 Senior and Grandparent Appreciation Day kickoff to CSW. Photo by K. Comello

in Silver Spring because it is a community of love centered on Christ. We begin our year by reaffirming our core beliefs: "we are all created in the image and likeness of God," "we are all brothers and sisters in Christ," and "as followers of Christ, we are all called to serve others." From these core statements, an ethos permeates the curriculum, classroom interactions, and the parish at large. At SJE, children sincerely applaud the achievements of their classmates, mentor one another

*Continued on page 35*



## Vocations “Dinner at the Rectory”

By Rus Wester

**D**uring this year’s VOCATIONS Bake Sale, the winning raffle ticket, purchased by parishioner Mary Louise Mahoney invited her and guests to “Dinner at the Rectory”.

“Father Joe’s grace before the meal included special prayers for me and each of my St. Vincent de Paul guests,” said Mary Louise. “This was not just any dinner. Chef Denise Madaras created an Italian evening steeped in family tradition for us to share with Fathers Joe, Dave and Sweeney, and Deacon Martino. Everything served came with a story from the kitchen about how Denise’s grandmother made each dish. Pastry Chef, Susie Abel finished the meal with one of her raspberry cheesecakes and fresh espresso. The food was excellent, the company great...we laughed, told stories. It was O-U-T-S-T-A-N-D-I-N-G!”

*Continued on page 35*



One of the miracles surrounding the Guadalupe events includes beautiful “roses” St. Juan Diego brought to the Bishop of Mexico, as proof that Juan came representing the Mother of God. Carrying the roses in his cloak (tilma) to the Bishop, Juan released them, and in their place, remained the image of Our Lady on his tilma, which we still have today, in Mexico City, at the Shrine built in Her honor by the Bishop. Roses are always part of Guadalupe celebrations.

## Guadalupe Traditions in the Parish

By Rus Wester

**I**n the 16th century, the indigenous people of Mexico were introduced to bread made of wheat. The Spanish delivered this type of bread, which was considered the only grain suitable for making the Eucharist. A custom quickly developed for dipping the sweet Conchas wheat bread into chocolate as it was eaten. This bit of food history and tradition survives to this day during the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe’s Feast Day...in Mexico and around the world.

*Continued on page 35*



Welcoming parishioners to the celebration of food, traditional beverages and wonderful Mariachi music are the parish children portraying Our Lady and St. Juan Diego, as well as Priests and Deacons of the parish: (L-R) Deacon Carlo Caraballo, Fr. Dave Wells, Fr. Joe Rogers and Deacon Mike Davy.

## Saint John Neumann Blood Drive

By Mary Ann Redden

**S**ince his arrival, Fr. Joe Rogers has made it part of his mission to increase the parish’s social ministry. As part of that ministry, SJN Saint Vincent de Paul Society sponsored a parish-wide blood drive. Aligning parish and American Red Cross schedules was a bit of a challenge, however once things came together, the remaining tasks were easy. Parishioners were very generous with their time and 27 people spent about an hour to make a donation. Twenty-one units of blood were collected, which were targeted for our local community hospitals. About 69 patients will be assisted from the 21 units so the donations went a long way to help our friends and neighbors in need! Many thanks are due for bringing this service opportunity to our parish. The American Red Cross was very appreciative and has expressed interest in coming again sometime in the spring.

OPT



The American Red Cross brought all necessary equipment and converted the SJN Parish Center into a blood-collecting hospital and managed the entire facility as parishioners came to donate blood for use by Gaithersburg area hospitals.

## Here Comes Santa Claus....

**T**he Knights of Columbus hosted their traditional “Breakfast with Santa” event in December for over 200 children of all ages! It was Santa’s 6th year in a row to make an early stop at SJN Parish before leaving on his Christmas Eve world tour. The trains of John Jankowski circled in the room and confirmed that Christmas time was near.

While waiting to personally visit with Santa, the children created reindeer food and wrote letters to leave with the Man on Red during the day. Photographer, Susan Firestone, captured and gifted each



Hundreds of electronics, toys, games and stuffed animals were donated and distributed by the Ron Bauer Family. Every child attending the Knights’ Breakfast received one of the gifts, which also included a memory photo of the day from photographer, Susan Firestone.



As the big day began, the Firestone camera caught up with Santa and three of his elves...Sean, Kim and Santa Co-Chairman John Jankowski, who again was joined by Terry Waters to bring Santa on behalf of the Knights of Columbus.

child a great memory photo with Santa. Sean Firestone and his wife, Kim, elfishly assisted Santa throughout the morning while helping Past Grand Knight, Ron Bauer, his wife Raelene and their daughter Marla distribute over 150 stuffed animals, electronic games and toys the Bauer family provided to Santa for the children.

Coca-Cola again donated a grand bicycle, won by a teenager who guessed the number of Hershey kisses stuffed into

a sealed jar. Santa event Co-Chairmen Terry Waters and John Jankowski kept the party hopping with the annual Piñata smashing. Celebrating Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer’s 50th birthday, it was fitting that the mountains of candy pour out of a reindeer piñata!

Thanks go to more than 25 Knights and their wives who supported this year’s Breakfast with Santa---everything from decorating and room set-up, to handling food prep and cooking, to juggling innumerable details involved with staging such a big production. *Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noel!*

OPT

## What does “New Evangelization” really mean?

By Rus Wester

**I**t seems that not a day passes without our hearing something about “evangelization” in the Church. Papal writings, encyclicals and exhortations, as well as general Christian dialogue help us bring the word “evangelization” to a new place of importance in our lives. During the pontificate of Saint John Paul II, he spoke and wrote about the “New Evangelization” and

how we are *all* called to make this a reality in our lives...not just with words, but with actions.

Pope Francis quickly picked up the evangelization banner and has offered us confidence, courage and practical ways to try our hands at taking the church to every corner of our lives: to our personal family, our parish community, neighborhoods we live

*Continued on page 35*

**St. John Neumann  
Parish**  
9000 Warfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
**Fr. Joseph Rogers,  
Pastor**  
**Rus Wester,  
OPT Editor**  
301-330-0047





### St. Jane's CCD celebrated Christmas with a Christmas Pageant

St. Jane's CCD celebrated Christmas with a wondrous Christmas Pageant on Tuesday, December 16th. Children in third grade performed the Christmas story while the fifth graders read the parts. Each grade participated in the presentation by singing traditional Christmas carols that fit into the story. The second graders (shown in this picture) were the multitude of angels and sang "Angels We Have Heard on High." A reception followed with cookies and snacks donated by the families of the children who participated in the program.



### Christmas Pageant

The Primary Grades of St. Jane de Chantal School presented What We Need Is a Miracle—2014 to a standing-room-only crowd in the Church during Advent. Under the direction of the Principal, Mrs. Betsy Hamilton, along with the help of the teachers, aides, and Mrs. Morales and the Choir, the children's singing voices and dialogue dramatized "The Greatest Story Ever Told." It was an outstanding performance, including sign language, and a special appearance by Mary and Joseph.

## Parishioners Adorn the Church for Christmas

Before Christmas, a group of 15-20 volunteers kindly decorated the St. Jane de Chantal Church in preparation for the upcoming Christmas arrival of Baby Jesus. They cheerfully hung wreaths, made bows, decorated trees and windows. They also set up the manger scene and arranged beautiful poinsettia flowers on the altar to make the Church look beautiful. Parishioners of all ages enjoyed the outcome. **OPT**



Parishioners made decorative bows while adorning the Church for Christmas.



Volunteers set up the Nativity set in the narthex of the church.

## Happenings in Our Blue Ribbon School

### Readers Are Leaders

Mrs. Theim's eighth-grade reading program at St. Jane de Chantal School is entitled "Readers Are Leaders", and the summer reading for students transitioning into eighth grade includes incentives, bonus points on reading tests, and prizes for dedicated readers. Several students were recently awarded Barnes and Noble gift cards in recognition of the outstanding number of novels they read during the summer. First Place: Julianne Madden; Second Place: Maxime Zelenko and Sophie

Ryan; Third Place: Lucas Jung and Maggie Maynard.

### A Visit from St. Nicholas

The feast of St. Nicholas was celebrated in the St. Jane de Chantal School in December. Following the tradition, every student and teacher placed one shoe in the hallway outside of the classroom doors and, while everyone was working, St. Nick was busy filling the shoes with candy. Everyone enjoyed this special treat during the season of Advent.

### Advent Giving and Celebrations

Students generously prepared over 500 Christmas-wrapped shoe boxes overflowing with toiletries, socks, gloves, hats, candy, and other items for So Others May Eat (SOME). They also filled the pantry at Assumption Parish with food for those in need. In addition, the Junior Sodality performed Christmas carols for the residents of Maplewood, and the Choir sang the story of the Nativity at Lessons and

Carols, a beautiful Sunday evening celebratory event in the Church.

### Pre-K Activities

The Pre-K attended a performance of The Nutcracker at the Glen Echo Puppet Company in Cabin John. They also presented a classroom holiday show for their parents and grandparents, where they sang Christmas carols and invited all of the guests to stay for refreshments and merriment.

### Essay Winners!

Seventh and eighth students participated in the annual American History Essay Contest sponsored by the National Daughters of the American Revolution. This year's 1,000-word essay topic centered on Ellis Island, specifically on the experiences of children who went through the process of immigration there in 1892. The St. Jane de Chantal School was particularly proud that two junior high students were awarded the distinction of district winners. These were: Tripp

*Continued on page 28*



The Nativity Scene at St. Jane was enjoyed by parishioners of all ages.



With the help of volunteers, the altar at St. Jane de Chantal Church was filled with beautiful red and white poinsettias.

### St. Jane de Chantal Parish

9601 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD

Fr. Samuel C. Giese  
Pastor  
301-530-1550

St. Jane de Chantal School  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton  
301-530-1221

Susana and Mario Cerritelli,  
OPT Editors



# St. Patrick Religious Education at a Glance

By Michelle Ilagan,  
Director of Religious Education

This year, St. Patrick's Religious Education Program has the privilege of taking part in the faith formation of 320 students of all abilities. To support our parish families in their role as primary educators of the faith, we are blessed to have a roster of 35 catechists who commit to teaching a class every week.

As in the years past, the Religious Education Program continues to prepare students from both the school and weekly catechism classes for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion, and Confirmation. We have a combined group of 72 students preparing for Holy Communion and 67 students preparing for Confirmation. Additionally, the Religious Education Program

has 16 students who are journeying together as they prepare to receive the Rites of Christian Initiation during the Easter Vigil in April.

As part of enriching the religious experience of our students and their families, the Religious Education Program continues to offer opportunities for retreats, workshops, and other special events that highlight the liturgical year. Preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion are marked by two Parent-Student Workshops, the 6th graders participate in a modified Seder, while both 7th and 8th grade classes participate in their own respective retreats. In the effort to keep the instruction on the faith dynamic, the program uses texts approved by the USCCB, various forms of games, media, and technology. Prayer is central to every class



One of Four St. Patrick First-Grade RE Classes on the first day of class

and catechists frequently visit the church with their students especially for Adoration on Tuesdays. New this year - the Religious Education Program together with Adult Faith Formation offers opportunities for parents and caregivers to pause and engage in reading and discussion groups while waiting for their children attending class.

Summers in St. Patrick Religious Education is marked by the very popular Camp Shamrock! The Camp runs for a whole week and transforms the classrooms to environments that bring us to biblical times! The week is filled with storytelling, games, music, and much more. Often the camp is composed of at least 100 people from children, teen helpers, and adult volunteer catechists.

OPT

## Catholic Identity

The Religious Education Program of St. Patrick strives to penetrate all aspects of family life with the teachings and traditions of the Church that help form our Catholic identity. The Religious Education classrooms are outfitted with prayer spaces with altars that reflect the liturgical season, bulletin boards that highlight the lives of the saints, and holy water fonts to remind each child who enters the room of their baptism as they bless themselves.

The curriculum is accentuated by activities that immerse our students in Catholic traditions and practices such as making rosaries, participating in Marian processions, packing meals for the homeless, making cards for the elderly in nursing homes, and offering candles for dearly departed ones. Holy cards and other sacramentals are often handed out to students to help them connect with their Catholic Faith throughout their day.

At an early age, the children are encouraged to participate in liturgy as choir members, lectors, and ushers during the Children's Masses. To start off the new year, students watched as Father Paris, Parochial Vicar, blessed the classrooms with the



Father Paris marks the RE Classrooms with the Epiphany Blessing.

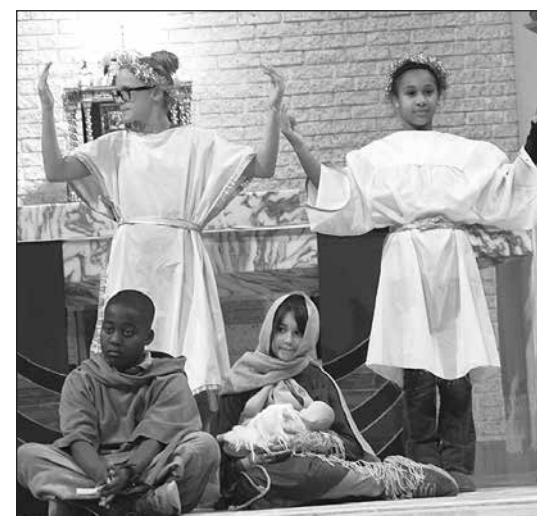
Epiphany Blessing. The parish looks forward to more opportunities in immersing our youngest members to the beauty of Catholicism!

OPT

## The Reason for the Season

Every year, the fifth graders of St. Patrick's Religious Education Program have the honor of staging the Nativity Story. They serve as the cast and narrators of the play. The younger elementary children play a supporting role as they mark each momentous event by singing a traditional Christmas Carol. The classes always give their part their best effort considering the very limited time they have to rehearse.

Both the children and their parents look forward to this annual play as an opportunity to pause and truly reflect on the reason we celebrate Christmas. It is a time to let go of the bells and whistles that seem to accompany the season and



The 5th Grade of Religious Education stages their Annual Christmas Pageant.

simply remember the peace, joy, and wonder of that holy night when Christ was born.

Many thanks go out to the catechists and parents who prepared the children for this play!

OPT

On December 10, 2014, the 5th grade class of St. Patrick's School visited Grace House, an assisted living center in Silver Spring, to bring Christmas cheer to the residents. Students and Grace House residents enjoyed playing bingo and singing Christmas carols together. It was an extra special visit because many St. Patrick's students and teachers have family members who reside at Grace House. They were happy to welcome the visit of the fifth graders.



Camp Shamrock assembly

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### Christmas is Joyful, Holy, and Festive at St. Bartholomew Parish

Father Mark Knestout, Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, is surrounded by Wise Men, shepherds, donkeys, sheep, angels, and all manner of creatures at St. Bart's Christmas Eve Mass.

## St. Bart's School Children Present Traditional Christmas Pageant

By Amy Smith and Frank Maguire

St. Bartholomew School held its annual Christmas Pageant on Thursday evening, December 18, in the Church. Children in grades 1 through 8 participated in the pageant, long a Christmas institution at St. Bart's. The children, who had been rehearsing for weeks, were under the expert direction of Daniel Villar.

This year, the movie "Elf" came to life in the pageant, which

*Continued on page 17*



The choir performs at St. Bartholomew School's popular annual Christmas Pageant. Photo by Amy Smith

## St. Bart's Youth Group Stays Busy over the Holidays

The St. Bart's Youth Group stayed busy during the Holiday Season, with a "Safe Environment" discussion, Pot Luck Dinner, and sports on November 23, an Advent Wreath project and Advent discussion on December 7, a Christmas Cookie baking and decorating party on December 14, and Bowling on January 11.

Group Director Maria Kaufmann told OPT, "We are a group devoted to learning that our Faith is not about rules but about experiencing true happiness and growing into the best version of ourselves by simply doing and loving the good things in life." The Group has plans to attend the



St. Bart's Youth Group members tackle Christmas Cookies. Photo by Maria Kaufmann

March for Life on January 22. Check the Parish Bulletin or contact Maria Kaufmann at 32kaufmann@cardinalmail.cua.edu for information.

OPT



Convivial St. Bart's Parish volunteers gather for annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

## "Twelfth Night" Dinner at St. Bart's Honors Parish Volunteers

Fr. Mark Knestout, Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, hosted a volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, January 10, in a packed Church Hall. The evening featured wonderful food and a great band, but most of all was an occasion for friends come to celebrate their parish and the spirit of Christian Service.

Fr. Knestout told the crowd, "The gifts that you offer

are important to the mission of the church. They also help to make St. Bart's a wonderful parish and a great family of Christians who believe in service and loving God." Several parishioners in attendance received special volunteer awards.

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

**Frank Maguire, OPT Editor**  
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## "Sweets with Santa" Highlights Christmas Season at St. Bart's

**O**n Saturday morning, December 6, St. Bart's kicked off the Christmas Season with Sweets with Santa, an annual event in which parishioners (especially younger parishioners) share in the "magic of the season." The throng of children enjoyed refreshments with friends and family, wrote and mailed letters to Santa, made crafts, and had their own personal visits with Santa!

OPT

A young parishioner visits Santa at St. Bartholomew's annual "Sweets with Santa" event.



### DINNER

*Con't from page 16*

also reflected the grace and pageantry of Christ's birth. Attendees were thrilled by Pre-Kindergarten children dressed in cozy

pajamas, angels, and a color choir which shimmered and sang. Germania Rebaudengo dressed students as sweet little elves, barn animals, and stately Wise Men in handmade costumes. Those in attendance agreed it was a beautiful way to celebrate the season!

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El Greco, Laocoön, c. 1610/1614, oil on canvas, National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. Kress Collection, 1946.18.1

## El Greco: A 400th Anniversary Celebration

Through February 16, 2015

National Gallery of Art, West Building Main Floor

The National Gallery is fortunate to have seven paintings by El Greco (1541 – 1614), one of the largest collections of his work in the United States. Four of them (Christ Cleansing the Temple, two altarpieces from a chapel in Toledo, and the Laocoön) have recently returned from Spain, where they were featured in major exhibitions honoring the 400th anniversary of the artist's death. The Gallery's reunited paintings by El Greco are joined here by three others from Dumbarton Oaks and The Phillips Collection in Washington, and The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore.

Domenikos Theotokopoulos, universally known as El Greco, was born on the Greek island of Crete, where he achieved mastery as a painter of Byzantine icons. Aspiring to success on a larger stage, he moved to Venice in his late twenties and absorbed the lessons of High Renaissance masters,

especially Titian and Tintoretto. In 1570 he departed for Rome, where he studied the work of Michelangelo and encountered the style known as mannerism, which rejected the logic and naturalism of Renaissance art.

El Greco relocated to Spain in 1576 and spent the rest of his life in Toledo, where he finally received the major commissions that had eluded him in Italy. Unlike the Italian mannerists, who aimed at elegant artifice, El Greco used their dramatically elongated figures and ambiguous treatment of space for expressive ends, creating transcendent works that, like the icons of his youth, convey deep spirituality. Blending diverse influences — Byzantine, Renaissance, mannerist — he developed a unique style that captures the religious fervor of Counter-Reformation Spain.

The exhibition is organized by the National Gallery of Art.

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St. Raphael Nursery School students capture the true meaning of Christmas as they tell, and sing, the story of the birth of Baby Jesus. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia

## St. Raphael School From the Joy of the Season to a Celebration of CSW

By Emma Kaibni and MJ Zafis-Garcia

**D**ecember was an exciting month at St. Raphael's! Here are just some of the highlights.

St. Raphael Church held its annual **Mother Teresa Luncheon** Dec. 9. More than 130 guests from two shelters run by the Missionary of Charity arrived by bus to celebrate Mass with our fourth- and fifth-graders and enjoy a Christmas meal afterward. Parishioners provided roasted turkeys and baked hams, as well as their precious time, for this

their **Christmas programs**. The beauty of the preschool Christmas pageants lies in their simplicity as our young performers tell the story of the birth of baby Jesus. The SRS Christmas program pulls on the heartstrings, lifts the spirit, and sets a joyful tone for the season, particularly with its show-stopping finale, "Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!"

### Upcoming Events

**Catholic School Week –  
January 25-30**

This year, CSW celebrates the high academic standards, faith and service to others that Catholic schools promote. We have many terrific events planned for the week. **Sunday:** Children are invited to wear their uniforms to 10 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception and slideshow. **Monday:** For Parent Appreciation Day, we provide refreshments to thank our parents for the sacrifices they make in sending their children to SRS and SRNS. **Tuesday:** For Teacher Appreciation Day, our staff members receive letters from students and a gift from the school community as they

*Continued on page 32*



St. Raphael School seventh-grader Ciara Culligan lends a hand at the parish's annual Mother Teresa Luncheon, which treats guests from area shelters to a Mass and Christmas meal. Our students serve as greeters, waiters, singers and, best of all, companions. Photo by Bob Shamburek

wonderful gathering. St. Raphael's middle-school students contributed to the festivities by serving lunch to the special guests and making them feel at home by singing Christmas carols. The event was a beautiful way to start the season.

We celebrated **Christmas Giving**, an opportunity for St. Raphael School families to help bring the spirit of Christmas to those in the Child Welfare Services Program of Montgomery County. Our school "adopted" several local foster children—mostly teens—and showered them with gifts from their wish lists to help fulfill their Christmas dreams. The smiles on the faces of the recipients were priceless.

The meaning of Christmas was alive and present as students from St. Raphael School and Nursery School delighted audiences with

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## Artists in Training at Our Lady of Lourdes

This spring, a small group of middle school students will participate in an after-school Art Enrichment program at Our Lady of Lourdes School. For eight weeks after school, students will meet once a week with Ms. Sheehey to learn about and explore the seven different elements of art and focus on different studio habits, including developing craft and self-reflecting on artwork.



Over the course of the program, each student will create seven of his or her own individual projects and participate in one collaborative project- a mural painting for the school! We look forward to starting this new and exciting program once the weather warms up in mid-March.

OPT

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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**Msgr. Edward Filardi,**  
Pastor

301-654-1287

**Patricia Kilroy McGann**  
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## Middle School Students Prepare for the Mass and March for Life

By Maureen Rossi

The countdown to the 2015 Mass and March for Life has begun! On January 22, 2015, Our Lady of Lourdes middle school students will attend the Mass and March for Life on the National Mall. The March for Life began in 1974 in Washington, D.C. in response to the 1973 United States Supreme Court deci-

*Continued on page 32*

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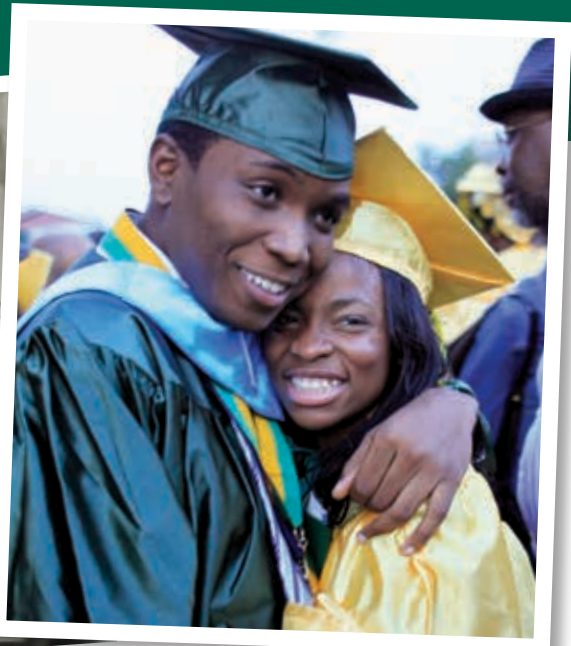
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## Mercy Students Learn to Code



Mercy Kindergartners, first and third graders learn about coding through a video conference with Aaron Briggs from Go Noodle. Briggs explained how the website went from an idea to coding and then to a live website. Students had an opportunity to share with Briggs what they liked best about his site along with some of their new ideas.



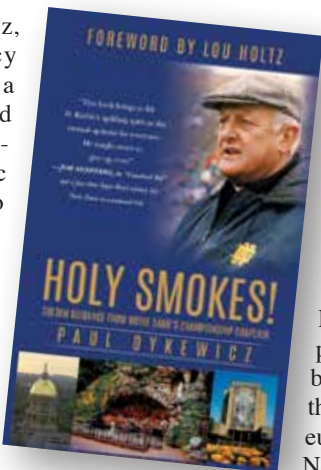
First graders Jack Jenkins, Lane Ligon and Katherine Treacy explore the world of coding through Mercy's technology program.

First graders Carter Meadows and Roman Wright enjoy coding through Mercy's technology program.



## Dykewicz: Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and Author

**P**aul Dykewicz, a Mercy Parishioner is a familiar face around the parish as a lector and Eucharistic minister. He is also the author of an inspirational sports book that shares the life and guidance of the late Notre Dame sports chaplain Father James Riehle. The title of his book is "Holy Smokes! Golden Guidance



from Notre Dame's Championship Chaplain."

This book should have an audience among the many Notre Dame fans in the Washington D.C. area. Mr. Dykewicz describes Father Riehle as a competitive athlete who became a priest at the age of 39. He was eulogized by former Notre Dame president

*Continued on page 34*

## Cardinal McCarrick Speaks at Our Lady of Mercy

*By Jean Roesser*

**O**n Friday January 9, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of the Washington Archdiocese spoke to more than 300 parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy Church. The program was sponsored by the Men

*Continued on page 34*

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish**  
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**Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor**  
301-330-5676

**More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 34**



## OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL

FAITH \* INTEGRITY \* ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



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## OPEN HOUSE

8:30 am—10:30 am  
Wednesday, January 28, 2015

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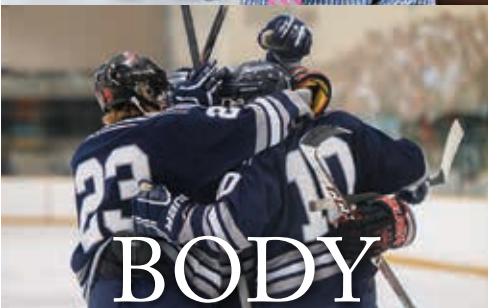
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## St. Mary's School

### Mass and Open House

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## The Academy of the HOLY CROSS

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St. Martin's students enjoy themselves at the fifth grade-sponsored event, Breakfast with Santa. Photo by Lisa Schuler

## Catholic Schools Week at St. Martin's

By Catherine Cooksey

Every year, Catholic Schools across the nation celebrate Catholic Schools Week as a way to promote and focus on the value of Catholic education and what it provides for our young people, church, and community. This year's Catholic Schools Week takes place during the week of January 25, 2015, and the theme is Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.

St. Martin's School reflects this year's theme well. The school is a Christ-centered environment where students grow emotionally and

*Continued on page 33*

### St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD

**Rev. Msgr. Mark E. Brennan**  
Pastor

301-990-3203

**St. Martin School**  
**Andrew Piotrowski, Principal**  
301-990-2441

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

**More St. Martin of Tours**  
**on Page 36**



## Elizabeth Seton High School

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## St. Martin of Tours School

Grades Pre-Kindergarten – 8

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**Phone: 301-990-2441** [www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)

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## St. Jude Regional Catholic School

# Come, Catch Our Spirit!!

**S**t. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJ RCS) is more than a Catholic day school for grades pre-K (3- and 4-year olds) through 8 in Rockville – at SJ RCS the spirit of community and our Catholic faith are infused in everything we do.

At St. Jude,

We ARE...compassionate toward others. We turn our students' hands and hearts toward good works—from collecting much-needed

goods for St. Ann's Infant and Children's Home, to preparing bagged lunches for service men and women, to gathering canned goods to feed the hungry. St. Jude children learn their role in the community of caring. Even within the school the spirit of lending a hand up is ever-present in the buddy system – every older child has a younger child to mentor, teaching the buddy good behav-

*Continued on page 25*



## OPEN HOUSE

January 28th, 2015 • 9–11:30am & 6–8pm



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*“Realizing that parents are the primary educators, we encourage an active involvement in their children's education”*

*-Glenn Benjamin, Principal*



4820 Walbridge Street, Rockville, MD 20853

301-946-7888

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







## Open House at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, Jan 28: Catch Our Spirit

As part of the annual national Catholic Schools' Week events, St. Jude Regional Catholic School will open its doors to the community on Wednesday, Jan. 28, where prospective students, their families, and the community can learn about the school and its mission to provide high-quality, values-based education. Doors will be open from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. Admissions information will be available at both times; teachers will be available to speak to prospective families in the evening.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School serves students from 3 years old through 8<sup>th</sup> grade of all religious, racial, ethnic, and income backgrounds. Its location at 4820 Walbridge Street in Rockville is perfect for commuters as it is convenient to Veirs Mill Road, Connecticut Avenue, Georgia Avenue, and Rockville Pike.

For information on the curriculum, admissions policies and registration, contact the school office at 301-946-7888 or visit [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org).

OPT

## St. Jude Regional Catholic School Core Values

At St. Jude Regional Catholic School, our Core Values reflect the beliefs and behaviors of our school community:

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT....** We believe in education infused with faith and trust in God. We recognize that although we are many parts, we are one body.

**INTEGRITY.....** We say what we do and we do what we say. We are consistently honest in our words and actions and commitments.

**TRUST.....** We believe in one another and we support one another.

**RESPONSIBILITY.....** We do what is expected of us. We take responsibility

for our decisions and actions.

**RESPECT....** We respect ourselves, others, and all property. We treat each other with kindness. We believe in a mutual respect between teachers and students, always applying the Golden Rule to do unto others as we would have them do to us.

**COMMUNICATION.....** We develop caring relationships and recognize the importance of every individual's thoughts, feelings, and interests. We meet with, talk with, and learn from, each other.

**LEADERSHIP.....** We believe that leadership is best performed through example, persistence, and consistency,

establishing high expectations of self and belief in the capabilities of others.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.....** We believe that "good enough" is never acceptable. We believe that each student and faculty member is a part of a culture of never ending improvement in the pursuit of truth, wisdom, and knowledge.

**STUDENT UNIQUENESS.....** We believe that each student has been gifted by God with unique talents... as teachers we help students develop these talents, to believe in themselves, their dreams, and their future success

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## Thaddeus & Blue Rooms Available for Rent

For more than 40 years, the Thaddeus Room at St. Jude has been a place to gather and celebrate. Located on the grounds of the Shrine of St. Jude on Veirs Mill Road, the room serves as the perfect venue for wedding receptions, anniversary parties, Quinceañeras, club meetings, and more!

Renovations, including a fresh coat of paint, have produced an even brighter and warmer atmosphere. The Thaddeus Room's large stage and elegant lighting produce an environment suitable for any special event of up to 350

people seated at tables. The Blue Room, a smaller and more intimate venue, also underwent renovations. Located behind that Thaddeus Room, it can accommodate up to 150 people seated at tables. Both rooms may be utilized to seat 500 people.

Both the Thaddeus Room and the Blue Room are available for rent to registered parishioners in the Archdiocese of Washington. For more information and pricing, contact Peter Oristian at 240-678-6719 or email him at [stjudehallrentals@gmail.com](mailto:stjudehallrentals@gmail.com).

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## Ten reasons to send your child to St. Jude Regional Catholic School

St. Jude Regional Catholic School provides:

- on-staff resource personnel and school counselor
- an honor system
- strong parish CYO program

- after-school activities
- a hot lunch program
- specials in music, art, computers, and physical education

- a state-of-the-art computer lab
- daily recess for all students
- a well-established middle school (fifth-eighth grade)
- traditions spanning nearly 60 years.

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## SPIRIT

Con't from page 24

ior in church, working on projects together, and watching over them in the halls and at recess.

We ARE...a community. We encourage parents to become an integral part of our school through numerous volunteer positions—running the hot lunch program,

planning events through the Home School Association, chaperoning a field trip, or monitoring the halls. We want parents to feel as at home at St. Jude as their children do.

We ARE...educators of the whole child. SJRCS prides itself on providing a vibrant arts, music and community service education with a strong physical education program. Our sixth-graders experience the world first hand in Outdoor

Education, our Drama Club gives our children a creative outlet beyond the classroom walls, and our students who may need an extra helping hand can draw on the expertise of a full-time resource teacher.

We ARE...academic excellence. At every grade level, we deliver a curriculum designed to prepare students for the rigors of high school. In fact, three-quarters of our fourth- through eighth-grade students attain honors of achievement each marking period. Additionally, nearly every single eighth-grader who applies is accepted to a Catholic high school, and a majority of our graduates attend one.

We ARE...people of faith. Ever mindful of our Catholic identity, SJRCS fosters a strong faith commitment and religious spirit, values, and morals. Students attend weekly mass, participate in annu-



can also learn more about St. Jude Regional Catholic School on our website [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org). Additionally, Mr. Glenn Benjamin, principal, is available at any time to answer any questions you may have about the school or the application process. He can be reached at 301-946-7888 or [Glenn.Benjamin@stjuderockville.org](mailto:Glenn.Benjamin@stjuderockville.org).

We ARE St. Jude...and you can be, too!

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al Christmas pageants and plays, attend Rosary Group and adoration, and recite the school prayer and other prayers throughout their school day. Additionally, priests from the Shrine of St. Jude, as well as nuns from the convent on the grounds, are involved with our students every day.

To learn first-hand what makes the St. Jude community unique, come and catch our spirit at our upcoming Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., or schedule a visit with us to see our students and teachers in action. You

### 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](mailto:MaureenCMartin@verizon.net)



# Christ the King's Parish Council and Commissions

**F**r. Josè, our Pastor, has reinstated our Parish Council with membership being the parish priests, our Deacon Steve Mitchell, Noel Augustyn, Christine Tan, Sharon Rohner, Anthony Africa-Kyei, Mario Arbaisza, Reina Flores, Linda Basamot, Elise Mudd, Addie and Jose Mena, Maria Kendall, Adela Penate and Chip Patterson.

The continuing Commissions are: Finance, made up of Phoebe Dixon, Herta Pittman and Mike Furey; Social Concerns, Sue Gordon, Sharon Rohner, Gloria Patterson, Liz Weiss, Christine Tan, Gloria

Mendoza; Stewardship, Etienne Lamoreaux, Gloria Mendoza, Frank Flynn, Erlinda Basamot, Roxana Perez, Maria Kendall and Bettie Graham; Liturgy, Deacon Steve Mitchell, Music Director Katie Yeago, Noel Augustyn, MaryRae Costabile, Sue and Frank Deckelman, and Gloria Mendoza.

The new Council will serve as a consulting body to our Pastor; each of the commissions will continue in their ongoing capacity with projects particular to the commission purpose.

OPT



Christ the King's Advent Concert directed by Katie Yeago, Music Director

## A Festival of Lessons and Carols

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

**C**hrist the King continued its Concert Series Sunday December 21, for Advent, at 4pm in the Church. The concert was a charity Christmas concert followed by a reception in the vestibule of "cheer". The reception included mulled wine to die for

(and in volume) and the cookies and pastries by our parish "chefs". There were hymns for the congregation to sing, motets by the choir, readings by our Lectors. The night, though cold, was another warm gathering to enjoy the talents that are gathered for these traditional and welcomed events!

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## Upcoming Event of Note at Christ the King

**N**ext month Christ the King will throw its annual Mardi Gras costume ball!!!

Saturday, February 14, in the Msgr. John J. Dressell Colonial Room from 6-10pm

The commissions are pulling together, as they did for our annual Bazaar, to bring a night of dancing, food, wine and raffles. This year we will again "theme" our food table for the Zippy Beef dish we prepare for Shepherds Table once a month through our Social Concerns commission. There will be more food

than that, of course. But in doing this, we "feed the crowd" and introduce our donation-dish that supplies the local soup kitchen for the homeless (encouraging, we hope, more to cook and donate once a month, to this program).

The raffles will include the opportunity to bid on (and win?!) your own Memorial Plaque nameplate or the wine and coffee basket that Gloria Mendoza is putting together or the St. Valentine's Day chocolate basket from our OPT editor or a Brunch basket with tequila and Tabasco Bloody Mary mix! More baskets will be there (just not ready for publication deadline!). Bring the whole family! Come in costume (for the crowning of King and Queen). The entrance fee is \$10 plus a dish you bring to share with others. You can check us out on our parish web site: [www.rc.net/washington/ctk/](http://www.rc.net/washington/ctk/) or our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-The-King-Catholic-Church/111595738881276](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-The-King-Catholic-Church/111595738881276)

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## CCD Epiphany

By Maria Kendall, CTK Religious Education assistant

**F**ollowing the tradition of our religious education program, Christ the King celebrated with a party for the children on January 4 at 10:30am in the beautifully decorated Colonial Room. Fr. Ettore Ferrario welcomed the children and their parents opening the program with the Angelus. Fr. Roberto Amoroso played the guitar and led the singing of Go Tell It On the Mountains and Campana Sobre Campana; a student read the Gospel. Fr.



The Magi present their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child.



The angels who will announce the Good News of the Savior's birth to the shepherds

Ettore quizzed the children about the Feast of the Epiphany; the children who answered correctly were awarded the honor of dressing as Mary, Joseph and the Magi. The other children donned angel, shepherd and field animals' costumes.

There were many arts and crafts activities provided for the children – creating three kings stick figures, drawing and coloring animal figures, creating a wall mural on the stage, singing and music. Then Mary with the baby Jesus in her arms and Joseph walked to the manger. The shep-

herds, angels, animals and The Magi bearing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh processed to the manger where the baby Jesus lay. Fr. Jose came down after celebrating 10:30am Mass in the Church and thanked everyone. The children picked up their goody bags containing candy before going to 12:30pm Mass.

OPT



Fr. Josè Cortes with the children of the Religious Education program

## SHORT

Can't from page 1

edward-guinan-former-catholic-priest-who-ministered-to-the-homeless-dies-at-78/2015/01/03 /7b2c33fa-92e8-11e4-a900-9960214d4cd7\_story.html).

Ed, a former Paulist priest (Paulists are known for their preaching skills), inspired students at George Washington University and people of all faiths in the Washington region to care passionately for the homeless and vulnerable. He was a founder of the Zacchaeus Kitchen which has served food to the poor for four decades; the Community for Creative Nonviolence which shelters hundreds of homeless people each night; and several other organizations of mercy and compassion. Later in life he was dedicated to assisting people with developmental disabilities to realize their potential and freedom while living in local communities rather than in institutions. For those who knew Ed, his life is measured not in years but in the millions of meals and nights of shelter he provided to the least among us. Ed Guinan was preacher and teacher but most of all a practitioner of Christianity.

During Catholic Education Week, we rightly recognize and appreciate the work of the hundreds of dedicated individuals who teach in our Catholic schools and religious education programs. The future of our parishes and our Church depends upon well informed and prepared Catholics who understand the core teachings of the Church and actively participate in its mission. Catholic school and religious

education teachers are the core instructors for future church members. These professionals are specially educated and certified as teachers of the faith. Catholic school teachers make sacrifices to work in Catholic schools. Each of them could earn more money and have easier workloads in a public school. Religious education instructors are professionals, academically prepared to teach in our parishes as volunteers or for modest stipends. While they may not have left their fishing nets and families behind in Galilee, they are none the less carrying out the evangelical work that Christ commissioned the Apostles and disciples to undertake in His name. Those of us who love the Church owe much gratitude to religion teachers for serving at the forefront of preparing Catholics, at all stages of life, as strong and effective Christians who will carry Christ's message into the future.

For our reflection, I suggest we think about how we can best honor the work of these dedicated religious educators. Their efforts in the classroom deserve our help at home and in our parish communities. As the Chinese proverb teaches, "Tell me, I'll forget. Show me, I'll remember. Involve me, I'll understand." Effective religious education, like all education, requires homework and practice. Many universities have created a category of instructors which they call "professors of the practice." These instructors, who have many years of service in "doing the work, not just teaching the how" complement the university faculty to assure that students acquire practical experience as they learn the core principles of their chosen

discipline.

Religious education teachers are the core faculty in our parishes, yet to be fully effective they need the rest of the parish community to serve as "professors of the practice." As they teach of Christ's humility, does humility permeate parish activities? As instructors teach of Christ's compassion, what "internships of compassion" exist within the parish community? As they teach Christ's promise of prayer, are there "prayer mentors" who model a commitment to prayer? As they teach of Christ's call to peacemaking, are parish meetings, CYO games and parking lots laboratories for peacemaking? As they teach of Christ's call to respect life, do the extracurricular activities of the parish include advocacy trips on behalf of those whose life is at risk? And as the instructors teach of Christ's call to all His followers to be evangelizers by word and action are their role models in the parish who demonstrate that Christianity is practiced in all we do? While parish practitioners cannot perform the dramatic miracles which Christ and the original twelve Apostles used to complement and empower their teaching, our parishes can create practical parables from which all, especially new Catholics, can learn and become inspired.

If you have not yet made a new years' resolution, perhaps taking on the role of a professor of the practice, may inspire you. It's not as difficult as losing weight or building abs and is likely to improve your spiritual health and the health of your parish!

God Bless

### Christ the King

2301 Colston Drive  
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Jose Maria Cortes  
FSCB Pastor

Katie Holland,  
OPT Editor

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## Christmas Spirit Lingers Long at Resurrection

By John Small

The Christmas celebration started early at Resurrection Church with the annual "Winterfest" extravaganza on Dec. 5-6, then continued Dec. 21 with the traditional Christmas Concert and concluded with a Christmas Eve Pageant and a full slate of masses over two days.

"Winterfest 2014" attracted more than 1,600 shoppers, diners, and holiday revelers, while raising about \$45,000 to help pay the mortgage on the Parish Life Center and \$5,000 for other parish organizations.

The annual Christmas Concert, attended by about 450 parishioners, featured a variety of choirs led by Parish Music Director Annick Kanter-Saint Hubert, as well as music by organist William Wisnom, ear-filling percussion and brass instrumentation, and lively participation by parishioners in singing popular hymns.

The Christmas Eve Pageant, organized by Catherine Halpin, featured children and youngsters from kindergarten through fifth



The Knights of Columbus chefs who served hundreds of meals at "Winterfest 2014" included Mike Stempihar, Wayne Brown, Tom Aylward, Bill Conlon, Hayden Patino, Jim Larkins, Jim Martell, Chris Coker, Chris Kolb, Frank Klem, Sammie Young, Phil Kane and Lee Pfeffer. Photos by John Small

of Flowers," was parishioner Mary Forsythe. The winner of the \$500 third-place prize was parishioner Kate Enwonwu.

The anonymous winner of

mer pastor who helped bring the project to fruition in 2006.

The "Quilting Bees" involved in making the raffle quilt (and in making numerous items to support Resurrection's "twinning" mission with a parish in Gros Morne, Haiti) were Leslie Boss, Pam Carrigan, Sally DeSavage, Suzane Esparza, Barbara Fowler, Francie Parrack, Eleanor Roberts, Connie Schenkel, Nancy Schrider, and Ivora Tyler.

Among the many other parishioners working with Bottegal in putting together Winterfest were Co-Chair Bill Ratcliffe and their right-hand man Phil Kane; Mark and Kathy Hinken and Pat Pterski, chairs of the Silent Auction; Kelly Maltagliati and Sue Berger, chairs of the Raffle Committee; the bake sale team led by Catherine and Chuck Halpin; Mary Lou Ponton and Joan Guyther, chairs of the Wine Pull; and Tina Peachman, chair of the Treasure Chest.

The Knights of Columbus Council No. 9808 provided Breakfast With Santa for children (coordinated by Susan Quinn) and food for hundreds of diners over two days.

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The Bake Sale Team at Winterfest included chairs Catherine, Chuck and Maddie Halpin and Therese Najarian, along with dedicated volunteers from Resurrection Church and St. Andrew the Apostle. The tasty treats included donations from numerous sources such as the Woodmore Pastry Shop in Four Corners and Patisserie Manuel in Layhill.

grade playing angels and other biblical characters and singing joyful Christmas hymns.

Phyllis Bottegal, chairperson of Winterfest, said the two-day event "was very well-attended" with large crowds enjoying the festivities. "This was our 15th year, and it has gained quite a reputation for weekend fun, great shopping and bringing the community together during the holiday season."

Bottegal said more than 80 crafters and vendors participated in the event. "Every year at the end of the show, many of the crafters and vendors thank us for a terrific weekend and express that this is their favorite show to do, because it is so well-organized and the members of the parish are so kind, helpful and welcoming," Bottegal added.

The winner of the grand prize in the Big Raffle, a handmade queen-size quilt dubbed a "Trellis

the \$1,000 second-place prize donated it to the effort to pay off the debt on the Parish Life Center, recently renamed the "Rev. Robert F. Keffer Parish Life Center" in honor of the for-



A popular long-time vendor at Winterfest is Jo Heger, left, whose knitting and crocheting creations attract many happy customers such as Sandra Saylor, right.

## Resurrection Hosts 'March for Life' Attendees from Michigan

As it has in the past, Resurrection Church was planning to host a large number of youth from Michigan participating in the annual "March for Life" on Jan. 22 on the National Mall in Washington—joining a number of Resurrection youngsters and adults attending the march.

About 50 youngsters from the Diocese of Saginaw were planning to stay at Resurrection the night before the march to Capitol Hill and the U.S. Supreme Court, held annually on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion in the U.S.

An additional 170 youngsters from the Diocese of Lansing were planning to stay at the Burtonsville parish for two days and attend the national march and related events Jan. 22 and Jan. 23.

Resurrection is making available its large Amadeo Room, as well as classrooms and other space in the Parish Youth Center for the overnight stays. Nearby Paint Branch High School will make its shower facilities available to the youngsters.

In addition, Resurrection parishioners will host 10 priests and members of religious communities who are chaperoning the Michigan youth.

Members of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 9808, aided

by Resurrection middle school and high school youth, will cook meals for the Michigan travelers.

Solemn Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is to be held the evenings of Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 at Resurrection.

One of the events the youngsters planned to attend was the "Youth Rally and Mass for Life" hosted by the Washington Archdiocese at the Verizon Center and the D.C. Armory, led by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on the morning of the march.

"Every Life is a Gift" was the theme of the 2015 march, which was expected to attract several hundred thousand participants to the mall, as it has for the past several years.

According to organizers, the March for Life "began as a small demonstration and rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world. The peaceful demonstration that has followed on this somber anniversary every year since 1973 is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, abortion."

On the evening before the march, the "National Prayer Vigil for Life" is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where thousands gather in prayer and mass in the Great Upper Church followed by prayer throughout the night.

OPT

## Four Winners Named in 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Poster Contest

Four winners were selected in the annual "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 9808 at Resurrection Church.

The contest drew more than 100 entries in four categories from youngsters in kindergarten through eighth grade, and the winners were announced four days before Christmas.

The winners were:

Fallon Gyapong, who won the prize in the kindergarten through first grade group;

Sole Cabilas, who won the prize in the grade 2 to grade 4 group;

Sarah Sheppard, who won the prize in the fifth- and sixth-grade category; and

Lilianne Blasie, the winner in the seventh- and eighth-grade group.

Receiving special recognition was a poster designed by high school student Harrell Tolentino, although it was not officially a part of the contest.

Leading up to Dec. 25, catechetical presentations on the meaning of Christmas were made to about 200 youngsters in religious education classes at Resurrection, according to Helene Stever, Director of Youth Faith Formation at the parish.

"We had a great response in the number of pupils who entered the

Continued on page 30



Fr. Scott Hahn, Resurrection pastor, and Knights of Columbus Wayne Brown (center) and Greg Lawrence with two of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest winners. Photo by Tim Krinking

**Church of the Resurrection Parish**  
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301-236-5200

**Parish Editor**  
**John Small**  
johnny1944@hotmail.com  
301-318-4247



## St. Andrew Apostle School News and Notes

**A**dvent was a packed season for St. Andrew Apostle students, highlighted by a Christmas pageant and concert, a Breakfast with Santa and Secret Santa Shop in the last week before Christmas break.

The annual Breakfast with Santa filled the all-purpose room on Saturday, December 13, for both the 9:30 seating and the 10:30 seating. Volunteers cooked up hundreds of pancakes, and scrambled eggs, brought in many dozens of donuts, and served up coffee, milk, and juice to the parish families who came for the nourishment, the camaraderie,

and the Secret Santa Shop.

The Secret Santa Shop gave children in the parish a chance to shop for gifts for their parents, grandparents and siblings, with assistance from 8<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers.

Parents and students enjoyed the Christmas pageant and concert on December 15. The pageant portion was led by music teacher Mrs. Trigiani and the first through third grade sang and danced in two performances that day—one during school for the students, and then again at night for parents. Both shows packed the church.

Our band program is run by

award winning Ms. Maloney. The Beginner Band played tried and true tunes like Mary Had a Little Lamb and Jingle Bells. Then the Advanced Band wowed the crowd with Christmas carols, both well-known and more obscure, as well as a march and a couple of solos.

The Christmas pageant featured nine songs, sung by the younger three classes. As is St. Andrew tradition, first graders were Christmas Trees, second graders were angels, and third graders were shepherds. First graders Mena Hemphill and Izaiah Smith were flawless in their roles as Joseph and Mary.



First graders, dressed as trees, in their traditional role in the Christmas Pageant.



Second grade angels make their voices heard in the Christmas Pageant.



Third grade shepherds keep watch over the Holy Family.

In addition to newer Christmas songs, the students sang classics, “We Three Kings,” “Away in a Manger,” and “Silent Night.” Sisters Molly and Maddie Moss performed an Irish dance near the end, and Julie Joseph concluded the pageant with a liturgical dance to the song “Mistletoe.” Mrs. Howard provided piano accompaniment.

St. Andrew is gearing up for a busy spring term. On January 31, we have our annual Adult Bingo Game Night and Silent Auction. February 10 and 11 we will have our junior high production of “Aladdin” and right before the Lenten season begins, we will have a family dinner on February 14!

OPT

## Parishioners Support Metro Stork Bus

**S**omething is rolling when it comes to saving babies. This past November, St. Andrew Apostle held its most successful baby bottle campaign, raising nearly \$10,000 for Centro Tepeyac Silver Spring Women’s Center. Centro Tepeyac’s staff and board members, many of whom attend St. Andrew’s, distributed 428 bottles. The amazing return rate of 81 percent was due to generous parishioners and an efficient labeling, numbering and name system on the bottles.

The proceeds directly supported the center’s newly purchased Metro Stork Bus, a state of the art Mercedes Benz vehicle which offers free sonograms. Tepeyac staff purchased the stork van from Save the Storks, a prolife group that creates and promotes similar vans nationally. The stork bus is able to reach women with unplanned pregnancies anywhere, even in front of

an abortion clinic. According to Save the Storks, three out of every five women who enter a stork bus choose to keep their baby.

Mariana Vera, Executive Director of Centro Tepeyac, said she is ecstatic about the bus. “We are about helping women, men and their babies with love, compassion and action,” she said. “The generosity of the community and this bus are going to save many lives this year.”

Matt Aujero, the Tepeyac’s male counselor, said he is excited about how the bus will help him reach more men. “The bus has a partition so I can talk to a man privately in the front row seat if I need to,” Aujero said. “It takes two to tango and we’re here to give the uncompromising truth with undying love and compassion.”

2015 marks the 25th anniversary of Centro Tepeyac’s opening. The celebration will begin with the Metro Stork Bus’ presence during the March for Life on January 22. The staff and center will relocate to office space in the McCarrick Family Center in Silver Spring beginning in February.

OPT



On January 4, a packed church welcomed Bishop Martin D. Holley as he celebrated the 11:30 Mass. Along with singing the glorious liturgical prayers, the Children’s Choir led the congregation in singing hymns and carols.

## HAPPENINGS

Con’t from page 14

Harris, seventh grade, and Lauren Kane, eighth grade. Both essays have been forwarded to the State of Maryland for inclusion in the state competition.

### Computer Education – Coding for the Future

Students in grades K – 8 of St. Jane de Chantal School participated in the Hour of Code, during Computer Classes. This activity was organized in celebration of Computer Science Education Week. The Hour of Codes, sponsored by Code.org, is a one-hour introduction to computer science that is designed to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics of computer coding. It is

designed to help nurture problem-solving skills, logic, and creativity in students, and it also introduces them to the foundation for success in any 21st-century career path.

### Box Tops for Education

Thank you to all in the St. Jane de Chantal community who have sent in General Mills Box Tops. The school received a check for \$946 from one of America’s largest school earnings loyalty program. These Box Top earnings will benefit the school’s Physical Education Program. A special thanks to Lillie and Kathy Fenerty for their help in coordinating the Box Top program.

### Join Us for Open House

St. Jane de Chantal School will host an Open House January 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. The program for new families begins at 9:30 a.m. in

Christopher Hall. All classrooms, Pre-K through Grade 8, are open for visitors. Please mark your calendars and plan to spend the morning with our students and teachers.

### Hoops for Heart

February is Heart Month, and the students of St. Jane de Chantal are gearing up to support the Hoops for Heart, an event that raises donations for the American Heart Association. Students will be participating in Hoops for Heart during the week of Valentine’s Day. Over the holidays, family and friends were asked to contribute to this worthy cause. A special thanks to Matthew Jenkins, Carter McKaig, Annie Myers, and Caitlin Geary for all of their hard work promoting this annual fundraiser.

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

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



## Alternative Christmas

By Pat O'Connor, Co-Coordinator

This was our 14th year of participating in the Alternative Christmas program. Individuals purchase a card from the participating charity, in terms of the service provided to the charity.

The card is then given to a friend, or loved one, as a present in their honor. Through God's grace, and the generosity of our parishioners, \$14,195 was raised (~ \$3,000 more than last year). This was distributed over the

nine participating charities: So Others May Eat (SOME), Center for Families and Children, Heifer International, Little Sisters of the Poor, Montgomery Hospice, L'Arche Greater Washington DC area, Salvadoran Enterprises for Women (SEM), Upper Montgomery Assistance Network (UMAN), and the St. Francis Haiti Medical Mission.

Thanks are due to my Co-coordinator, Carol Lindsey and other volunteers that helped make this year a success.

OPT



Co-coordinator Pat O'Connor at Alternative Christmas Card display.



BNP Carolers in action

## Giving the "Perfect Gift" of Time, Talent and Treasures

By John McCarthy

St. Francis parishioners, once again, took seriously the Jesus' words, "As often as you did it for these least ones, you did it for me". They contributed over \$15,000 to various charities and gave over 600 Christmas gifts to needy families. The projects that provided the opportunity to give "the perfect gift" were Alternative Christmas, the Spirit Tree, and the Religious Education's Christmas

Stocking Help Line. In addition, there was a tremendous volunteer effort to make the annual Christmas tree sales a record success.

Religious Education Director, Susan Anderson, reported that the RE program collected 120 gifts through the Christmas Stocking Help line project. The majority of the gifts (about 105) went to families served by Catholic Charities and about 15 gifts were provided to families served by the Missionaries of Charities in Southeast DC. The

program is a long-standing Advent service tradition of the RE program.

We were also again graced with the talents of the Filipino First Friday vigil adoration group on December 13. They sang beautiful, traditional and popular carols, both in English and Filipino. The members are graduates of BNP, which stands for Banal Na Pag-aaral, or Holy Study. This is a joyous annual event, after the morning Mass, on the second Saturday of December.

OPT

## The Spirit Tree Brought Joy to Many

By John McCarthy

This was the 23rd year for the Spirit Tree. Names of individuals, containing suggested gifts, were selected from the Spirit Tree by parishioners the weekend of November 15/16. Gifts were returned by December 7, then sorted and packaged for transport to Assumption Parish in Southwest DC.

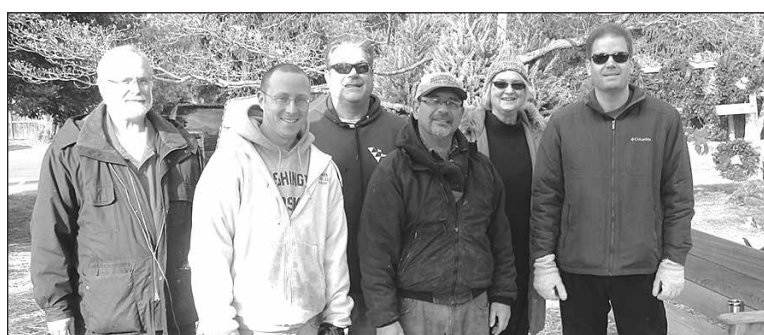
Over 500 gifts were contributed – another tremendous outpouring of caring by our parishioners. This large effort was again ably coordinated by Bobbie McLoughlin, who had excellent volunteer support for keeping track of commitments, sorting and transporting of the gifts.

OPT

Top right: Parishioners selecting names from the Spirit Tree

Center right: Coordinator Bobbie McLoughlin keeping track of selections.

Below: A portion of the over 500 Spirit Tree gifts



Crew reporting for Christmas tree sales duty. L to R – Brian Petit, Jack Price, Gary DeBalso, Wayne Burnside, Jeanne Kavinski, Steve

## Christmas Tree Sales a Record Success

### Many Volunteers Involved

By Wayne Burnside, Chairman

Yet again, St. Francis had a very successful season selling Christmas trees. We earned a record profit of \$11,920 for the parish. This year 82 different parishioners braved the elements spending countless hours of volunteer service.

Special recognition is due to Gary DeBalso, Brian Petit and Damien Clark, whose selfless sacrifice ensured our success, and to Carolyn Brauer, whose team of decorators made beautiful wreaths that sold quickly. Also, through the leadership of Steve McCully, and the generosity of our customers, \$874 was raised for needy families.

OPT



### A Celebration of all God's Children

This year, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood, Maryland celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with a special Mass in honor of all God's children at the regularly scheduled Sunday 5 p.m. Youth Mass. Twenty four young adults with differing abilities from the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's, St. Bartholomew, St. Raphael, St. John Neumann, Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Rose of Lima and Church of the Redeemer participated as altar servers, lectors, readers of the prayers of the faithful, greeters, ushers and distributing bulletins.

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Members of the SFIS school band perform at their Christmas concert.

## Student Government at St. Francis International Leads by Serving

This school year, the Student Government Assembly at St. Francis International School in Silver Spring, Maryland spearheaded a number of service projects that benefit the local community. Taking the lead and motivating students from grades Pre-K to 8 to bring in donations, they boxed 40 cases of canned and dry goods for the Thanksgiving food drive. Their winter coat drive netted over 50 coats, 20 set of hats & gloves, and included 3 dozen handmade scarves. Middle school students also took their recess time to assemble and pack sandwiches, filling 5 cases with approximately 75 in each.

Donations were delivered to food pantries at St. Camillus in Silver Spring, St. Mark's in Adelphi, the Catholic Charities in Langley Park, and So Others May Eat in NW DC.



SFIS eighth graders unload food donations from Shop Rite for the St. Camillus food pantry.

Under the leadership of middle school religion teacher, Dr. Kirk Gaddy, students regularly help sort deliveries from Shop Rite to the the

St. Camillus food pantry, and for his Student Government group, these opportunities are just the beginning of a year of community service. **OPT**

## A Commitment to Being Responsive at St. Francis

At St. Francis International School, we believe in the power of Providence: that God provides opportunities for us and will provide the people that are needed to best serve in those opportunities. God sent to us a group of wonderful people to join our faculty and staff. One is a young Franciscan Capuchin Corp volunteer; three are Franciscan Postulants; one is a nurse and one is a former principal; one is a brand new, first year teacher; one is a former university professor; and the rest have worked for a number of years in Catholic schools, private schools and/or public schools. We feel blessed to have these women and men as part of our faculty. Their enthusiasm, profes-

sionalism and dedication has made a positive impact on our entire faculty and staff.

One of the ways we have been able to unite new faculty and staff with our veteran teachers is our commitment to Responsive Classroom.

An essential component of the Responsive Classroom approach at St. Francis International School is the Morning Meeting, which is implemented in all Pre-K-8th grade classes for the first 20-30 minutes of the day. A typical morning meeting consists of four components: greeting, sharing, group activity, and the morning message. Team-

building and academic readiness are blended to set a positive tone for the rest of the school day.

For example, Ms. Spurrier's third graders might choose numbers that are personally significant to them and create math problems during the "sharing" section. Middle school classes often discuss current events or issues of the day. Ms. Cool's first grade finds "Sparkle," the class mascot, who holds the important message and announcements for the day. According to Ms. Cool, "The morning meeting is important because it sets the tone for the day and starts us off on the right foot." **OPT**



Students participate in a morning meeting in first-grade at SFIS.

## STANG

Con't from page 1

Her death had been arranged by influential Brazilian landowners who wanted to stop her work on behalf of farming families in the region. It was Sister Dorothy's dream for the people to live self-sufficient lives, and to be able to use the land in sustainable ways. The native of Dayton, Ohio had been visiting with some of the struggling farmers in the interior when she was killed. She was 73 and had given nearly 40 years of her life to the fight for the rights of the poor.

Now, a decade later, cities and dioceses in the US are pausing this year to remember Sister Dorothy's work in this country, and to celebrate the progress being made in Brazil through the continuing work of our Sisters and friends, and "Dot's people."

In Washington on Sunday, February 8 at 2 pm, Trinity Washington University will mark the anniversary by presenting "Rooted in Love: One Woman Play." In the play, Sister Nancy Murray, OP, brings the story of the life and martyrdom of Sister Dorothy to the stage.

In addition, on Thursday, February 12 at 7 pm, a special event for young adults will take place at Trinity's O'Conner Auditorium. "What can one person do about climate change? Come see what one person did." is being presented by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, in collaboration with the Catholic Volunteer Network in D.C. The program will include a simple meal, a viewing of the movie "They Killed Sister Dorothy," and a Skype discussion with Sisters of Notre Dame who continue Sister Dot's work in Brazil today.

### About Sister Dorothy and her Work

In 1966, Sister Dorothy volunteered to join our Sisters in Brazil and for the rest of her life she worked with the poor, landless and indigenous people of the Para state of Brazil. Deep in the Amazon rainforest, she educated the women about health and nutrition. She helped them start small businesses to support their families, and showed the men which crops would grow best in the forest where they lived. Sister Dorothy and the people opened one-room schools to teach the children and adults to read and write, and she insisted that every woman, man and child should expect to receive basic human rights.

At the time of her death, Sister Dorothy was working with the Project for Sustainable Development, a government initia-

tive to help landless families benefit from sustainable farming systems. The land was granted for the farms by the government, but it was highly coveted by the powerful ranchers and others who wanted the land for themselves. Sister Dorothy's death came less than a week after meeting with Brazil's human rights officials about ongoing threats to local farmers from illegal loggers and ranchers.

A decade ago, Sister Dorothy had opened 39 schools in the hills and villages in Brazil. Today there are 115 schools throughout the rain forest, with more opening all the time. There were also 35 basic Christian communities that Sister Dorothy started – all committed to sustainable farming, working together and caring for one another. Now, with help from Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Brazil and friends, more than 1,200 families live in 85 communities on government property given to landless families to build sustainable farms.

Immediately after her death, Sister Dorothy was formally recognized by the Vatican as a modern-day martyr. She has been honored around the world for her life and work, and was posthumously awarded the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights.

The February 8 performance of "Rooted in Love: One Woman Play" will take place at 2 p.m. in the Trinity Washington University's Billiard Center for Social Justice. Due to space limitations, reservations are required and can be made by contacting Meg Sharp at 513-679-8120 or visiting [reservations@ohsnd.org](mailto:reservations@ohsnd.org).

For more information about Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, visit:

[www.sndohio.org/sister-dorothy/](http://www.sndohio.org/sister-dorothy/)  
[www.sndhohio.org/sister-dorothy/Dorothy-Stang-Materials.cfm](http://www.sndhohio.org/sister-dorothy/Dorothy-Stang-Materials.cfm)  
[www.notredameonline.org/en/resources/sister-dorothy-stang/](http://www.notredameonline.org/en/resources/sister-dorothy-stang/)  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Sisters-of-Notre-Dame-de-Namur-Ohio-Province](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sisters-of-Notre-Dame-de-Namur-Ohio-Province)

### About the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are an international congregation founded in Amiens, France in 1804. In 2015, we mark our 175th year in the US and our role in helping to shape the Catholic education system in the country. More than 1,300 Sisters of Notre Dame serve across the US and in Belgium, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Great Britain, Haiti, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. **OPT**

## CHRISTMAS

Con't from page 27

contest," she added. "It's a great way to call attention to the true spiritual meaning of Christmas."

The four winners received cash prizes and "Keep Christ in Christmas" car magnets, which also were available from the Knights for purchase by parishioners.

Accord to the results of a recent

survey by LifeWay Research, most Americans concur with Christian ideas about celebrating Christmas. The survey found that 79% of respondents said Christmas should be more about Jesus, and 63% agreed that Christmas should include a trip to church.

However, only 38% of Americans from ages 18 to 24 said church is an essential part of Christmas, while 55% of those aged 25 to 34 said church is an essential part of the celebration. **OPT**

### St. Francis International School

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

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# Our Lady Queen of Poland Christmas Dinner “Oplatek”

By Bojenna Buda, ED.

**O**ur annual Christmas Dinner, “Oplatek,” was held on Sunday, January 11, at the Knights of Columbus hall, across the street from Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring.

The multigenerational event included a greeting from Parish Council President Izabela Macander. The Polish Saturday School students of the Parish presented their Christmas play, “Jaselka.” It was put on through the efforts of School Director Ewa Chlebowska and teachers Malgorzata Firek, Ewa Turner, and Wieslawa



OLQP Pastor, Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., and the students of the Polish School at the annual Parish Christmas Dinner, “Oplatek.”



Polish Saturday School students present the “Jaselka” play at school.



Students from the Polish Saturday School at their pre-Christmas “Jaselka” play.

Wisniewska, with assistance from parents and grandparents. Parish organist Janusz Bilinski accompanied the students on the piano and Roman Korzan attended to the acoustics. The students had presented an earlier “Jaselka” play in December at their school pre-Christmas assembly.

OLQP Pastor, Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., welcomed friends, parishioners, and two guest priests who had celebrated the Mass with him to our gathering. He noted that we share our Polish Catholic faith and traditions with the community. He blessed the “Oplatek” Christmas wafer which every-

one present shared next. Afterwards, we sat down to a delicious meal and the singing of Christmas carols “Koledy.”

Students from the Polish School acted in all the “Jaselka” roles. The narrator was Aleksandra Bilinski. Soloists were Julieanne Ciecierz Elias and Konrad Niwa. The Blessed Virgin Mary was portrayed by Agata Czaja and St. Joseph by Leo Dobosz. The Angels were Nadia Blackman, Daniella Denton, Angela Giller, Alexandra Hawksworth, Natalia Karwacka-Krantz, and Anna Khabyev. Shepherds were Oliver Bilinski, Sebastian Kudrycki, and Kamil Niwa. The three kings were Adam Bazyluk, Sebastian Bilinski, and

David Khabyev.

The kindergartners in the play were Alexander Allani, Kiara Blackman, Ewelina Borkowski, Andrew Hawksworth, Alexander Klemencis, and Maya Kukso. Stefan Burns, Elena Karwacka-Krantz, Sofia Johnston, and Anya Smiarowska portrayed little animals which came to adore Baby Jesus. Alex Bazyluk, Nicholas Denton, Zofia Dobosz, Maks Dobosz, Virginia Giller, and Klementyna McGuire were the Mountaineers and Krakovians.

The children bearing gifts were Larysa Burns, Jason Ciecierz Elias, Bartek Czaja, Luka PenaNowek, Sofia Przygodzka, and Sebastian Ritikong.

OPT

## Viola Brzezinska in Concert at OLQP

By Bojenna Buda, ED.

**O**n Sunday, January 4, 2015, after the noon Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring MD, we welcomed vocalist and songwriter Viola (Violetta) Brzezinska from Poland. She sang a concert of beloved Christmas carols in Polish and English to an appreciative audience.

She also sang “Only Love Allows Us to Live Without Fear” (“Tylko miłosc nam pozwala bez leku zyc”) which was in a video and the movie “Popieluszko: Freedom is Within Us” (2009, directed by Rafal Wieczynski) that tells the life story of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the “Solidarity Chaplain” who was kidnapped and murdered by the Communist secret police in 1984 when he was 37 years old. His funeral turned into a demonstration by thousands of people against the oppression by the Communist state. He was beatified in June, 2010, and is recognized as a martyr. The lyrics portray the outward struggles of a nation under forced Communist rule and the inner struggles within us not to lose faith and hope. Father Popieluszko strove to overcome evil with good, with love.



Vocalist Viola Brzezinska in Christmas concert at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring.

Ms. Brzezinska began her career after appearing on a Polish TV talent show. She has performed with artists and groups, in the theatre and in musicals. She has sung at festivals. In 2005, she sang at the International Youth Day in Cologne, which was attended by Pope Benedict XVI. Many of her songs are recorded.

OPT



The crew who worked on setting up and decorating the 2014 “choinka”, Christmas tree, in the parish hall of Our Lady Queen of Poland, Silver Spring: Julka Syska, Igor Filippov, Klaudia Weidlich, Hania Syska, Brad Ortins. Not pictured: Kasper Syski.

## ADOPTION

Con't from page 9

our adoption Website. Whenever that phone rings or receives a text, we jump, hoping it's a legitimate birth mom.)

Sunday afternoon, June 22nd. A train rolled alongside the platform at my hometown, Massapequa, on Long Island. My wife, Veronica was going to take the LIRR to Penn Station, then Amtrak to DC, then Metro home to Bethesda. I had to

remain on Long Island that week because I had work at one of the hospitals there.

Veronica was listening to my cellphone conversation with Jack as she stepped onto the train. She knew it was an important call. We kissed goodbye while I was still on the phone. As the train doors closed, I mouthed to her silently through the glass doors, “A baby!” Her eyes got big and teary as the car slowly rolled away. She put her hand on the window as the train disappeared down the track.

(to be continued)

OPT

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# Restoration of the Historic St. Rose Chapel

By Mary Zoccola

**T**he Historic Chapel at St. Rose of Lima recently had a makeover, thanks to a group of parishioners who spearheaded the project. Funding for the restoration and new liturgical items and art came from private donations and from proceeds from the sale of the St. Rose Cookbook, published especially for that purpose.

Constructed in 1884, the Chapel served as a mission church for many years. In 1972, St. Rose of Lima was decreed a parish, with Rev. Joseph F. Byron as the first pastor. At that time, the parish had 115 families. Currently, St. Rose is vibrant parish with a diverse community of more than 1200 families.

The last restoration of the Chapel was completed in 1988. Since then, the plaster walls and ceiling developed cracks and the paint looked dingy. "The interior walls and ceiling were repaired and painted," said Laura Lowery, parish administrative assistant. "The paint color scheme is warm

and inviting, with peachy cream walls, a warm trim color, touches of gold here and there, and a soothing blue in sections of the ceiling and in the alcoves. New carpeting, a sanctuary lamp, wax-less candles, a processional cross, a lovely dossal and beautiful, period-appropriate Stations of the Cross were also part of the project."

The newly acquired Stations of the Cross have wooden frames that feature a leaf motif, which can also be seen in the stained glass windows and organ. "I found these antique Stations of the Cross on Ebay," Lowery said, adding that they came from a closed convent. Some had water damage, so they were carefully restored by parishioners Kathy Chiacchierini and Kay McCrohan. "They nearly match the original Stations of the Cross which hung in the St. Rose Chapel in the early 1900s."

The Historic Chapel is now in lovely condition and will continue to be a wonderful place to celebrate liturgies for many years to come!

OPT



St. Rose Historic Chapel post-renovation. Photo credit Mary Zoccola



Grate from the 1884 mission church repurposed as the Ambry. Grate was painted. Photo by Mary Zoccola



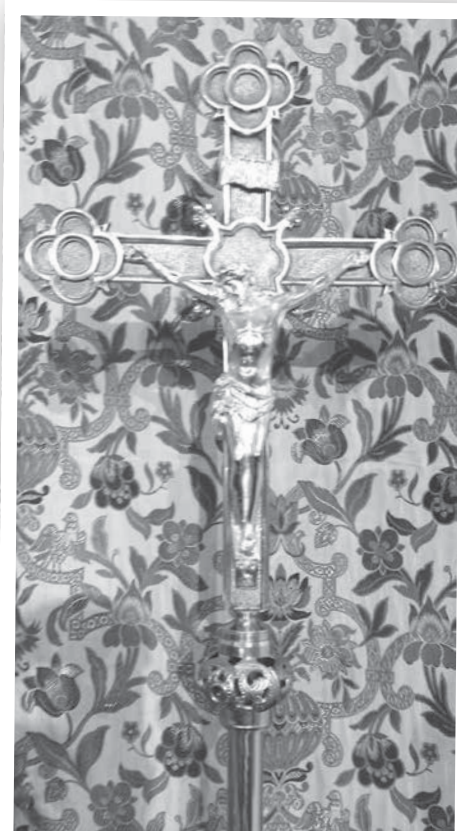
Above, updated Stations of the Cross at St. Rose. Photo by Mary Zoccola



At left, new marble base for the Madonna and child at St. Rose. Photo by Mary Zoccola



New marble altar top at St. Rose. Photo by Mary Zoccola



New processional cross at St. Rose stations of the Cross. Photo by Mary Zoccola

## Upcoming Parish Events and Activities

### ■ Sarah Hart Concert at St. Rose - Jan 24, 7pm

7:00pm, at St. Rose. All are invited to this parish-wide concert featuring the internationally known Catholic musician, Sarah Hart. A free-will offering will be accepted at the door. Food will be available for purchase. More details coming soon! INFO: Remi Bauer, rbauer@strose.com

### ■ MCCH Homeless Shelter

### Dinner - Jan 26

St. Rose is partnering with the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) to provide dinner for 200+ homeless men staying at the men's emergency shelter on E. Gude Drive in Rockville. On Mon., Jan. 26, we'll prepare the meal at St. Rose, then deliver/serve at the shelter. If you are interested in bringing ingredients, assisting with meal preparation, or serving, please contact the team: saintrose-outreach@gmail.com

### ■ Confirmation Retreat - Feb 13-15

Have you been Baptized and received First Eucharist, but haven't been Confirmed?

Confirmation Sessions will be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month, beginning on Thurs., Feb. 5. Info & Registration: Christine Jeffrey, cjeffrey@strose.com

OPT

## ST RAPHAEL SCHOOL

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enjoy an evening of dinner and friendship. **Wednesday:** For Community Outreach Day, SRS students make sandwiches for area homeless shelters, write letters to service members at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and collect diapers for the DC Diaper Bank. **Thursday:** For Clergy Appreciation Day, our wonderful priests receive letters from the students along with a gift from the school. **Friday:** Our children celebrate Student Appreciation Day with activities and gifts, topped off by Family Fun Night. Our students are the heart and soul of St. Raphael School and Nursery School!

### St. Raphael CYO basketball program – ongoing

CYO basketball is in full swing. St. Raphael has 14 teams this year, from third grade through high school. Visit the game schedule at [www.tiny.cc/SR-CYO](http://www.tiny.cc/SR-CYO) to root on our Angels.

### The St. Raphael Gala – March 14

Committee members have been scurrying about in preparation for the St. Raphael All-Star Gala set for March 14. The fun-filled evening will include a silent and live auction, including vacation get-aways, evenings out, sports memorabilia, event tickets, one-of-a-kind class gifts and more. Visit the school website at [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) for information about tickets, donations or sponsorship.

OPT

## MARCH FOR LIFE

Con't from page 20

sion of Roe vs. Wade that legalized abortion. It has grown into the largest pro-life event worldwide.

This year approximately half a million peaceful marchers are expected to come out in the cold. People from all over the country will come out to our nation's capitol to speak for the unborn. Many of the demonstrators are high school students who travel from far and wide to attend the march. A current Our Lady of Lourdes eighth grader, Gabriella Capizzi, says that she "loves the march because you can speak your mind about what you believe with lots of other people." Catholic parishes in the Greater Washington D.C. area offer overnight accommodations to the out of town marchers. Each year Our Lady of Lourdes hosts high school students from Indiana. The school cafeteria is turned into a makeshift dormitory and the students are treated to a hearty breakfast before heading out into the cold.

The theme of this year's march is "Every Life is a Gift". Inherent in every person, born and unborn, is dignity and worth. The March for Life reminds one of all the lives lost to abortion and asks each of us to protect the defenseless. The students of Lourdes accept that it is their duty to speak and pray for the voiceless and they will be at the Mass and on the National Mall to do just that.

OPT

### St. Rose of Lima

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240-401-0612



## Holy Cross



Holy Cross School celebrated the joy of Christmas at its annual Christmas program in December. Pictured are Fifth Grade students presenting the story of the Nativity.

### Joy to the World

**A**dvent at Holy Cross culminates in a celebration of song and the telling of the Nativity story, under the direction of Music teacher, Mary Bentley. This year, Holy Cross Advanced Band, prepared by Band Director Doug Harvey opened the program with a selection of seasonal favor-

ites. Next, the Choir raised their voice in song, followed by selections of traditional Christmas hymns sung by students in Pre-Kindergarten through Fourth Grade.

The grand finale was a Nativity play performed by students in the Fifth Grade. "It is always amaz-

ing to see such musical talent demonstrated by the children, but most importantly our Christmas program is a beautiful reminder of the gift of our faith, and the hope we share in Jesus' birth. It is a joyful celebration for the Holy Cross family," said Mrs. Kane.

OPT

### HOURL OF CODE

Con't from page 4

event at Holy Cross, and was assisted by parent volunteers and faculty.

Kindergarten students took turns as "Robotic Friends," programmed by classmates to walk across a large grid placed on the floor using a pre-defined vocabulary of arrow commands. Down the hallway, Fourth Grade students completed a similar but more complex task. Working in small groups, one student would follow a classmate's program to stack cups in different arrangements. Both tasks teach the connection between symbols and actions, as well as the invaluable skill of debugging.

Meanwhile, Second Grade students were learning binary code and



Above and below: Holy Cross students from Kindergarten to Eighth Grade participate in different "unplugged" programming activities in the first annual Hour of Code in December.

using it to write their names on bookmarks. Second Grader, Marina Preslopsky said "I was impressed that you could make codes like that. I want to be a teacher like Mrs. Krage." Her classmate, Andrew Palumbo added, "It was pretty cool. When I grow up I'm going to be a scientist that studies computers." All grades participated in different activities, using code to perform tasks, identify code used to create a computerized graphic, or to decode messages.

"Our first annual Hour of Code was a huge success," said Cate Krage, Technology Coordinator and teacher at Holy Cross. "The activities bring to life the concepts that I teach in Computer Lab each week. It was fantastic to see the collaboration among students, and their very creative problem solving. I'm already looking forward to next year."

OPT

## Nat Geo Bee at Holy Cross

**T**he National Geographic Bee has become a much anticipated annual event at Holy Cross, and this year was no exception. Preliminary qualification rounds were conducted in Grade Four through Eight with students answering one question in each of seven progressively more difficult rounds. Mary Beth Silva and Maddie Ewers, both Eighth Grade students, and Zack Gibney in Seventh Grade all scored an impressive perfect 7 in this round. These three students, along with Ross Brown (fifth); Izzy Kelly (sixth); Katie Carter (seventh); and Adrianna Navarro, Patrick Opat, Christina Stavish, and Andrew Wilkerson (eighth) earned the top ten scores and moved on to the double elimination school round.

Family, friends and the entire student body gathered to watch the competition in December. Eighth Grade teacher, Martha Brach moderated, assisted by Fifth Grade teacher, Corri Deegan. It was Andrew Wilkerson and Zack Gibney who made it to the Championship Round, with Zack maintaining a

perfect score throughout and ultimately earning the title of Holy Cross National Geographic Bee Champion. The next step for Zack is to learn the results of his quali-



Holy Cross students Zack Gibney, left and Andrew Wilkerson at the National Geographic Bee in December. Both students vied for the Championship, with Zack earning a perfect score and the title.

fying test for the Maryland State Geography Bee. If his score places him in the top 100 statewide, he will move on to the state competition in March. No matter the outcome, Zack is our champion!

OPT

## Archdiocese Files Petition in Lawsuit Challenging the HHS Mandate

**T**he Archdiocese of Washington and its co-plaintiffs on December 26 filed a petition for rehearing en banc with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in their lawsuit challenging the HHS mandate.

On November 14, 2014, a three-judge panel of the court of appeals upheld the HHS mandate in a deeply flawed ruling that conflicts with judicial precedent including the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*. The filing today is the next step in the legal process, asking the full court

to set aside that clearly erroneous decision and uphold our first and most sacred freedom. The archdiocese and its co-plaintiffs are hopeful that the final disposition of this case will support religious freedom and rights of conscience.

The archdiocese and its affiliates remain committed and determined to serve others freely in accordance with the Catholic faith. It is precisely because of this faith that local Catholic entities are the largest nongovernment provider of social services in this region.

OPT

### CSW

Con't from page 23

intellectually. Besides an excellent education incorporating technology for 21st century skills, students are exposed to a community in which their faith is woven into all their classes and where the students have the opportunity to pray every day, plan Masses, and participate in service activities that support the social concerns ministry of the church.

During Catholic Schools, St. Martin's will be hosting an Open House for grades PreK through

Eight on Tuesday, January 27 from 9 am to 1 pm. Students from seventh and eighth grade will lead tours of the school. The principal, Mr. Andrew Piotrowski, and current parents will be available to answer questions. For more information, please contact the school at office@smsmd.org or 301-990-2441.

The St. Martin's School community will also celebrate Catholic Schools Week with a variety of fun activities, including bingo for students, a volleyball game pitting the eighth graders against the teachers and priests, and Teacher Appreciation Day, which features a sit-down lunch for the teachers.

OPT





## St. Patrick

## St. Patrick's School to "Celebrate Calm"

On Tuesday, January 27, 2015, from 7-9pm in the School Cafeteria, St. Patrick's School in Rockville will host a lively and entertaining parent workshop entitled "10 Ways to Stop Defiance, Disrespect and Yelling." Kirk Martin, founder of *Celebrate Calm*, and his son, Casey, will offer a presentation for parents, teachers, and middle/high school students. Some topics to be covered include ending sibling fights, getting kids to listen, minimizing screen time, and creating stress free home routines.

The *Celebrate Calm* father-son team will discuss practical strategies for working with kids ages 2-22 to help you "transform your family."

The presentation will be repeated again on Wed. January 28th from 8:30am-10:30am. The event is free and open to the community. No registration is required. It is being sponsored by St. Patrick's Home and School Association as a part of Catholic Schools Week. For more information, visit [www.celebrate-calm.com](http://www.celebrate-calm.com).

OPT

## DYKEWICZ

Con't from page 21

Father Theodore Hesburgh as "one of the great ones at Notre Dame in a quiet way." Father Riehle helped players, coaches, administrators and many others overcome adversity and become successful on and off the athletic field.

## McCARRICK

Con't from page 21

of Mercy, the parish's men's group which focuses on spirituality, good works and fellowship.

Father John Dakes, pastor, welcomed Cardinal McCarrick and opened the meeting with a prayer. Men of Mercy Coordinator, Wayne Marsden, noted that Cardinal McCarrick is an enthusiastic baseball fan, "but as a native New Yorker, his first team was the New York Yankees." He called on parishioner Paul Sheppard son the late Bob Sheppard, noted New York Yankees radio announcer, to introduce the Cardinal.

His Eminence attended Fordham University and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Master's Degree in History at St Joseph University in Yonkers. The Cardinal received this PhD in Social Sciences from the Catholic University of America.

Cardinal McCarrick spoke about his friend and their shared membership in the class of Cardinals elevated in 2001.

Cardinal McCarrick visited Cardinal Jorge Eugenio Bergoglio in Buenos Aires three years ago. Cardinal Bergoglio met him in a borrowed car and proceeded to point out settlements in the area occupied by the poor, hospitals and prisons.

Cardinal McCarrick said that Irish bookmaker Paddy Power initially placed the odds on Cardinal Bergoglio's election as Pope at 200-1. As voting progressed, the odds dropped to 40-1. The new pope was elected on the fifth ballot. This is a

## Our Lady of Mercy

Joe Theismann, who quarterbacked Notre Dame and the Super Bowl-winning Redskins, offers an endorsement, stating, "Paul Dykewicz entertainingly captures the wisdom and guidance that Notre Dame's legendary sports chaplain offered for decades to athletes, coaches and so many others. Fr Riehle served as a master motivator, a calming influence and rock-

like spiritual presence to help turn obstacles into opportunities."

In addition to Theismann, Mr. Dykewicz writes that he has received endorsements and stories from Joe Montana, Reggie Brooks, "Rocket" Ismail, "Digger" Phelps, Ara Parseghian, Dick Vitale and many others.

The book is available from Xulon Press and Amazon.

OPT



### Buddy Game Time

Students at St. Patrick's School participate in the annual Buddy Game Time in which first and second graders and their mentor buddies (in seventh and eighth grade respectively) enjoy sharing games together. The younger students select games from home which focus on reading, thinking, and reasoning. Great time together for all involved!

### Off to a Great Start!

With 5 months now under their belts, these pre-kindergarten students enjoy playing while learning together! Highlights of the first semester at St. Patrick's Pre-K include scarecrow making, apple tasting, apple pie baking, preparation of a classroom Thanksgiving feast, acting in a Thanksgiving play, gingerbread house creation, Christmas caroling, and a



New Year's party. Students focus on a letter of the week and work with numbers, letter sounds, and pre-reading skills during our fun activities. They also attend Mass with their 5th grade buddies. There will be an open house for St. Patrick's Pre-K on Friday, January 23rd at 9:00 a.m. It's a great opportunity to tour the newly designed classroom space and visit with teacher Ms. Mary Jo Glacken.

## St. Patrick's School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week!

From pajama day to tip your hat to your teacher day, a magic math and Improv assembly, and a school wide service project supporting Meals on Wheels, our students look forward to proudly sharing their Catholic identity and celebrating the many gifts and blessings of attending a Catholic School. Teachers, staff, and students at St. Patrick's School wish all those attending a Catholic School a fun and spirited week.

We thank the parishioners of St. Patrick's Church for their continued support and prayers, and share our gratitude for being a part of our faith development. We thank our school families for the many sacrifices you make so that your children are able to attend St. Patrick's and for the countless hours of volunteering and fundraising so that we continue to have the wonderful opportunities and memories that make our time at St. Pat's so special!

OPT



Here, for possible use with article, are pix of Cardinal McCarrick speaking in Our Lady of Mercy Church and the Cardinal with the Marsden family: Wayne and Bonnie, their daughter, Megan Fisher, and granddaughters Katelyn and Caroline Fisher. Again, many thanks. Jean

prime example of the intercession of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the direction of the Church.

Pope Francis chose his name to honor St. Francis of Assisi. He is the first pope Jesuit pope and the first pope from the Americas.

When it was time to greet the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis declined to wear the papal mazzotta cape, saying he was not cold. He delivered an unscripted address and he won the hearts of the people when he asked them to pray for him.

In Pope Francis' first sermon, he said that "we have to remember that the Lord never gets tired of forgiving. We must never get tired of asking for his forgiveness." A record number of confessions were heard that day.

Asked why he refuses to live in the papal palace, the new pope responded "for psychiatric reasons." Cardinal McCarrick related

that the Pope said that he would "go nuts" living alone in the palace.

Cardinal McCarrick said that Pope Francis wants complete accountability from the Roman Curia, particularly in finances. He has met with victims of clerical abuse. And he is dedicated to bettering the lives of the poor and to addressing the "unfairness in society." The Pope believes that the church hierarchy must be servant leaders. The Pope stresses love for the poor, the sick, downtrodden and prisoners.

Pope Francis will make his first papal visit to the United States in September. He will attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The Pope has received invitations from President Obama and Congress to visit Washington and from U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to visit the United Nations in New York.

OPT

## MEDITATION

Con't from page 8

Mr. Milone described the class as follows: "We start with an introduction to meditation, followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation. Finally, I give a 10-15 minute talk on Christian spirituality as it applies to meditation."

"Our mission is to introduce people to the intimacy they have with God. We get to know God in an intimate way when we enter into the interior silence of meditation."

The Christian Meditation class meets Tuesdays from 7:30pm - 8:30pm in the church. Beginning during Lent 2015, Mr. Milone will offer the meditation group on Wednesdays, in the conference room, from 7:30pm - 9pm.

OPT

### Mercy Students Support Catholic Charities

Laughlin (fourth grade), Henry (seventh grade), and Mary Elizabeth Sullivan (kindergarten) proudly pose with the Teddy bear Mary Elizabeth won at the second grade Catholic Charities auction. Annually, second graders sell raffle tickets for the auction which was open to K-8 students. Principal Joan Hosmer drew the name of the lucky winner at the class Christmas party. All proceeds went to Catholic Charities.





DINNER

Con't from page 13

"In addition to the Conchas wheat bread and hot chocolate drink, we were prepared to serve two types of tamales to an expected crowd of over 600 parishioners and visitors who came to celebrate, honor and thank Our Lady of Guadalupe," said parishioner Luis Jovel. "During my lifetime, I have made many trips to Her Basilica Shrine in Mexico City. We're celebrating here at SJN just as they are in Mexico tonight."

For over 480 years, people have been very passionate about how Our Lady of Guadalupe came to bring hope and peace to all the peoples of the Americas.

Our December 12 festivities started with the Holy Mass. Youngsters dressed in clothing of indigenous



Parishioner Luis Jovel (far left) and his hospitality crew served great tamales, Conchas breads and hot chocolate to joyous hundreds who continued a 480+ year tradition honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe on her Feast Day.

Mexicans brought the traditional roses to lay at the feet of the Virgin. Two of the children were selected to portray Our Lady and St. Juan Diego. Mariachi music filled the air

of the church and parish center as incense carrying the prayerful message that we are grateful that Our Lady came.

OPT

DINNER

Con't from page 13

This "Dinner at the Rectory" was all about raising money for Archdiocesan Seminarians. Coincidentally, Mary Louise Mahoney was a founding member of the parish's St. John Paul the Great Vocations Society, estab-

lished by Father Scott Woods. "In those early days, all our members were these large families," recalls Mary Louise. "And there was this single little me, but I couldn't refuse the invitation from Fr. Scott. We've seen such fruit in the parish from our work promoting Vocations. I remember going out to California to witness Sister Isabel professing her final vows. Parishioner, Father Andy Davy was ordained in our

church—Brother Antonio will be next. And we have three young men in seminary right now."

Our parish is so generous in their support of the priesthood and consecrated life, said Vocations Committee Coordinator, Mary Beth de Ribeaux. "The Vocations Bake Sale raised over \$2,500 this year to support special needs of seminarians during their formation."

OPT

EVANGELIZATION

Con't from page 13

in and beyond.

Here's how evangelization played out recently in our parish. SJN Evangelization Coordinator Stephen Castellano and members of his committee gift-wrapped copies of a short little book entitled, "Finding True Happiness" by Bishop Fulton Sheen, each carry-

ing a special dedication page by the author to our Patron, St. John Neumann. Over 500 of the gifts were distributed to those attending SJN Christmas Masses. When I received and read my copy I knew the second reader would be a member of my own family. It was written just for them, as they searched for deeper meaning in their faith.

Almost instantly, Evangelization took place, right in the parish...all from a little 78-page book that contained a powerful revelation about

life, holiness...and happiness.

Would you like to use some of your personal time to help create an "Ah Ha" moment for a total stranger? Or better yet, for someone in your own family? Contact Stephen Castellano at the SJN Rectory (301-977-5492) to learn more about how you can become active in our parish evangelization work, giving the greatest gift of all: a relationship with God...the God who made us!

OPT

CSW

Con't from page 12

within and between grades, and ensure than no one is excluded from playground games. Teachers and parents continually use informal and formal opportunities to discuss ways in which children are learning in order that they may help them achieve their full potential. Our principal, Sr. Kathleen, was named the Archdiocese of Washington Principal of the Year in 2014 for good reason. She is always available to give stellar advice to parents, teachers, or students struggling with an issue, and all the administrative, teaching, and building staff come together to support each child and each family in a way that promotes the development of the child – emotionally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

The children of SJE clearly recognize the value of an education which includes a strong formation in faith. Charlotte, a fifth grader, says, "Going to Catholic school is a great opportunity to practice my Catholic faith. In a public school,



SJE first graders dress as characters from the movie "101 Dalmatians" on Student Appreciation Day in CSW. Photo by N. Cannito

I wouldn't be able to practice my faith in school." Caroline, second grader says, "St. John's is a great place to be. You can go to church every first Friday, be with Catholic people, and do fun things, and play while you are learning."

Faith is the seed from which all the good academic work that happens at SJE grows. In 2014, SJE was recognized by the US

Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Student achievement, school culture, extracurricular activities, and parent involvement all contributed to our selection, with a special emphasis on our building a culture of virtue within the school and fostering community. Our students' academic excellence, the tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship

MARCH

Con't from page 8

early to help cook a huge pasta dinner for our guests. When the bus pulled up, our teens were there to greet them and help carry in their bags. We shared a delicious meal with the more than 35 teens and adults from Owensboro. After our groups ate together, the teens from St. John's started a game of "I Love My Neighbor Who." The teens had to switch chairs when they heard something they had in common with another member of the group. It soon became obvious that even though they grew up in different parts of the country, many of them shared the same interest in sports, music, and ways to enjoy their free time. When the group leader called to arrange this year's trip, his first request was that our teens be pres-

ent for dinner and that we include games at least once during their time here!

Although our youth group trip to the March for Life was cancelled last year because of the snow, the group from Owensboro attended the event despite the freezing temperatures. Their commitment to attending this pro-life rally (even if it means more than 10 hours on a loaded bus) should be a wonderful witness to our parishioners. I still remember how cheerful and positive they were last year even though their bus hit major traffic and were delayed for several hours. They give up close to a week and agree to sleep on our hard floor, all so they can show their support for protecting all stages of life. Teens from St. John's plan to attend the March for Life this year and also spend time with the visiting group once again.

OPT

PRINCIPAL

Con't from page 8

was impressive. Parents came with well-formed and respectful views. There were interesting discussions, though the aim remained the same: making SJB the best school it can be. One parent commented that "not a single parent had expressed disappointment with the level of academics at SJB!"

We've added a few rules to our school food policy. Changes came from listening to parents about what our food rules should be. For class and school-wide snacks and meals, the changes include: no soda or candy, and candy is not to be used as an award at school events.

My goal is to respect tradition and meet nutritional needs of the children. I want to emphasize that I am not interested in regulating what

parents pack their children for lunch. The rules apply only when a parent sends food for all children in class.

We're launching a new Nutrition Curriculum, taught by Ms. Krupka, our PE and science teacher. Thanks to Ms. K. for taking on something new in the middle of the school year.

Our nutrition curriculum is based on Choose My Plate ([www.choosemyplate.gov/kids/Games.html](http://www.choosemyplate.gov/kids/Games.html)) an educational website developed by the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy & Promotion (CNPP), and Super Kids Nutrition ([www.superkidsnutrition.com/nutrition-articles](http://www.superkidsnutrition.com/nutrition-articles)).

Students have daily recess and twice-a-week PE. Some schools have eliminated recess, and offer PE quarterly. Ms. Krupka records students' progress, and shows them where they stand nationally – just like we do with math and reading scores, as a way of motivating them.

OPT

monies our graduating 8th graders are awarded each year, and test results in the top 10 percent of Maryland schools all indicate how well SJE students know the material in our rigorous curriculum. It's abundantly clear that SJE embodies the second aspect of the CSW theme, knowledge, with rigor and dedication.

Finally, SJE uses the faith it promotes and the knowledge it teaches to nurture a spirit of service. Our administrators, teachers, and staff tirelessly give of themselves, our parents volunteer many hours to enrich SJE, and our students enthusiastically bake bread for the homeless, collect toys for children at Christmas, volunteer at parish events, and find creative ways to reflect the light of Christ's love. Service is a strong pillar on which SJE stands.

SJE's traditional CSW activities, a Grandparents Day brunch and kickoff, a dance-a-thon and read-a-thon, pajama day, career day, wacky tacky day, the loudest pep rally you've ever heard, and a parent-prepared luncheon for faculty and staff demonstrate the joy that character-

izes the SJE community. Rooted in faith, seeking after knowledge, and expressed in service, SJE embodies the values that Catholic Schools Week brings into focus with grace, peace, and joy.

OPT



SJE students dress as characters from the movie "Madagascar" on Student Appreciation Day in CSW. Photo by K. Comello



## St. Elizabeth



St. Elizabeth School's students in grades 1 - 5 performed at our annual Christmas show! A wonderful time was had by all!



St. Elizabeth School's students, teachers, and parents gathered in the Church for the annual Christmas Pageant. It was a beautiful and memorable morning.



Good times with good friends at St. Elizabeth School.



This past fall, the St. Elizabeth Class of 2015 launched WSTE news, an online newscast delivered twice a week to students, faculty and parents. The newscast provides the school community news ranging from the classrooms, outreach information, reminders from teachers, after school activities, and the St. E's "Shout Out" of thanks and gratitude for a member of the St. Elizabeth faculty. The newscast is also made available online at the school's Facebook and Twitter pages. The WSTE team is off to a great start and look forward to growing in the future!



St. Elizabeth School's fourth graders visit the Shrine of Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.



St. Elizabeth 5th graders had fun as they divided into groups and made a snowman using toilet paper!

## St. Martin

## St. Martin's Nominates Cookseys and Garners for Honors

By Lisa Schuler

**C**ongratulations to two St. Martin's couples who were nominated as the St. Martin's School Volunteers of the Year and Business Leaders of the Year for the prestigious annual Catholic Business Network awards. Both couples have children who are students at St. Martin's and all contribute countless hours to the school and parish.

Catherine and Greg Cooksey were named St. Martin's Volunteers of the Year. For the past seven years, they have been tireless volunteers St. Martin's. Catherine serves as the development committee co-chair, Girl Scout leader and Cub Scout treasurer for the school, as well as the coordinator for purificator ministry, greeter, and St. Martin's *Our Parish Times* editor. Greg has been the chairman of the school board, chairman of the finance committee, the cubmaster of the Boy Scouts and bingo caller, as well as a greeter and Communion volunteer.

When asked why they do so much to help the St. Martin's community, they said "We want to share our time and talents with the communities that have given us so much. It is important for our family to continue this work for the future."

The couple works at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) where Catherine is a chemist and Greg is a bioengineer.

Nicole and Brad Garner were named

the Business Leaders of the Year. They have also donated countless hours (and excellent video work) to St. Martin's over the past five years.

Their video production company, August II Productions, wrote and produced the school's endowment fund video (check it out at [www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)). Additionally, Nicole worked on the re-design of the school website, and August II editors and designers have worked on many of the updated graphics and logos for various school activities.

At St. Martin's, Nicole sits on our school board, chairs the marketing committee, and co-chairs this year's auction. Brad volunteers for the food pantry, picking up and delivering food, and helps with various school events. Nicole and Brad are also very involved and passionate about their volunteer roles for Catholic Charities, Spanish Catholic Center.

Both said they are committed to volunteering their time, treasure and talent as business leaders to the church and school because "God has an amazing way of giving back in so many unexpected ways. We participate for our children and our Parish and because we really love and care about our SMS community. It's an honor!"

Congratulations to the Cookseys and the Garners on these prestigious awards and thank you from the St. Martin's community for your dedication to the church and school.

OPT

## Students Chime in about St. Martin's

By Catherine Cooksey

**I**n preparation for Catholic Schools Week, we asked students why they like being students at St. Martin's School. Here are their responses. I like being a St. Martin's student because:

- "It's fun, it's good, and you get to do a lot of things." Olivier, third grade
- "There's always something exciting going on, like Wacky Wednesdays or field trips. The teachers are nice, and they help you when you are in a tough spot. And because our subjects are very interesting." Julien, fourth grade
- "I can enrich my faith daily." Sophia, eighth grade

- "The teachers will help you if you're having trouble. Also, if you're good at recess, you get extra recess, and they teach you about religion." Thomas, fourth grade
- "I get to build my discipline, succeed in my academic excellence, and strengthen my faith in God." Gabriel, fifth grade
- "I love my 3rd grade teacher, and all the teachers care about us and give us a great education!" Henry, third grade
- "I like my teachers, all the students know each other, and it feels like family." Jack, sixth grade
- "Every time I walk through the halls, it feels like family." Anne, fifth grade

OPT

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Grades Pre-Kindergarten – 8

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301-990-2441  
[www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)

See ad page 24



At left: St. Martin's students show off the hats they made in Knitting Club. Photo by Logan Hseuh

Below: Class winners of the Geography Bee participate in the school competition. Finalist Ian Javelosa (first row in the middle) will represent St. Martin's at the state-level competition. Photo by Greg Cooksey





# 5 Ways Congress Can Support Seniors in 2015

2015 marks the 50th anniversary of three of the nation's most important programs for seniors—Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act (OAA). It is also the year when advocates and policymakers from across the country will be discussing the future of aging services at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.

"These events offer the perfect opportunity for Congress to expand and reinforce its commitment to supporting older Americans' health and economic security," said Howard Bedlin, Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy for the National Council on Aging (NCOA). "The aging population is growing rapidly, and seniors want to stay independent as long as possible. Now is the time to strengthen and expand aging services to meet the needs of all seniors, especially those who are struggling."

Specifically, NCOA urges Congress to:

## 1. Protect and assist low-income Medicare beneficiaries

The Medicare Qualified Individual (QI) program pays Medicare Part B premiums for beneficiaries whose incomes are 120-135% of poverty—about \$14,000-\$15,750 per year. Without this assistance, these seniors would not be able to afford doctor visits.

Congress temporarily extended QI to March 31, 2015, along with increases in Medicare physician payments. Momentum is building to permanently fix Medicare physician payments. Congress should make the QI program permanent at the same time and fund outreach to help seniors access this and other Medicare low-income benefits, since most who are eligible for assistance do not receive it.

## 2. Renew the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Elder Justice Act (EJA)

The OAA and EJA are both over-

due for reauthorization. Renewing these statutes would mean strengthening and modernizing aging services and protections to meet the diverse needs of our growing older population—especially those who are vulnerable and struggling.

The OAA funds critical, cost-effective programs that allow seniors to stay healthy and independent in their communities, including job training and placement under the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), health promotion and disease prevention, senior nutrition, senior centers, caregiver support, and more.

The EJA provides for a nationally coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the silent crisis of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Congress should build upon the progress made last year on these issues and pass bipartisan bills this year.

## 3. Restore investments in aging services

A variety of community services help older adults maintain or improve their health and economic security, allowing them to stay independent and avoid more costly care. These include OAA programs, nutrition and energy assistance, and affordable housing.

Investments in aging services have not kept up with inflation or the rapid growth in the senior population. Due to budget caps and sequestration, FY14 funding for

*Continued on page 38*

## 2015 White House Conference on Aging Regional Forums to Provide Input and Ideas

A series of regional forums will engage older Americans, their families, caregivers, advocates, community leaders, and experts on aging on the key issues affecting older Americans. These forums are designed to help provide input and ideas for the upcoming 2015 White House Conference on Aging. The first will be in Tampa, Florida on February 19. Subsequent forums will be held in Phoenix, Arizona on March 31, Seattle, Washington on April 9; Cleveland, Ohio on April 27, and Boston, Massachusetts on May 28.

Each will allow the Conference on Aging planning committee to hear directly from the public on issues such as ensuring retirement security, promoting healthy aging, providing long-term services and support, and protecting older Americans from financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. They are designed to reach older Americans and their caregivers, advocates and others stakeholders where they live.

Issues include:

- **Retirement security** is a vitally important issue. Financial security in retirement provides essential peace of mind for older Americans, but requires attention during our working lives to ensure that we are well prepared for retirement.
- **Healthy aging** will be all the more important as baby boomers age. As medical advances



progress, the opportunities for older Americans to maintain their health and vitality should progress as well and community supports, including housing, are important tools to promote this vitality.

- **Long-term services and supports** remain a priority. Older Americans overwhelmingly prefer to remain independent in the community as they age. They need supports to do so, including a caregiving network and well-supported workforce.

- **Elder justice** is important given that seniors, particularly the oldest older Americans, can be vulnerable to financial exploitation, abuse, and neglect. The Elder Justice Act was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act, and we need to realize its vision of protecting seniors from scam artists and others seeking to take advantage of them.

The regional forums are co-sponsored by AARP and being planned in coordination with the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, a coalition of more than 70 of the nation's leading organizations serving older Americans. While participation is by invitation, all of the events

will be live webcast to engage as many people as possible to attend.

The first White House Conference on Aging was held in 1961, with subsequent conferences in 1971, 1981, 1995, and 2005. These conferences have been viewed as catalysts for development of aging policy over the past 50 years. The conferences generated ideas and momentum prompting the establishment of and/or key improvements in many of the programs that represent America's commitment to older Americans including: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the Older Americans Act.

In the past, conference processes were determined by statute with the form and structure directed by Congress through legislation, as part of the authorization of the Older Americans Act. At this point in time, Congress has not reauthorized the Older Americans Act, and the pending bill does not include a statutory requirement or framework for the Conference. However, the White House is reportedly committed to convening the 2015 conference.

Go to <http://www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov/> to learn more about the Conference and to sign-up for updates.

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## C&O Canal Invites Feedback on Proposal to Increase and Expand Entrance and Other Fees

In compliance with a nationwide National Park Service review on updating entrance fees, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park (C&O Canal) is proposing increases in entrance and parking fees that would become effective no sooner than May 1, 2015.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed increases for a 48-day period, ending February 22, 2015. Comments should be submitted online. Click on

Document List at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=56153>

There will be several public meetings at locations around the park to comment on the proposal. The one in our area is on February 5, 2015, at Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave, Glen Echo, MD 20812, from 7:00-8:30 pm.

Following the comment period and public meetings, feedback will determine how, or if, fee increases will be implemented.

OPT

## Competing proposals to develop Bethesda Metro plaza

Two neighboring property owners near the Bethesda Metro plaza have come up with competing proposals to develop the underutilized plaza into a more vibrant public space.

One, by Brookfield Properties, owner of 3 Bethesda Metro Center, would include a new high-rise building and retail space near the station's bus bay escalators. The other proposal, by Clark enterprises, would not. Instead, Clark proposes a new park and open green space.

Both property owners have hired PR firms and appeared at the Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board to present their cases. Brookfield is holding a community open house on Saturday, February 7, 10 am, at the 3 Metro Center Atrium building.

For details, see [BethesdaNow.com](http://BethesdaNow.com)

OPT

## 5 WAYS

Con't from page 37

these and other non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs was about 15% below FY10 levels, resulting in service reductions and growing waiting lists. The looming FY16 sequester will reduce NDD investments to a 50-year low as a share of the economy.

Sequestration must be replaced with a balanced approach that does not increase poverty, hunger, or income inequality.

### 4. Protect and strengthen long-term home care under Medicaid

The number of Americans needing long-term care (LTC) will more than double as the baby boomers age. Medicare does not cover long-term care, and private LTC insurance is unaffordable for most. This means often seniors have to spend-down their life savings into poverty before getting help from Medicaid—which has an institutional bias with mandatory nursing home but optional home care coverage.

Several Medicaid reforms to promote access to home care are expiring—such as the Money Follows the Person and Balancing Incentives Programs. Congressional leadership is needed to extend these programs and pass other legislation recommended by the bipartisan Long-Term Care Commission to improve access to home and community services and support family caregivers. Proposals to place arbitrary caps on Medicaid services also should be opposed.

### 5. Improve access to elder falls prevention and chronic disease self-management programs

Falls among seniors are widespread, expensive, and often preventable. Each year, one in three Americans aged 65+ falls. The annual cost for treating these injuries is over \$36 billion, which could increase to nearly \$62 billion in 2020, with Medicare paying about \$48 billion.

In addition, the vast majority of older adults are affected by multiple chronic conditions, collectively accounting for more than three-quarters of all health expenditures. Chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) is a low-cost, evidence-based model that helps individuals manage their conditions, improve their health status, and reduce their need for more costly medical care.

Last year, Congress provided \$5 million for falls prevention and \$8 million for CDSME from the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Collectively, this funding reaches just over half of the states. This year, investments should be increased so at-risk seniors in additional states can access these important services.

To find out how to take action, sign up for NCOA advocacy alerts at [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org).

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## Holy Child's 8th Annual CYO Invitational Basketball Tournament another Big Success

The Holy Child gym is much brighter this year after a summer renovation, and the play at the annual CYO girls' basketball tournament was brighter than ever as well. Once again on this holiday weekend, crowds gathered to watch the exciting play of 16 middle school teams competing in 24 games in both Varsity and Junior Varsity levels. Monday's hard-fought championships played to standing-room-only crowds, with Blessed Sacrament walking away with the Varsity Championship trophy and Our Lady of Good Counsel taking the JV top spot. The addition of the 5th-6th grade division, made several years back, strengthened the popular tournament, drawing even more talent from all over the region. Some schools sent teams in both divisions; others opted for one or the other. The teams participating in 2015 were, in the Varsity division: Blessed Sacrament (DC); Holy



The Varsity MVPs of Holy Child's CYO Tournament are: Chloe Conaghan and Rosie Vagnoni, Blessed Sacrament; Caroline Ambrosi, Little Flower; Kayla Smith, St. Ambrose; Tournament Varsity MVP Ellie Mitchell, Blessed Sacrament; Julia Strittmatter, Our Lady of Mercy; Colleen Gilday, Holy Redeemer; Emily Sheehy, Little Flower. Four who didn't make the photo are Whitney Wiley, Our Lady of Good Counsel; Kaitlin Bierwith, St. Bernadette; Sydney Tolliver, Holy Trinity Episcopal; and Jane McAvoy, Our Lady of Mercy.

Trinity Episcopal, Holy Redeemer, Little Flower, St. Ambrose, Our

Lady of Mercy, and St. Bernadette (MD); and Our Lady of Good Counsel (VA). In Junior Varsity were Blessed Sacrament (DC); Holy Trinity Episcopal, Holy Redeemer, Little Flower, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Jane de Chantal, and St. Mary of the Assumption (MD); and Our Lady of Good Counsel (VA).

We are happy to feature this showcase for the diverse talents of future high school stars, and the opportunity for the players to show off their teamwork in the only combined girls' tournament in our region. Sixteen of the 21 players on the Holy Child Varsity/JV squads are alumnae of this event; the quality represented this weekend is just a hint to why this year's Varsity team is riding a strong record of 11-2 record on the season, even as they compete in the ISL's upper division!

OPT



Tournament director Tom Williams' Blessed Sacrament team (coached also by assistant Missy O'Brien) competed yet again in the Varsity championship game, this year against Little Flower, coached by HC parent Paul Ambrosi, with assistants Frank Ciatto and Skippy Yeager. Blessed Sacrament took the top honors to become champions yet again in 2015.

## INT'L STUDENTS

Con't from page 1

In addition to academic requirements, students from China must speak English well. Of the eight students from China, five are sophomores, two are juniors and one is a freshman.

All but three of the students have been to the United States previously. "At first it was kind of strange, because there is a lot of diversity," said Hugh Zhang '17. The students live with host families arranged through Gphomestay, a partner of The Cambridge Institute. Most of the students are living with Holy Cross families. The Zambrano family signed up to be a host family. Zorayda Zambrano said, "I talked it over with the family and everyone said it was going to be an experience. We were very excited to learn about their culture." Naturally, there were questions the family had about it, but she says it has turned out great. Their family is hosting Sherry Xiang '16. Isabella Zambrano '15 says it's been like having a sister. Her older brother is away at college, so she thinks it's nice "having someone living in the house" who is her own age. Zorayda

says the opportunity for Holy Cross to have this program is important because "[the students] learn from each other."

The students started the school year with orientation for new students. "The girls are all so nice," says Gwen Wu '16. "They are all very willing to talk to me and get to know me." All of the international students have had similar questions asked of them by their classmates. Gwen decided to use the curiosity to create a survey for her AP Psychology class. Questions included, "What's the biggest difference between being a teenager in China vs. the U.S.?" and "What is something that you miss very much and that you cannot find here in the U.S.?"

On Monday, September 8, the entire school gathered for the first All-School Assembly of the year. This day was also the Chinese Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, which is the biggest Chinese Festival after Chinese New Year. The international students gave a short presentation about the celebration and were warmly cheered on by their fellow LOTAs (Ladies of the Academy). At lunch, the group gathered with faculty member and Cambridge advisor Margaret

Mackinnon to celebrate with Moon Cakes, traditional treats eaten during the Moon Festival. The group gets together for lunch once a week with Ms. Mackinnon. It's a time to check-in, ask questions, and socialize.

In addition to their studies, the students are also getting involved in co-curricular activities, for example, Sherry Xiang '16 performed as the Nightingale in *Once Upon a Mattress* in October. Several of the students are often seen in the Art Club drop-in time after school. The students also attend tutoring sessions after school several days a week arranged through Cambridge. Recently, Susan Morrissey, Senior Director of Academic Support for The Cambridge Institute visited the Academy to check in with the school and the students. She also attended the weekly faculty meeting and commended the school for how well the students have adapted and become part of the community.

The saying goes, "Once a Holy Cross girl, always a Holy Cross girl." It is exciting that the community has broadened the family of Holy Cross girls internationally.

OPT

## NUNCIO

Con't from page 1

After the Archbishop discussed his role, the students asked questions about his life and duties in Ireland, and the Church.

"To work as a diplomat is really a great job," said Archbishop Brown, who has been a nuncio for three years. He encouraged the girls to consider a job at the State Department or other diplomatic venture. Before hearing from the Papal Nuncio, many students had

no idea that the church was so involved in diplomacy, O'Connell reports.

In addition to relaying what's happening in Ireland to the Holy See and vice versa, the Archbishop performs many first communions and baptisms, speaks at various venues, attends diplomatic receptions, and organizes the process that names new bishops in Ireland.

"What I like most is getting out of the Nunciature – visiting parishes and meeting people," said the Archbishop.

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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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