



Parish Times

Special Edition
Graduation Issue

MAY 2023

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The Blessings of Summer

This issue of *Our Parish Times* is the final of the school year 2022-23 year. As is our practice, we use this last issue of the year to thank the many individuals who support and enhance our local parish communities through their service, example, and enduring commitment to Catholic parish life. We are especially grateful to each of the volunteer OPT parish editors. Without you, this valued communication would not exist. We're grate-



Chuck Short

Continued on page 6

Grateful for Your Inspiration These Last 50 Years

I write this less than a week before the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood on May 12, 1973. It is a chance for me to reflect upon how much parishes have meant to me as part of the wonderful gift my priesthood has been and continues to be.



Fr. John Enzler

My call to become a parish priest came from the deep faith of

Continued on page 18

A Mother's Love

I recently heard a priest, Father Rob Walsh (pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes), say that a mother's job is to show her children what love is. It's as simple as that, really. By handing our hearts over to our children, knowing that they won't always handle them gently, by loving them from that first moment to our last, we show them what love is.

We've all heard the stories of mothers who've done superhuman things to protect or save their children from harm, and we know that those mothers are driven to do what they do by a love so powerful that it supersedes



Patricia McGann

Continued on page 26

Tea Time — with Sisters!



"Tea With Sisters" photo from left to right: Two Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima, Sr. Providencia and Sr. Mariana de Jesús (who are serving at St. Martin of Tours), and Two Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, Sr. Immaculate Heart and Sr. Aurora.

See Story on Page 3



Mother Goose to the Rescue

By John Naughton

On Saturday, April 29, I drove to the abortuary and entered at the south end of the office complex, got my crucifix out of the car and walked a short distance to the sidewalk in front of the facility. I chatted with a couple of counselors and then started to pray the rosary walking toward the north entrance. I pray one decade as I walk between the two entrances. After completing the third decade I saw a family of geese strolling in the parking lot heading toward the south entrance; I didn't know they were on a mission.

When the geese family of eight got to the south end they paused at the entrance. Just then a car with tinted windows came roaring in, the kind that doesn't want to hear anything from counselors but just wants to get straight to the abortion facility. They saw the geese

family and stopped and watched them for quite a while. I stood there with my crucifix wondering how long they would watch the geese. Finally, instead of heading to the abortuary in the back of the complex, the car drove straight toward the north exit and parked midway between the exits very close to where all the praying pro-lifers walk by. Three decades later the car headed out of the north exit and onto the highway. As they left, I raised my crucifix and blew a kiss at the car as if to say, "Thank you for not aborting your baby."

The car drove south, made a U-turn and drove back toward the north. As it went by the driver rolled down the window and gave us a big wave.

We all rejoiced at how someone in heaven sent the geese family to meet the car as it drove in to save a baby from abortion.



Congratulations! Msgr. Essex and Fr. Kyle Ingels are nothing but smiles as they celebrate Monsignor's gift of priesthood.

Congratulations to Monsignor Donald Essex on the 50th Anniversary of His Ordination

The St. Jane de Chantal Parish is a small fraction of the grateful who celebrated Msgr. Essex's ordination anniversary

By Michelle Flynn

St. Jane de Chantal's former pastor, Msgr. Donald Essex celebrated Mass in observance of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at Our Lady of Grace Church in Silver Spring, Md. Hundreds joined him at Mass and a reception in Leisure World's Parish Center. Msgr. Essex expressed gratitude to them and gave a heartfelt story of his young life growing up in D.C. and his inspiration from the Sisters of the Holy Name of Jesus and Mary who helped run his childhood parish of St. Gabriel's. Many enjoyed the fellowship, memories, food and slideshow prepared by the Sodalists of Our Lady of Grace. Among his guests were former but still loved St. Jane de Chantal priests, Fr. John McKay and Fr. Kyle Ingels who concelebrated the Mass. Cathy D'Amour, lifelong parishioner and former de Chantal teacher and vice-principal beautifully captured most of the attendees' sentiments with her comment, "Thank God for him and his ministry to our Lord. We all came together today to bless him because he blessed us and so many others with the ministry God placed in his heart." The St. Jane de Chantal parish congratulates their beloved pastor on his 50th anniversary.

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Gregory Butler, a student at Mother Mary Lange Catholic School, speaks at a BOOST press conference hosted by Senate President Bill Ferguson. “As hard as my mother would work right now, I want to work harder. So that’s why I’m putting in a word for us children. I want to say, taking all this money away is bad because we need it. It’s now or never.” After Gregory spoke, Senator Ferguson said, “at the end of the day that’s what it’s about ... making sure every child has the opportunity to be able to thrive in the environment that is best suited for them.”

2023 Maryland Legislative Session – Good News and Bad News

By John Naughton

The Maryland General Assembly legislative session ended in April. Results were mixed. Here’s a brief recap.

Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST)

Boost provides a limited number of scholarships to non-public schools for K-12 students of needy families. The Maryland Catholic Conference reports that in the final budget negotiations between the House and Senate, senators restored the two million dollars that the

House had cut from the Boost scholarship program.

The House also added a provision to phase out the program by not permitting new families to take advantage of the program, but the Senate prevailed by keeping it open to new families. This was a big win for low-income families who wish to enroll their children in non-public schools.

To provide context, Maryland will put an extra \$900 million into funding the state’s public schools, for a total of nearly \$8.8 billion for next school year.

MCC Executive Director, Jenny Kraska, wrote, “You did it! The

emails and calls from our Catholic Advocacy Network to legislators on BOOST made a difference.”

(See 2023-24 BOOST Application on page 60).

The Physician Assisted Suicide Bill is Defeated

The Assisted Suicide Bill was defeated for the sixth consecutive year. The bill was not reported out of either the House or Senate committees to which it was assigned, so votes were not taken. Although PAS had a great deal of support from outside Maryland, it had more

Continued on page 8

Centro Tepeyac Hires New Executive Director

By Amy Sapenoff Hamm

Julie Kilmer is preparing to take on a lot in the next few weeks, graduating from University of Scranton and becoming the new Executive Director at Centro Tepeyac. Centro Tepeyac is a non-profit agency located in Silver Spring that offers assistance and practical support for women facing unplanned pregnancies or post-abortion stress. Initially founded to serve primarily Hispanic women, it now serves patients from all backgrounds.

In some ways, the new position is a perfect fit. In other ways, it came



Julie Kilmer

as a surprise. Julie grew up just down the road from the Center, but only recently became familiar with its mission. She has, however, been discerning how God might be calling her to serve the pro-life cause.

“After the Dobbs decision overturned *Roe v. Wade* I served as president of Students for Life at school so I could start spreading the pro-life message to my fellow students, but it also became clear to me that God was calling me to this work as a vocation. I wanted to give Him the space to fulfill this desire and intuition that I had”, Julie

Continued on page 26

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Index			
Christ the King.....	58	St. Martin of Tours.....	45
Holy Cross.....	20-21	St. Mary - Barnesville	61
Holy Redeemer.....	22-23	St. Mary - Rockville	16-17
Mary of Nazareth	8-9	St. Michael.....	53
Mother Seton.....	46	St. Patrick.....	47
Our Lady of Lourdes	30-31	St. Paul	51
Our Lady of Mercy.....	42	St. Peter	48-49
Our Lady of the Visitation.....	59	St. Raphael	41
Our Lady Queen of Poland.....	56	Woods Academy	32-33
Resurrection	34		
Senior Services	38		
St. Bartholomew	43		
St. Bernadette	14-15		
St. Elizabeth.....	4-5		
St. Francis of Assissi.....	57		
St. Francis International School.....	55		
St. Jane de Chantal	44		
St. John the Evangelist	28		
St. John Neumann.....	40		
St. Jude.....	3, 36-37		

Tea Time — with Sisters!

By Mary Beth de Ribeaux, St. John Paul the Great Vocations Society of St. John Neumann Church

A steady hum of conversation drifted through the Parish Center on a pleasant Saturday afternoon as soft harp music played in the background. Twenty-two young women in eighth through twelfth grade sat among beautiful pink, white, and

green décor, each with a religious sister at her table. They sipped tea from distinctive tea-cups and savored classic tea sandwiches and tea cakes. While they enjoyed the refreshments, they conversed with the sisters: two Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of Fatima, Sr. Mariana de Jesús and Sr. Providencia (who are serving at St. Martin of Tours), and two Servants of the Lord and the

Virgin of Matará, Sr. Immaculate Heart and Sr. Aurora.

The tea was an opportunity provided by the Saint. John Paul the Great Vocations Society and St. John Neumann's Office of Religious Education for the girls to meet some sisters up close and ask them questions. Do you wear pajamas? Do sisters spend all day praying or do they get to do anything fun? Can sisters have pets? How do sisters get their names? What do you like best about being a sister? There was so much to talk about, and then the sisters switched tables! At the end of the afternoon, everyone went into the church, where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and adored for a short time, ending with Benediction.

The goal of giving the girls a chance to get to know some sisters seemed to be achieved, judging by the smiles all around and the comments such as this from Anna Cummings, "I had been hoping to have a chance this year to sit and talk with some sisters, and the tea fulfilled that. Thank you!"

OPT



The SJRCS Girls on the Run group is ready to move! Photo by Lucy Young

Girls on the Run!

By Amy Rueth

St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCS) has a Girls on the Run program for girls in Grades 3-5. They meet after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays where they discuss a theme for the day and exercise as a group. It's a great opportunity for the girls to

go over topics like being a good friend to others, showing empathy, and thinking positively about themselves. Then they do running activities outside that are more like games than running laps. The girls also complete a community service project at one of the final practices,

Continued on page 14



Twenty-two young women in eighth through twelfth grade attended the afternoon tea and sat among beautiful pink, white, and green décor, each with a religious sister at her table on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Catholic in Recovery

Holy Redeemer Parish in Kensington now hosts the first "Catholic in Recovery" meeting in the Washington DC metro area. Catholic in Recovery is a fully Catholic recovery fellowship, modeled after standard 12-step programs, like AA, that exists to serve those suffering from addictions, compulsions and unhealthy attachments. The HR "CIR" meeting is open to all who are seeking recovery, one day at a time, as well as their spouses, parents, and adult children. Whether you're suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction, gambling addiction, food addiction, lust addiction, codependency, or seeking help as a loved one is suffering, you are most welcome. Meetings are held each week, on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the community room, in the lower level of the church. Questions? email Paige at paige@paigerien.com or call 917-699-1425. You can also learn more about "CIR" at catholicinrecovery.com

OPT



Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis Helps Bring Eucharistic Devotion to Young People

By Amy Sapenoff Hamm

Carlo Acutis is a saint for our times. He was an Italian teenager who died from leukemia at the age of 15 in 2006. During his short life on Earth, he fostered an intense Eucharistic devotion. As he said, "The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven". Merging his devotion with his millennial talents and interests, he created an online database that cataloged every recorded Eucharistic miracle.

According to a press release issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops last Spring, "Blessed Carlo Acutis... offered his sufferings for the Church and for the Holy Father, and Pope Francis has called him a role model for young people. He was beatified in 2020 and is one of the intercessors for the national Eucharistic Revival, a multi-year initiative by the bishops of the United States to reinvigorate devotion in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist."



Blessed Carlo Acutis

Acutis is a saint for our times, not just because he loved technology and wore jeans and sneakers, but because of his love for Jesus in the Eucharist. The domestic Church has called for a National Eucharistic Revival. The website for the Revival cites the fact that, "Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith in the celebration of the

Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist." Carlo Acutis has been named one of the patrons for the Revival.

The Revival is currently in its Diocesan phase and will soon move the parish level.

Continued on page 18



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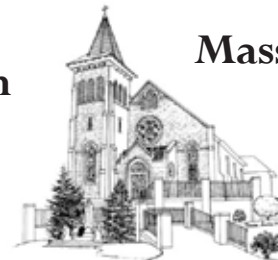
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Mass Schedule

Saturday
July 29
4:00 pm



Country Store, White Elephant,
Crafts, Baked Goods, Snack Bar,
Live Music of "Sookey Jump"

Carry-outs and tent with outdoor
seating available

All are Welcome!

Saturday, July 29 – \$20
148th Annual Chicken Dinner Noon - 6 pm (or until sold out)
Jousting Tournament 1 pm - 4 pm
Maryland's State Sport
Delicious Barbequed Chicken Dinner



Spring Happenings at St. Elizabeth's



ABOVE: Eighth-grade students pose in their red confirmation gowns outside of the Church.



ABOVE: God bless our newly confirmed as the Holy Spirit continues to guide them in the faith!

RIGHT: Festive dance played a key role in this year's Multicultural Day celebration.



LEFT: Many students wore traditional dress to showcase their culture and heritage.



LEFT: Some of our youngest learners check out the fire truck up close.

BELOW: Headed towards the open road!



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The Spring is full of life at St. Elizabeth's as we celebrate many sacraments, community events and long-standing traditions.

We want to offer a special congratulations to the St. Elizabeth class of 2023 confirmands! We are so proud of you for taking the next step in your faith journey. May the Lord bless you and keep you!

We recently had a wonderful time celebrating the many customs and cultures represented at St. Elizabeth School during our Multicultural Day event. Students sampled foods, watched an international fashion show, and participated in dances and songs from around the world.

Finally, what fun to join in one of the most loved traditions at St. Elizabeth School, the Rex Reed Truck Touch. It's the day when we fill our parking lot with all means of transportation. This year we had everything from a 1929 Model A, emergency vehicles, a snow removal shovel, tractors, and even a horse!

We're looking forward to more faith-filled and celebratory events as the school year winds down.



Alexander Aharonian
Georgetown
Preparatory School



Sophie Alexander
Connelly School of
the Holy Child



Kaylee Balow
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Felipe Behr
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Joshua Bohr
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Garrett Bragg
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Alaina Burchick
Stone Ridge School
of the Sacred Heart



Christopher Caicedo-Borja
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Jack Clark
Gonzaga College
High School



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Bullis



Gabriel Cox
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High School



Alessandro del Canto
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Preparatory School



Alexandre Delahaye-Anero
St. John's College
High School



Gary Diaz
Walter Johnson
High School



Jack Doherty
Georgetown
Preparatory School



St. Elizabeth Catholic School

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Monsignor J. Wilfrid Parent *Pastor*



Theo Ducoudret
St. John's College
High School



Kate Falchek
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Molly Feldman
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Charles Finnegan
Richard Montgomery
High School



Sophia Garner
Bishop Kearney
High School



Jace Gillette
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Emma Greaser
Stone Ridge School
of the Sacred Heart



Javier Hernandez-Rodriguez
Northwest High School



John Pierce Hodgson
Jesuit High School



Abigail Holcomb
Georgetown Visitation
Preparatory School



Nathan Kirvan
Gonzaga College
High School



Gavin Kraft
Richard Montgomery
High School



Mack Leary
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Nadia Licamele
Georgetown Visitation
Preparatory School



Emily Lill
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Matthew Locraft
Winston Churchill
High School



Nala MacFarland
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Counsel High School



Chase Mayhew
St. John's College
High School



Christopher Mercado
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Michael Mercado
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Tyler Morgan
Undecided



Brendan Murphy
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Sophia Murray
Connelly School of
the Holy Child



Xandel Okwa
DeMatha Catholic
High School



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Georgetown
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Brady Sadorra
The Heights School



Javier Salinas
Our Lady of Good
Counsel High School



Liam Santa Cruz
St. John's College
High School



Giulia Serra
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Dean Sheldon
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High School



Chaselyn Sowards
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Counsel High School



Abigail Tan
St. John's College
High School



Alec Valencia
Gonzaga College
High School

SHORT

Con't from page 1

ful to Amy Sapenoff Hamm for expanding her role on the OPT editorial staff this year. We thank parish staff and volunteers in a special way for their enduring support in assisting parishes in the return to normalcy after the pandemic. Through last year and this, musicians and choirs have returned; youth and social ministries have been reactivated; the pews are filling with faithful parishioners; and the pages of OPT are brimming again with photos and

stories of current school and parish news. It's been a blessed year for Montgomery County parishes!

Congratulations to our Catholic school graduates for their commitment to integrating their Catholic faith into their outstanding education. Please excuse my point of privilege here. I have been waiting eighteen years to write these words as my grandchildren graduate. **We are proud of you and love you Casey and Mary Grace!** We wish them, and all graduates, success as future Catholic leaders. Their parents and parishioners have made substantial sacrifices to sup-

port Catholic school education as have Catholic school teachers and staff who have embraced their work as a mission in service not only to their students, but to the Church and parishes as well.

And congratulations to new Catholics who joined the Church at Easter and to those who have received First Communion and Confirmation. We welcome and celebrate each of you with great joy.

The summer months promise rest and joy with more time for family and friends. Moving at a slower pace provides opportunities to reflect on our faith. The coming year will

surely bring new challenges and opportunities for all. Using this summer's respite to reflect on our faith life and how we lived it last year is an ideal exercise to prepare us for renewal in September.

Activity is the operative word. Our faith is the dynamic presence of Jesus in each of us. His Word and the example of His life are the ultimate Catholic Verbs. Jesus was an activist, and every aspect of His teachings calls us to action. For reflection this summer, consider focusing on three of Jesus's most common and illustrative activities: **Worship, Forgiveness, and Service.**

Each Sunday throughout the summer, we will worship. In the Gospels, Christ often prayed to His Father. We know He kept the Sabbath like all good Jews, yet we find him conversing with His Father often at different times and places. He sought the Father's advice, blessing, and consolation and offered His gratitude. With more personal time in the summer, adding a bit more worship will sanctify our lives. Consider visiting worship sites such as other parish churches. The beauty and diversity of our local Catholic Churches remind us of the principle of unity Christ envisioned for His church. A visit to the National Basilica and its many chapels will thrill the senses and inspire the soul. A drive north to Emmitsburg to visit the Lourdes Grotto and the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton will add a pastoral peace to worship. And if history brings you joy, a visit to the birthplace of American Catholicism in Southern Maryland with its many historic chapels will awaken your spirit.

Forgiveness is an activity that brings us face to face with one of Christ's most challenging commands. How often in the Gospels do we witness the actions of Christ in forgiving others. Even to the most humiliating and painful end, Jesus forgave. No grudges, no revenge. Only love. The activity of forgiveness can take days, even years. Without forgiveness, we cannot experience the complete presence of the Risen Lord. What a pity! There are few Christian requirements more difficult than genuine forgiveness. Summer days with less stress may be ideal times to seek or practice forgiveness for lingering, and hurtful offenses. Among the most blessed deeds we can bring to our Savior is loving forgiveness of others.

Finally, the activity of **service**. Surely summer is a time of rest and play. However, remembering that the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters don't go on holiday. Many wonderful parish and school service programs take the summer off. The suffering of others may fade from our view. Allowing time to share our break with those in need will enable everyone to enjoy the summer months more. Perhaps visiting an elderly, isolated person once a week, or volunteering at Catholic Charities or a local food pantry will brighten the summer for you and for others. The world is mired in dreary news. Goodness and kind deeds are the antidote and each of us can act to bring Good News to others. If you are not currently involved in community service, the summer is a good time to reflect and pray over the types of service activities you may wish to pursue with renewed vigor in the fall.

Christ **worshiped** His Father, **forgave** us our sins, and humbly **served** the people he met, strangers, friends, and enemies alike. Reflecting upon Jesus's life of action offers us an agenda for a blessed summer.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer! God Bless!

Chuck Short
(cshort5@verizon.net)



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A Busy Month of May at Mary of Nazareth!



The eighth graders celebrated their last May Crowning before they become MoN graduates!

The month of May isn't yet halfway done, but has already been action packed! Mary of Nazareth students kicked off the month of May honoring the Blessed Mother in several different May Crowning events. This included a school wide Crowning and mass, a special moment for the eighth grade students to participate in their last May Crowning before heading off to high school, and individual classroom May Crownings. Our students have been on the go this month with field trips and special events. A real highlight was the fourth grade field trip to Annapolis where students had the opportunity to meet Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Other events included a day celebrating the third grade's Annual Giving contributions with ultimate frisbee and popsicles and an early Mother's Day Tea Party. Our student musicians did a phenomenal job with their spring band concert and our faculty was fêted with a Teacher Appreciation Week breakfast spread. We look forward to our upcoming Spirit Day and to saying goodbye to our eighth graders at graduation!

OPT



ABOVE: Fourth-grade students were able to meet Governor Wes Moore on their recent field trip to Annapolis.

LEFT: Some classes at Mary of Nazareth celebrated the month of May with their own special classroom May Crownings.



ABOVE: Festive attire was a must for our early Mother's Day Tea Party.



RIGHT: Many thanks to the families that helped to honor our faculty during teacher appreciation week with a beautiful breakfast spread!

BELOW: Third grade celebrated their fundraising accomplishment in the Annual Giving campaign with ultimate frisbee and popsicles.



ABOVE: Music was in the air as students enjoyed listening to their peers perform in the spring band concert.

Mary of Nazareth

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Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg;
St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the
Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the
Visitation, Darnestown.

SESSION

Con't from page 2

opposition from Marylanders.

Laura Bogley, President of Maryland Right to Life, said MDRTL worked diligently to provide robust opposition to this flawed legislation through lobbying, expert witness testimony, and a massive grassroots campaign of emails and phone calls which resulted in 19,469 messages of opposition being sent to legislators over the course of the session. Maryland Right to Life thanked its supporters for defeating the bill. Ms. Bogley continued, "We wish to thank our allies in this endeavor including strategic opposition partners, respected physicians, the faith community, and member advocates across the state. Your voice was

instrumental in protecting vulnerable citizens including the disabled, poor, and elderly from this extreme legislation which would have put them at risk of suicide or even involuntary euthanasia."

Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act

This bill was designed to protect women from being coerced into having abortions and would have helped women escape sex-trafficking. Statistics show that violence of varying degrees, even murder, is perpetrated against 65% of pregnant women who resist the pressure to have an abortion.

The bill strengthens the idea of choice for women, which makes one think this bill can't be controversial since both pro-abortion and pro-life legislators would be work-

ing to support women in difficult situations and it would swiftly be approved by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.

The bill would greatly reduce the number of abortions and the revenue abortion generates. Democrat legislators who are pro-abortion control the Legislature and they prevented a vote on the bill.

HB 705/SB798 Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty

Ms. Bogley's comments about this bill were: "Democrat lawmakers made it their top priority to pass this bill to create a fundamental right to abortion in the Constitution of the State of Maryland. The law will implement a ballot question in the November 2024 General Election, asking voters by a sim-

ple majority to amend the state Constitution. While 'reproductive freedom' is not defined in the state statute, there is no question that such an amendment would all but prohibit legislative restrictions on abortion, including prohibitions on late term and partial birth abortions. The bill will establish a monopoly of the abortion industry over women's reproductive health and limit women's access to lifesaving alternatives, including pregnancy resource centers.

"Beginning now, it will take the full strength of a united pro-life community in Maryland to raise public awareness and get out the vote to oppose this deadly amendment."

It is not too soon to start praying that this ballot question is defeated.

The struggle continues.

OPT



Maxine Adofa
Academy of the Holy Cross



Robert Antonetti
St. Andrew's Episcopal School



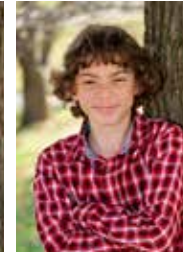
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St. Bernadette School Fun Run is a Success!

St. Bernadette School hosted their annual school wide booster event, a Fun Run on Wednesday, May 10. The day included both a shorter fun run for the younger students grades pre-K-4 and a color fun for the older kids grades 5-8. The explosive event featured fast times, lots of cheering, and a great time had by all. Having met their registration goals, students were even able to turn Mr. Ewanciw into a mummy at the end of the afternoon!

OPT



ABOVE:
Classmates
showed their
spirit by wav-
ing their class-
room flag.

TOP RIGHT: A group of students modeling the brightly pigmented color run dust.

ABOVE LEFT: A post color-run selfie

RIGHT: Mr. Ewanciw celebrating a great day with the student mummy wrappers.

St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. K.
Bartholomew Smith, Pastor
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St. Bernadette School
Mr. Ted Ewanciw, Principal
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All the St. Bernadette first communicants with pastor Msgr. Smith. As Msgr. Smith wrote in his weekly bulletin column, "First Holy Communion is my favorite Mass of the year, and after practicing last Sunday with this year's kids, I can say that they are ready and eager for the great gift that will both feed them and guide them for the rest of their lives, God willing."

GIRLS

Don't from page 3

working together as a team to think of a group of people they would like to help and how they can do something kind for them.

At the end of the 10 weeks of practice, their skills are highlighted at a 5K event at Westfield Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, where all of the Montgomery County schools with a Girls on the Run team attend the huge affair complete with music, dancing, and

cheering crowds. It is fun to see all the girls from across the county come together to celebrate all that they have worked on and learned throughout the season. The girls walk away with pride in themselves for finishing a 5K running event as well as the tools for showing compassion and kindness to others.

The coaches and students sign up again and again for GOTR because of the important, positive messages that are discussed... and because it is fun!

OPT

SAINT BERNADETTE

A Pre-K – Grade 8 Catholic School



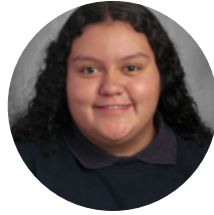
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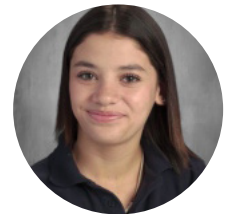
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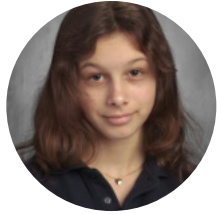
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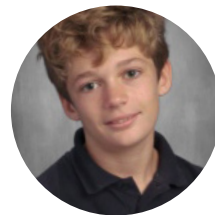
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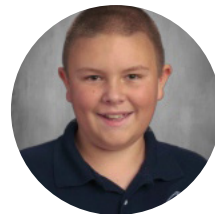
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ENROLLING PRE-K – GRADE 8

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Spring has Sprung in Saint Mary's Kindergarten!

By Kathleen Morris

St. Mary's Kindergarten is a wonderful place to grow, in more ways than one! In addition to a large, bright classroom, the kindergarten also has many classroom pets, including turtles, guinea pigs, and a bearded dragon, to name a few. Another feature of the kindergarten classroom is their outdoor courtyard.



ABOVE: Fourth graders and kindergartners show off the seeds ready to be planted.

In early spring, the St. Mary's School Kindergarten class began preparing their outdoor classroom: garden bed labs for science exploration. The kindergarten classroom is adjacent to a

Continued on page 17



ABOVE: Fourth graders and kindergartners pull weeds from the garden beds to prep them for new seedlings

TOP: The Eagle Scout project team with the newly restored statue of the Blessed Mother.

LEFT: Fourth-grader Brayden Robinson works hard to dig up the soil in the plant beds.

Dancing the Night Away at the 2023 Father Daughter Dance

By Kathleen Morris

Saint Mary's was pleased to host the 2023 Father Daughter Dance on Friday, March 24th. Daughters and their dads, uncles, grandfathers, stepdads, and other special male figures joined in the fun! There was a DJ present to play some of the students' favorite jams, as well as dance contests and prizes awarded. This year's dance theme was "Under the Sea".

In addition to the dancing, there was a photo booth, with professional photography by Mrs. Rachel Garay, and a nail bar, where daughters chose their favorite colors and designs. Daughters and their dance partners took a break from the dancing and snacked on delicious pizza, cookies, and other refreshments.

Saint Mary's hosts this special event each year to foster an idea for our young girls of how they should expect to be treated by others as they grow up. It is a time for fathers and daughters to share a dance and make memories. The dance is a wonderful moment to share the love and guidance that girls receive from



First grader Kate Morris, Third Grader Caroline Morris, and their dad, Matt, pose in the photo booth.

the important men in their lives.

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped to make the 2023 Father Daughter Dance possible!

OPT



Our First Communicants are all smiles with Fr. Glasgow

A Joyous Day of Love: Second Graders Celebrate Their First Communion

By Kathleen Morris

On May 6, 2023, the second-grade students at St. Mary's celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion, surrounded by their families and the St. Mary's Community. The second-grade students had been preparing for

this day for over a year, learning about the Holy Eucharist in school, in Mass, at home, and in prayer. St. Mary's teaches their students about the sacrifice of Jesus and the Transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Pope Francis has called the Eucharist the "Sacrament of love", saying, "The Eucharist is at the heart of 'Christian Initiation', together with Baptism and Confirmation, and it constitutes the source of the Church's life itself. From this Sacrament of love, in fact, flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness."

Monsignor Amey was the celebrant for the Mass, but many more

Continued on page 18

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Saint Mary's Drama Department Presents: *A Year with Frog and Toad*

Saint Mary's School was overjoyed and extremely proud to present the 2023 musical: *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Based on the classic books by Arnold Lobel, *A Year with Frog and Toad* tells the story of two best friends: the upbeat Frog and the less enthusiastic Toad, and their mishaps and adventures throughout the four seasons of the year. The Saint Mary's community was blown away by the amazing talents of the cast and crew, everything drew the audience in, from the music to the sets!

Frog, played by sixth-grader Alexa Sadowy and his best friend Toad, played by seventh-grader Ganda Nantulya, wake up from hibernation in the Spring. Together, Frog and Toad

celebrate the seasons and holidays, navigating the ups and downs of friendship and learning lessons along the way.

A Year with Frog and Toad was a big hit on Broadway and was nominated for three Tony Awards. The music is infectious and catchy, and the audience could not look away during the three shows performed over the weekend of April 21-23.

Thank you to the amazing students and families that worked on-stage and behind the scenes to make this musical so successful. We look forward to the drama department's next production in 2024!

OPT



Some of the cast of *A Year with Frog and Toad* performing a scene.

SPRING

Con't from page 16

large courtyard, which is perfect for planting and observing the growth of plants, vegetables, and flowers. Mrs. Kelly Sweet and Mrs. Mary Kate Davis led the young scientists in their gardening endeavors.

Over the next several weeks, the kindergarten students were hard at work during their science classes. Kindergartners learned how to pick weeds, plant seeds, supply new soil, use garden tools and mulch the outdoor classroom. Mrs. Sweet taught her class about the life cycle of a seed and all of the things that plants need to thrive.

While preparing their garden beds, the Kindergartners discovered some delicious purple potatoes! The students harvested the potatoes, cut, and roasted them, and enjoyed eating them, with and without ketchup.

The courtyard is getting some improvements from eighth grader Sarah Desantos, as well. Sarah is working to include some benches for devotion to St. Mary as a part of her Eagle Scout project! What a generous act of kindness from a wonderful role model for our Kindergartners.

By the first week of May, the outdoor garden bed labs were ready to be planted with various plants, seedlings, and seeds. This fall, St. Mary's students are looking forward to harvesting tomatoes, cabbages, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, radishes, lettuce, peas, beans, squash, purple and red potatoes, herbs, sunflowers, and a variety of butterfly pollinators. This spring has been a very exciting time for the young scientists!

OPT



**The faculty and staff of St. Mary's School, Rockville, MD
would like to congratulate St. Mary's Class of 2023**

Students accepted at these schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross, The Avalon School,
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Richard Montgomery High School, St. John's Catholic Prep,
St. John's College High School, Wheaton Edison High School



**Our Parish
Times Online**

ENZLER*Con't from page 1*

my parents and my family, but it also came from seeing the priests at my home parish, Our Lady of Lourdes. I watched them serve our community and our school, which was no small task. The school was huge during the baby boom. I had 140 classmates in eighth grade – 73 boys in one classroom and 67 girls in the other.

We were visited, encouraged, watched over, and assisted by so many priests during that time. I know their example influenced my eventual decision to become a parish priest and do what I could to help others experience what I did growing up in a vibrant parish.

Over the last 50 years, I have also spent a good deal of time ministering in archdiocesan jobs, including the CYO from 1979-1990, development from 1995 through 2011, and Catholic Charities these last 12 years. I have also been blessed to serve in several Montgomery County parishes, including St. Jane de Chantal, Little Flower, Our Lady of Mercy, Blessed Sacrament (on the border with D.C.), and St. Bartholomew's.

All those parishes were great gifts. It wasn't so much the rectories or the beautiful churches, though I appreciated those. I was inspired much more by the people living such faithful lives in those parishes – and many other parishes I have visited and where I have friends.

Watching young people grow up, and watching parents raise those young people. Watching the dedication of those taking care of their own parents as they age. Watching people handle with grace and faith the most joyous times and most difficult times. To be a part of those moments and a part of these parish families is a gift I will always treasure.

It's fitting that *Our Parish Times* is all about transitions. We're celebrating First Communions in all our parishes. Confirmation is taking place either this spring or early next fall. Graduations from preschools to PhDs. Marriages, which were smaller and more difficult during the pandemic, are taking place again in big numbers. Funerals are also growing more frequent in my

life as longtime friends are called home to the Lord.

These transitions are part of life itself, and parishes shine when we are asked to help people take a step forward on their sacramental journeys through Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, or Funerals. Those sacramental occasions bring us together in prayer and celebration of faith. They remind us that we try to live our lives as best we can and to be active in the Church, and then when God calls, we will be ready to go to our eternal home with him.

In addition to celebrating 50 years of priesthood, I have my own transition this year: On July 1, I will step down as president and CEO of Catholic Charities. I will be succeeded by a wonderful new

leader, Jim Malloy, who grew up in St. Bernadette's and St. John the Baptist parishes in Silver Spring. I will continue to help Catholic Charities while also taking on a new role as chaplain at St. John's College High School beginning in August. And I will still be active in many other ways as well, continuing to do all I can as a priest as I start a new chapter in service of the Lord.

Thank you to all at the parishes I have served and indeed all the parishes in Montgomery County for being such great supporters of CYO, Catholic Charities, and all of us priests who serve you as best we can. We are blessed in our assignments to serve you, and we hope you are blessed through the commitment and ministry of so many priests who do their best every day to bring God into your life.

Thanks for praying for me as I celebrate 50 years as a priest. And thank you for being such a strong inspiration in all I am called to do.

OPT

RELIC*Con't from page 3*

The culmination of this multi-year event will be a National Eucharistic Congress to be held in the summer of 2024. More information can be found at eucharisticrevival.org

Several area parishes and organizations have hosted a traveling exhibit, entitled "Eucharistic Miracles of the World", which is based on Acutis' work on Eucharistic miracles and is complete with relics of the young Blessed. It is a real tool in helping to bring people to Christ through the Eucharist, aligning perfectly with the goals of the National Eucharistic Revival.

OPT

COMMUNION*Con't from page 16*

people in the St. Mary's Community helped the students along the way: Second grade teacher Mrs. Jacqueline Means, Father James, Mrs. Oyster, Mrs. Eisel, and Mrs. Finnell, just to name a few. The second-grade students wore white dresses and suits to acknowledge the welcoming of Jesus in their bodies and souls through the Holy Eucharist.

The First Holy Communion Class of 2023 includes: Victoria Benitez, Victoria Castro, Lucas Cardoza, Noah Dustin, Elena Huppmann, Milo Oradei, Mary Ortiz, Conor Philpott, Nicholas Sanchez, and Jonathan Sickles.

Congratulations to the second-grade students and their families on this joyous occasion! They look forward to celebrating the Holy Eucharist in Mass each week.

Springtime and celebrating First Communion with our second graders is an excellent reminder that we should praise and thank God for the wonderful gift of the Holy Eucharist every time we receive Communion.

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Michael Lodovico Brown	Joseph Dominick Romasco
Ian Alejandro Casco	Nicolas Pereira E Silva
Luca Contini	David Patrick Sorensen
Maximillian Fraser Downey	Károly MacLean Teleki
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Eli Jawan Jackson	



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BROOKEWOOD'S GRADUATES

Cristina Isabel Aldrette	Allison Barbara Hunt
Elisabeth Jane Bajwa	Elif Özaydın
Rebecca Marie Barnes	Abigail Rakow
Isha Bhandary	Lucia Rosa
Genesis Yahfyah Cifuentes	Nadia Haynes Ruhlmann
Molly Grace Collins	Lillian Solomon
Benedetta De Marchi	Gabrielle Ellen Stanley
Anna Maria Ferrante	Morgan Claire Harrison
Grace Than Marie Htay	Touchette
	Lydia Ruth Valentine

Around the World in 90 Minutes!

Sixth-grade students at Holy Cross hosted an around-the-world tour in Lewis Hall on April 27 for International Night. This annual event had, like many things, been a casualty of covid restrictions over the past few years, but the much-loved event was reinstituted to the delight of our school community.

Each student selected a country of study, most with some connection to their family's heritage. Students dressed in traditional outfits to present their research, showcased on trifold presentation boards. Food, music, souvenirs, and other items of interest made for lively conversations.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles had worked with our students to cook or bake delectable treats, which they served as guests circulated around the room. Fare included pupusas from El Salvador, German Bratwurst, Hong Shao Niu Rou--braised beef--from China, curried chicken and rotis from Trinidad; Gruyere cheese from Switzerland, Ambasha from Ethiopia . . . the list is long. No one went home hungry!

An array of traditional costumes worn by students added to the festivities: a jaunty straw hat and Guayabera from Cuba; a fustanella folk kilt traditionally worn by male dancers in Greece; several colorful headdresses; traditional tangzhuang or Tang suits from China; a colorful, beautifully embroidered Traje de Lavradeira of Portugal; and, more!

"It was a lovely evening," said principal, Mrs. Kane. "The students' enthusiasm to share their family's heritage was contagious. So many people worked to make it a success, and it was wonderful to have the Holy Cross School tradition back!"

OPT



ABOVE: A student modeled traditional elements of dress as she presented on Zimbabwe.



RIGHT: So much to learn about Portugal!



LEFT: Welcome to China!



BELOW: Sixth-grade buddies show off Greece and German facts and culture.

Godspeed, Mrs. Foley, and Thank You!

1978 was quite a year! Garfield, which eventually became the world's most widely syndicated comic strip, debuted in forty-one U.S. newspapers. The first Home Depot Store opened in Mariot, Georgia. The CBS soap opera, Dallas, premiered making J.R. Ewing a household name. James Michener's novel, *Chesapeake*, began an 18-week run on top of the Publisher's Weekly best-seller list. It was also the year Betsy Foley began her teaching career with the Archdiocese of Washington.]

Sister Anne Elizabeth Beringer, a teacher at her alma mater, Trinity College, inspired Mrs. Foley to pursue a career in Fine Arts education. She taught her students that when one works with God, nothing can go wrong.



Mrs. Betsy Foley is retiring after a forty-five-year career teaching in the Archdiocese of Washington.

After graduating from Trinity with a Bachelor of Science in Arts Education, Mrs. Foley was offered a teaching position at Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, a position she held until 2018. There, she taught Art as well as Science to First through Third grades. In 1992, after earning a master's degree from Trinity College and becoming a state-certified Reading Specialist, Mrs. Foley began teaching reading in small groups for First through Fourth Grade.

Mrs. Foley received the Cardinal Baum Award in 1991 as well as The Knights of Columbus Monsignor O'Donnell Teacher of the Year Award in 1998.

Holy Cross was blessed the day that Mrs. Foley chose to join our faculty in 2018. All of her students look forward to Art class as the highlight of their day and produce incredible masterpieces, which are proudly displayed on bulletin boards throughout the school. She is equally loved by her colleagues who admire her talent and value her friendship. Mrs. Foley has always believed that teaching children is a vocation and has always been mindful of something Malala Yousafzai said: "One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world."

At the end of this school year, after forty-five years of loyal service and inspiration, Mrs. Foley will retire. As a teacher, she did in fact change our world. We are in awe of her contributions to the Archdiocese of Washington and her students. And, while the farewell will be bittersweet, we will be happy knowing that our friend will be enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

OPT



ABOVE: Dr. Mariana Miah-Zoeter (left) and pianist Ann Bartlow (right) pose with the Holy Cross Choir after the spring concert on the evening of May 4th.



RIGHT: The Holy Cross Choir performed for the school community during an afternoon dress rehearsal.

A Round of Applause for the Holy Cross Choir

Holy Cross music teacher, Dr. Mariana Miah-Zoeter and piano accompanist, Ann Bartlow, helped the Holy

Cross Choir show their talents by singing two and three-part harmonies in a medley of rounds

Continued on page 39

Holy Cross Parish

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Holy Cross School

Lisa Maio Kane, Principal
301-949-0053

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

Holy Cross Teacher Wins Prestigious Golden Apple Award

By Christine Zalewski, Director of Development and Admissions at Holy Cross School

As the quarterly student awards assembly was coming to an end, Mrs. Kane announced that one more award was to be given that morning. Suddenly, a team of leaders from the Catholic Schools Office, along with photographers and reporters streamed into Lewis Hall. Anne Dillon, CSO Assistant Superintendent of School Operations and Student Services, took the microphone to announce that Mrs. Lurana Hogan had been named a Golden Apple Award winner! The atmosphere was electric as students and faculty cheered, applauded, and raised golden pom-poms in the air as Mrs. Hogan made her way to the podium!

consistently provides one on one feedback to ensure that instruction is highly detailed and individualized. Her students are accomplished, and oftentimes, award-winning writers as they conclude their elementary school education. As the seventh-grade homeroom teacher, Mrs. Hogan and her class begin each day with a decade of the rosary and a morning offering written by St. Francis de Sales.

Mrs. Hogan earned an M.Ed. from Marymount University, where she was invited to join the Delta

Continued on page 26

Congratulations on 21 Years of Priestly Ordination!

Reverend Mathias Njong celebrated his 21st sacerdotal anniversary on Tuesday, April 4 at Holy Cross Church in Garrett Park, Maryland. To honor the day, Father Mathias was greeted by friends at the 8:30 a.m. daily mass.

Father Mathias was ordained in Cameroon and was in-residence at Holy Cross while he studied at Christendom College. He returned to Cameroon for a short while but was recently reassigned to Holy Cross Church to assist



Continued on page 39

A crowd gathers to celebrate Fr. Njong's ordination anniversary.



Mrs. Hogan was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the awards assembly.

Since joining Holy Cross School as the lead teacher in the second-grade in 2004 and then transitioning to Middle School Language Arts in 2016, Mrs. Hogan has consistently exhibited teaching excellence by creating a student-centered environment that strives to achieve each student's full potential while continuously modeling and nurturing a positive attitude toward life-long learning. Above all, Mrs. Hogan demonstrates her dedication to Catholic education by embracing Holy Cross School's guiding principles of "Faith, Scholarship and Service" in all of her encounters with parents, colleagues, and most importantly, her students.

During her tenure as the second-grade teacher, Mrs. Hogan helped hundreds of students grow in their faith and develop their relationship with Jesus as she prepared them for the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Mrs. Hogan's commitment to teaching excellence shines as she now develops the writing skills of our Middle School students in a wide range of genres. Mrs. Hogan sets clear expectations regarding form, content and organization and



Congratulations 2023 Graduates



Sebastian Amador
St. John's



Kinsley Beckham
Holy Cross



Vivian Blue
Holy Cross



Felix Bueno
Montgomery Blair



Madyson Butcher
Good Counsel



Taylor Chapman
St. John's



Sasha Deyonou
Albert Einstein



Seth Friedman
Good Counsel



Aria Furlow
Georgetown Visitation



William Geohagan
DeMatha



Angelina Harper
Good Counsel



Stephan Mathurin
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Connor Munson
St. John's



Christopher Rattavadee
DeMatha



Liz Saracuzza
Good Counsel



Lucia Talledo-Letts
Undecided



Isabel Thomas
Thomas S. Wootton



Brandon Washington
Sidwell Friends



Josiah Williams
St. John's



From the choir loft: First Communicants, Priests, and Teachers



Caroline Capobianco receives Holy Communion from Father Hughes

A Perfect Vigil for First Holy Communion: Blessed Carlo Acutis' The Eucharistic Miracles of the World

First Friday found Holy Redeemer School and Parish reflecting on Christ's true presence in the Holy Eucharist just as 54 second graders were preparing to receive their First Holy Communion on Saturday. The traveling exhibit, The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, features miracles cataloged on a website created by teen programmer, Carlo Acutis. A daily communicant, Carlo brought many people back to

Christ and converted previous non-believers during his short life. He was beatified in October 2020. Students visited the exhibit which includes a First Class Relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis. The exhibit remained open to parishioners throughout the day.

On Saturday, fifty-four second-graders assembled at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church to celebrate their First Holy Communion. Carefully instructed by their church and school

religious education teachers, Mrs. Hurley and Mrs. Brady, these boys and girls approached the Eucharist firm in the knowledge that they were receiving the Body of Christ. Second Grade teachers Rebecca Rand, Stephanie Oertli, Kelly Horning and Religious Education Director Marylou McDonald supported the students in their preparation and joined in the festive Holy Eucharist, so specially celebrated with Pastor Father Mark Hughes and

Parochial Vicar Father Kyle Vance. Music Minister Joe Ryan and school music teacher, Jeannie Breitenbach, brought the gift of music. They prepared the First Communicants to share a special act of devotion to Jesus with their families, by gathering at the altar steps to sing "Family" by David Howie. The sunshine-filled morning shone with love among family and hearts with abundant love to share.

OPT

His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory Presides at First Friday Mass and May Crowning of Our Blessed Mother

By Ann Enkiri

Holy Redeemer School and Parish were honored and delighted to welcome His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory as the celebrant of May's First Friday Mass. Concelebrants Pastor Mark Hughes and Parochial Vicar Kyle Vance respectively welcomed Cardinal Gregory and thanked His Eminence for presiding over the school's annual May Crowning of Our Blessed Mother. Four seventh graders devoutly acted as altar servers: Lila DeSarno, Ellie McCarthy, Beau Noyes, and Luke Breitenbach.

Music teacher Jeannie Breitenbach formed a special May Crowning Choir of seventeen students, chosen from second through eighth grades, to lead the congregation in songs of worship during Mass and in songs of praise during the May Crowning. Mrs. Breitenbach had taught the hymns to the entire student body so that everyone could lift their voices in song. Eighth-grader Molly Heafitz,



Wilton Cardinal Gregory with Mrs. Hurley, Altar Servers, May Crowning Choir, and Father Kyle

composed and reverent, served as the cantor. The sanctuary resounded with joy as Mass began with the gathering song, "Sing to the Mountains".

The Liturgy of the Word featured seventh-graders Caitlyn Matan and Lila Rienzo as lectors. Graduating students Kenrick St. Louis, the Bronston brothers, the Dominic brothers, Ford Deerin, Joe Fisher, and Tori Breitenbach along with seventh-graders Liam and Pen Fyock read the petitions. Father Kyle proclaimed the Gospel, after which Cardinal Gregory spoke beautifully about Mary and about mothers, painting a touching picture of Mary caring for Jesus and reminding us that Jesus has shared his perfect mother with each of us.

The Liturgy of the Holy

Eucharist was so beautiful with Cardinal Gregory, Father Hughes, and Father Kyle at the Table of the Lord. "Shout to the Lord" and "Taste and See" were the beautiful Communion hymns. Before the Dismissal, the May Crowning Prayer Service was led by eighth-graders Josh Ryan, Taylor Meringolo, and Liliana Marmor. Altar servers Owen Hastings and Patrick Morin brought the Mary statue up the altar steps as everyone sang "Immaculate Mary." Caitlyn Graham, the eighth-grader May Queen, and her second-grade assistant, MaryAnn Garayta, processed in while the choir led "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman." His Eminence Cardinal Gregory blessed the crown of flowers and after Caitlyn

Continued on page 30



Vice Principal Crimans with award-winning authors Lukas O'Neill, Margaret Bailey, Joshua Ryan, Danette Tilahun, Molly Heafitz, Luke Breitenbach

Second Annual Middle School Writing Contest

By Margie Davin

On April 25, family and friends gathered at the Writer's Center of Bethesda to celebrate the winners of Holy Redeemer's second annual Middle School Writing Contest. Entrants submitted an original short story or poem in March for initial judging by a panel comprised of HR teachers, admin-

Continued on page 30



Mr. Crimans with award-winning poets Maggie Noonan, Maria Argeris, Maeve Grant

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Mr. Thomas Corrigan,
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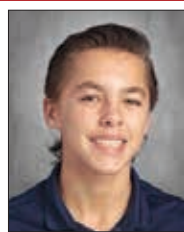
More Holy Redeemer News on Page 28



Victoria Maureen Breitenbach Faison
St. John's College High School
Sky's the limit.
Notorious B.I.G.



Mary Kathleen Breslin
Georgetown Visitation
ABCDEFGH I have to go.
Kourtney Kardashian



Bronston Thomas Brothers
St. John's College High School
Radical.
Chicken Joe



Dominick Paul Brothers
St. John's College High School
I'm the hardest working person I know.
Lindsay Lohan



Ryan Carter Brown
Gonzaga College High School
Funny. I guess destiny isn't the path chosen for us, but the path we choose for ourselves.
Megamind



Mary Margaret Cannon
Connelly School of the Holy Child
Let yourself feel the pride, but always stay humble and kind.
Tim McGraw



Ford Michael Deerin
Gonzaga College High School
It's not where you start, but where you finish that counts.
Zig Ziglar



Kate Emerson Draggon Dildine
Blair High School
I don't want to speak negativity into existence.
SZA

Congratulations

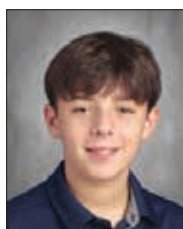
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Class of 2023 Graduates

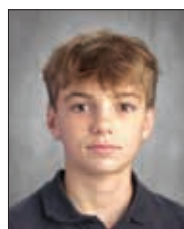
Father Mark F. Hughes, *Pastor* ■ Mr. Thomas Corrigan, *Principal*



Joseph Patrick Fisher
Gonzaga College High School
Don't judge a fish by its ability to walk.
Lewis Haffditz and Alex Vouk



Patrick Gilbert Garayta Jr.
Gonzaga College High School
I'm not superstitious, but I'm a little stitious.
Michael Scott



Brody Charles Glassle Gonella
St. John's College High School
Best 11 years of my life.
Me



Caitlin Rose Graham
St. John's College High School
For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
Jeremiah 29:11



Liam Christopher Grant
Gonzaga College High School
Living well eliminates the need for revenge.
Kanye



Molly Reagan Heafitz
Georgetown Visitation
It's kind of fun to do the impossible.
Walt Disney



Lewis Davis Haffditz
St. John's College High School
The man who asks a question is a fool for a minute, the man who does not ask is a fool for life.
Confucius



Savannah Marie Locke
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Inspiration does exist, but it must find you working.
Pablo Picasso



Eileen Mary Mahoney
Georgetown Visitation
When nothing goes right, go left.
Unknown



Liliana Grace Marmor
Connelly School of the Holy Child
Take my advice, live a better life.
Future



Bianca Amanda Martinez-Montes
St. John's College High School
Sometimes I'll start a sentence, and I don't even know where it's going. I just hope I find it along the way.
Michael Scott



Brigid Alice McCarthy
Georgetown Visitation
Be who you are and be that well.
Francis de Sales



Taylor Marsha Meringolo
St. John's College High School
The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
Eleanor Roosevelt



Liesl Emma Polich
Our Lady of Good Counsel
One thing about me .. imma do what I want. For certain. At all times.
SZA



Robert Thomas Quinn
Georgetown Preparatory School
You just can't beat the person who never gives up.
Babe Ruth



Tyler James Rand
St. John's College High School
I am the Italian Stallion.
Rocky Balboa



Charles Adam Rufe
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
If you have the opportunity to play this game of life you need to appreciate every moment. A lot of people don't appreciate the moment until it's passed.
Kanye West



Joshua Stuart Ryan
St. John's College High School
I guess money can buy you a giant tower, but it can't buy compassion and a love for overland travel.
Cool Tina



Alexander Charles Schaefer
Our Lady of Good Counsel
I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.
Albert Einstein



Jackson Thomas Secrest
St. John's College High School
You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.
Wayne Gretzky



Kenrick David Luke St. Louis
Gonzaga College High School
If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.
William Arthur Ward



Mary Carroll Tropea
St. John's College High School
TO FREEDOM
Nikki Minaj



Marcelo Vasquez
DeMatha
Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I assure you, it's much more serious than that.
Bill Shankly



Alexander Martini Vouk
The Heights
If you ain't first you're last.
Ricky Bobby



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Carnegie Mellon University



James Barnidge
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Luke Castro
Fairfax, VA
Georgetown University



Frederick Daley-Young
Washington, DC
University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Akhil Emmanuel
Gaithersburg, MD
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute



Justin Feira
Arlington, VA
College of William & Mary/ St. Andrews University



Henry Felgenhauer
Alexandria, VA
University of Chicago



Luke Gidley
Washington, DC
Georgetown University



Karl Hornyak
Bethesda, MD
Western Michigan University



Aidin Isaac
Washington, DC
Case Western Reserve University



Bruno Karpinski
Bowie, MD
Rochester Institute of Technology



Nathan Kidanemariam
Hyattsville, MD
University of Maryland, College Park



Daniel Landry
Silver Spring, MD
College of William & Mary



Warwick Lloyd
Alexandria, VA
Stanford University



Michael Lynch
Riverdale Park, MD
University of Maryland, College Park



Ziqi Mao
Bowie, MD
University of California, Davis



Brady McElroy
Cheverly, MD
St John's University, Minnesota



Daniel McKenzie
Germantown, MD
Case Western Reserve University



Jacob Murphy
Washington, DC
College of William & Mary



Varun Nadarajah
Hyattsville, MD
Virginia Commonwealth University



Max Ndjikinya
Washington, DC
Northeastern University



Jacob Onyewu
Bowie, MD
Drexel University



Connell Paxton
Kensington, MD
Worcester Polytechnic Institute



Braxton Peace
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Finian Powell
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Malachi Robinson
Capitol Heights, MD
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore



Jalen Thayer
Washington, DC
Case Western Reserve University



Josef Voglmayr
Washington, DC
Bates College



Dimitri Volcic
Chevy Chase, MD
Connecticut College



Marcus Washington
Waldorf, MD
Fordham University



Nicholas Weeks
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Loyola Maryland University



Darcy Welch
Washington, DC
Georgetown University



Yuanheng Yu
Bowie, MD
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KILMER

Con't from page 2

shared, reflecting on her last year of undergraduate work.

Working with Students for Life and engaging with so many classmates that did not share her pro-life convictions provided Julie with a key insight into what it really means to support the pro-life cause, "There were weeks that were really hard where I had to deal with a lot of hate and negativity from pro-choice students. It made me realize that being pro-life is of course about the unborn and their mothers, but it also has to be about ministering to those who support abortion and desiring their conversion. Ultimately I want them to get to Heaven too."

It wasn't until Julie called Angela Castano, who has recently started her own career at Centro Tepeyac, that the Executive Director position presented itself. Angela, a friend of Julie's sister, shared her experience of doing on the ground, person to person pro-life work. "As Angela told me more about the work of Centro Tepeyac, I knew that this was what I wanted to do," Julie said.

Julie's work at the center will begin in earnest in a few weeks, after she graduates from the University of Scranton, but she was able to attend the recent Centro Tepeyac gala, visit the center, and meet the board. She already has goals for what she would like to accomplish, but knows that the first step is to observe and listen. "I'm excited to try to expand to more

women, especially outside of the immediate Silver Spring area. I would also love to be able to offer more in-house services, rather than referrals, but really, I just want to get the word out to more people about the incredible work that we do and hopefully expand our network of support."

As she gets started on this new chapter, Julie feels the support from the board, her parents, and also the saints who she knows will accompany her in this task. "St. Josemaría Escrivá has been particularly instrumental for me, especially in helping to see that all the tasks in daily life are sacred and have meaning. I know that the daily work of the center may be mundane sometimes, but it still has value to God and can be done with joy."

OPT

McGANN

Con't from page 1

all common sense. However, what does love look like in the ordinary lives of mothers and children?

On long nights, after the dishes are done and the baby is in bed, you can feel the love as a mother sits at the kitchen table plodding through homework with a child who cries, "I don't get it!". It's the gentle reassurance that comes with, "You don't get it *yet*, but we'll keep working, and you will get it".

You can see mothers' love in their hands. Love is in her hands folded gently over tiny hands as they say bedtime prayers, hands that wipe noses and tears, hands that clap furiously after that first soccer goal

or that first band concert (difficult as it might have been to hear). Love is there when a mother smooths her teenage son's hair out of his eyes. She straightens his tie and briefly places both hands on his lapels before she sends him off to put on his cap and gown.

Those same hands held her baby girl the day she came into the world. On that day the love the mother had felt from the moment she knew she was pregnant came alive. She prayed for the grace she would need to do this most important job, not knowing how much she would need that grace over the years.

Hands that brush fevered brows and clean skinned knees; hands that point to the peas that need to be eaten and the toys that need to be picked up; hands that braid hair, and hold back despite wanting to fix things; hands that wring in worry when a teenager goes wrong; and hands that clench when a teacher or a coach underestimates or dismisses her child's efforts - these are the hands of a mother's love.

You can hear love in the painful truth that only a mother can give her child. You can hear it in the simplest things - in the word "now", and in the lullaby sung to a restless baby.

If you listen closely, you can hear love in a mother's prayers. She prays that her girl will make a friend, that her boy will be kinder to his siblings, that her grown son will get the job he so desperately needs, and she prays that her sons and daughters and their spouses will do a good job raising her grandchildren. She prays for the grace to keep her mouth shut when she thinks they could do better.

She prays for the strength to manage whatever comes her way - to be a good mother. Even as she prays, she knows deep down that, whatever happens, she'll handle what she's given. She'll do it with more prayer, and with the love that drives her to keep mothering until God decides she's done.

OPT

AWARD

Con't from page 21

Epsilon Sigma National Scholastic Honor Society. She holds Maryland State certification for Secondary English and as a Reading Specialist and is also a certified catechist. In 2014 the Knights of Columbus recognized Mrs. Hogan with the Monsignor O'Donnell Teacher of the Year Award. Mrs. Hogan generously gives of her time and talent by serving as the editor for Holy Cross School's submissions to the *Our Parish Times* publication.

Mrs. Hogan strives to build a wonderful rapport with her students, parents, and colleagues. She accomplishes all she does with a calming and graceful demeanor along with her own special brand of humor and wit. She is a highly skilled and inspirational Catholic educator and is truly deserving of the Golden Apple Award!

OPT



Congratulations

CLASS of 2023

Edgard Andres Abouchedid Velasquez

Xavier Bosco Anderson

Luke Fernando Archeval

Henry William Austin

Harrison Dossie Barkley

Isaac Baum

Jonathan Karol Berry

Ishaan Caldwell Breinig

Dennis Anthony Callahan

Michael Patrick Callahan

Jaydon Thomas Christen

Harrison Parker Combs

Peter Joseph Cooney

John Hendrik Xavier Maria Cremers

Sean Joseph Croarkin

Jacob Vincent DeAgostino

Oliver John Dettleff

Nicholas Jerome Diederich

David Philip Diller

Xavier Collins Escobar

Christopher Stephen Esquivel

Joseph Francis Ferguson

Connor Ignatius Flynn

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John Brinley Hermes

Ryan Junki Hong

Peter Andrew James

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John Paul Kilmer

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Brady Rich McCarthy

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Matias Nicolas Morra

Timothy Rafael Nava

Michele Pasquale Palombo

Eli Benjamin Patrick

Michael John Peppiatt

Ricardo Jose Ramos

Tyler Joseph Ramos

Kevin Charles Andrew Reed

Seamus Jeremiah Regan

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Congratulations, St. John's Graduates!

The Class of 2023 collectively earned more than \$32,000,000 in scholarships.

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De Guzman Alcantara*†
Kevin Maciel Aldridge*†
Caleb Thomas Altizer*†
Crista Nicole Amaya*
Josephine Parker Angevine*
Lauren Helen Archer*
Santiago Enrique Asturizaga*
Kahini Austin
Maria Jeffrey Ayoub*†
Karly Bacarissas
Elizabeth Joan Baechli*
Eamon Mayo Bainbridge*
Paula Balleste
Dylan Ban
Nicholas Omar Banks
James Max Barnacle
Vincent William Barranca
Timothy Glenn Barton, Jr.*
Bridget Erin Bayles
Brooke Alexandra Beebe
Caroline Scherer Behrens
Erin Shea Belson
Zoe Nathalie Beuzelin*
Spencer Francis Bevington
Lucas Michael Bichy*
Joshua Godfrey Bisher
Helen Elizabeth Bromley
Luca Christopher Brown*
Trent Daven Brown
Elizabeth Joy Browning
Zoe Elisabeth Buelken
Tyler Anna
William Barnes Burgess
Lauren Burgess
Josephine Rose Burke*
Gracious Ezekielle Cabrera*†
John Robert Dante Calandra*
Evan Mijares Cantelas †
William Martin Carlsen
Kestutis Carlson
John Peter Carney*
Mikaia Loren Carr
Charles Carroll Carter*†
Tyler Puglisi Cestone
Riley Matthew Chai-Onn*
Justin James Chan-Degroot*
Juliette Mai Chartrand
Carly Marie Christo*
Sophie Louise Churchill
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Alexander Emmanuel Kwame Cole
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Micah Wesley Cooper
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Evelyn Grace Cranston
Ni-Ann Michaela Jannette Cross*†
Mia Felicia D'Augustine
Rohan Orlando Lloyd Davy, Jr.
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Mark Joseph DeLuca
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Willem Pieter DeSimone
Gabriel Andrew Digges
Melanie Christine D. Dmytrijuk*
Sean Patrick Donovan*†
Eva Marie LeDeaux Doomes*†
Griffin James Dorman
John Henry DuFour*
Olivia Rose DuFour*
Niles Desmond Dunham
Alina Laree Edgecombe*
Ah'kei Jibril Edwards
McKenzie Juliana Ennis*

Brendan Patrick Erickson*†
Liam Maguire Erickson*†
Ebunoluwa Favour Fabunmi*
Claire Margaret Feehan
Mackenzie Grace Feeney*
Sean Patrick Finnegan
Peyton Shawn Fitzpatrick
Thomas Finn Flaherty*
Josiah Doyle Flanner*
Andrew Jean-Michel Francis*
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Sofia Ofelia Gonzalez
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Meredith Paige Gotzman
Asa Michael Gregg*
Genevieve Devereux Griffin
Gracie Ann Grimberg
Bailey Maureen Guessford*
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Raashed Isaiah Hall
Sean Covington Harmon*†
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Darwin Antonio Hercules
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Sydney Sutton Kafele*
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Spring Sacraments at St. John the Evangelist

Congratulations to our students and parishioners who made their First Communion on Saturday, May 6 after many months of preparation and prayer. We hope that they will continue to seek Jesus in the Eucharist with as much joy and reverence as was shown this past Saturday! Friday, May 12 brought another sacrament to St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Bishop Roy Edward Campbell Jr., Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington confirmed a number of eager students, full of the Holy Spirit. We are grateful for the rich sacramental life here at St. John the Evangelist!



Two of the first communicants present the gifts to the altar.

OPT

Annual Field Trip to St. Mary's

Fourth and fifth grade students enjoyed a recent field trip to St. Mary's, Maryland. The annual field trip is a long standing tradition at the school. Students were able to spend the day by the water learning what life was like in the earliest days of Maryland history. They viewed and participated in demonstrations of everything ranging from ship rigging to collecting animal pelts. The hands-on and interactive day is a great way to learn more about our state's history, including its Catholic roots, and to enjoy the fellowship of our classmates

OPT



ABOVE: Students gather for a photo after exploring historic ships on the dock



LEFT: Students join in on a demonstration about how dugout canoes are made



Students learned all sorts of ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle at our recent Earth Day celebration!



Thank you to our seventh and eighth grade students who put on a phenomenal living Stations of the Cross during Holy Week.

Holy Redeemer

Nature Is Art at HR Arts Festival

The Holy Redeemer Arts Festival, which started in 2005, brings two days of enrichment during the school day. This year's theme was "Nature Is Art."

Middle school students each participated in seven sessions, with 52 sessions being offered ranging from seed art and mini flower pots to basketball with Fr. Kyle and learning to make Greek couscous salad and sausage crostini. Lower grade students each completed four projects related to the theme, including decorating St. Francis birdhouses and making a fabric sun mural. Parent Kathleen Seiler Neary organized the festival, with the happy participation of parent volunteers while teachers Lisa Capobianco and Sharon Kennedy coordinated faculty participation with art teacher, Cristina Morris.

The entire school began the festival with a rosary for the missions. Mrs. Morris led a session to create a Divine Mercy mural, with Christ's figure composed of miniature photos of all students. Installed in a school hallway, this mural is a permanent reminder of Christ's compassion.

Everyone enjoyed a concert from HR parent and GIGS studio owner, Sean Gaiser, on the second day. To cap off the festival, an evening Gallery Night included food trucks and live music from GIGS as families browsed the students' artwork on display. A bake sale was also held to benefit World Villages.

OPT



AT TOP: Students work to assemble brightly colored petals into a flower as part of a collaborative art project.



ABOVE: One-on-one help was provided to teach the younger generation a new artistic skill- sewing!

St. John the Evangelist Parish
10103 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD
301-681-7663

Rev. Joseph Calis,
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Shindana Crawford,
Principal
301-681-7656

Monica M. Bradford, OPT Editor
bradford2@comcast.net



Our Parish
Times Online



Andrea, G.
Good Counsel HS



St. John the Evangelist CLASS OF 2023

We Congratulate You!

Rev. Joseph Calis, Pastor
Ms. Shindana Crawford, Principal
Miss Emily Pacconi, Eighth Grade Teacher



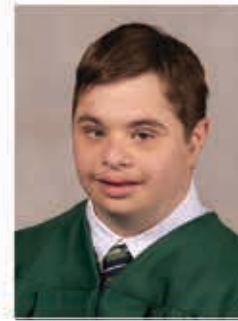
Blake, K.
Undecided



Davide, K.
Bishop O'Connell HS



Halina, N.
Good Counsel HS



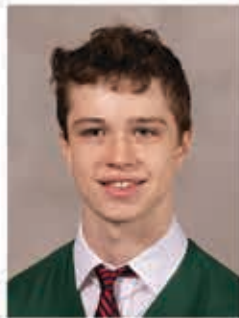
Edward, S.
Bishop O'Connell HS



James, D.
Georgetown Prep.



Jeffery, P.
De Matha HS



John Christopher, R.
De Matha HS



Liam, E.
St. Johns, HS



Maya, C.
St. Johns, HS



Molly, B.
St. Johns, HS



Salome, N.
Undecided



Valeria, E.
Einstein HS

CONGRATULATIONS

Elizabeth Seton High School

Class of 2023



setonhs.org

Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K/1K

Our Lady of Lourdes School celebrated the 15th Annual Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K/1K the weekend of April 28 with an amazing outpouring of support from present and past students, families, friends, and Lourdes staff. Friday night brought the community together for an abundant spread of Mamma Lucia's pasta, salads, and pizza at the traditional pre-race Spaghetti Dinner Night. Saturday morning saw the doors open early as runners prepared themselves for the races, and spectators found the best spot to see the finish line. On the field and in the cafeteria, volunteers busily prepared for the post-race event activities - food, music, and moon bounces. Once the hills had been run, the race was over, and the results were tabulated, the overall winners and male and female winners for each age category were announced. Then, with a hushed crowd waiting to hear if their name would be called, the raffle basket drawings took place. Excitement all around as the basket winners took home Legos, Barbies, books, Maryland gear, camping supplies, beach items, and board games galore! The memory and spirit of Kate Truax were brought to life and will forever be in our hearts as we remember the excitement and fun of the 15th Annual Lions' Roar event. There is No Place Like OLOL!

OPT



Fr. Rob Walsh leads the runners in prayer before starting the race.



OLOL students warm up the crowd with some energizing songs.



Runners of all age groups were off running through the neighborhoods of East Bethesda



Representing The Brendan Looney Foundation are from L-R Jeff Quinn, Jim Benko, Kevin Looney, and Will Jones

2nd Annual OLOL Golf Tournament

On Thursday, April 27, over one hundred golfers took to the course for the 2nd Annual OLOL Golf Tournament. Teams consisted of parish priests, teachers, parents, alumni, friends and even a foursome of current 8th grade students. The tournament raises funds for Our Lady of Lourdes to con-

tinue its incredible work of educating students to be people of faith, excellence, and service.

Players enjoyed a hearty breakfast before the 9:00 shotgun start on a picture-perfect day at the Falls Road Golf Course. It was a combined field of all skill levels along with plenty of competitiveness, laughter, camaraderie, and most of all, fun!

OLOL middle school students made up the group of spectators to cheer the golfers on at the 18th hole. Mamma Lucia served a delicious lunch to end the day, which has become our parish kickoff event for the Lions' Roar/Kate Truax 5K. What an amazing weekend to be part of the Lourdes community.

OPT

CONTEST

Con't from page 22

istrators, and a volunteer parent. The works selected for advancement to the Writer's Center faced the final round of judging by authors and poets at the Writer's Center. Taking First Place this year were seventh-grader Lukas O'Neill for his short story "Forgotten Shores" and sixth-grader Maggie Noonan for her poem "As the Willow Branches Sway". In the short story category, earning Second and Third Place respectively, were Margaret Bailey (Grade 6) and Joshua Ryan (Grade 8). Earning Honorable Mention were Luke Breitenbach (Grade 7), Molly Heafitz (Grade 8), and Danette Tilahun (Grade 6). In the poetry category, earning Second and Third Place respectively, were Maeve Grant and Maria Argeris. Enjoy this excerpt from "Forgotten Shores" and poem "As the Willow Branches Sway".

Excerpt of "Forgotten Shores"

by Lukas O'Neill

My weary mind booted slowly into something resembling conscious thought. I suppose I'm the sort of hopeful, glass full person that expected to see a row of beach houses lining the shore. My bleary eyes, still caked with sand from the crashing waves, met the complete opposite. A row of high jungle trees stood one hundred paces from the lapping waves like sentries reaching up toward

the sky. Palm trees with long, lazy fronds lulled about in the wind in a careless manner that seemed to laugh at my predicament. The alien trees might have grown out of Martian soil.

How did I get here? My mind flashed to my family and how my disappearance must worry them. I clutched the sides of my head in my hands and pushed my fractured brain into a higher gear. Who was my family? I faintly remember they had been on a boat with me before the storm hit.

"As the Willow Branches Sway"

by Maggie Noonan

As I sit there the willow branches sway
The fireflies finally start to glow
The flowers swing in a beautiful way
As the cool summer breeze finally blows
I can see life slowly move step by step
The bees chase each other around
The frog on the pond bay quietly leapt
The worm inches its way into the ground
The cute dog stupidly chases its tail
A little bunny is eating some grass
Deer try to jump a fence but sadly fail
I step out of the way to let ants pass
Then I hear someone call me from afar
It is time to leave my nice neighbor's yard

OPT

GREGORY

Con't from page 22

placed the crown on the statue, the Cardinal blessed the Mary statue. Together, all assembled prayed a decade of the Rosary and the Act of Consecration to Mary before the

closing hymn, "Hail Holy Queen."

Cardinal Gregory brought his deep faithfulness to Christ to every aspect of this joyful worship and praise experience. His final blessing was a gift to each one who had gathered for the liturgy.

The students were especially sur-

prised and delighted that they would be able to greet His Eminence as they left church to love and serve the Lord. They were so excited to have a personal interaction with our own Good Shepherd, His Eminence Wilton Cardinal Gregory.

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Fr. Walsh, Pastor
301-654-1287

Mr. David Long
Principal
301-654-5376

**Blythe Batchelder**

The Academy of the Holy Cross
"Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It's the courage to continue that counts."
 —Winston Churchill

**Amber Bettis**

Our Lady of Good Counsel
"If you want the skill of reliability, just say you're going to do something, and do it each day."
 —Sir Issac Newton

**Nelly Boesen**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
"A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor."
 —Franklin D. Roosevelt

**Peter Capizzi**

Georgetown Preparatory School
"Be tolerant with others and strict with yourself."
 —Marcus Aurelius

**Sebastien Clemy Diaz**

Georgetown Preparatory School
"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success."
 —Dale Carnegie

**Julie Darling**

The Academy of the Holy Cross
"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
 —Theodore Roosevelt

**Amir Ebrahim**

Georgetown Preparatory School
"If you have a dream, don't just sit there. Gather courage to believe that you can succeed and leave no stone unturned to make it a reality."
 —Dr. Roopleen



OUR LADY OF LOURDES

*Congratulations
 Class of 2023 Graduates*

David Long, *Principal* • Father Rob Walsh, *Pastor*

**Owen Eskenazi**

St. John's College High School
"Someday." That's a dangerous word. It's really just a code for 'never.'"
 —Tom Cruise

**Vidal Fomene**

Georgetown Preparatory School
"If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else up."
 —Booker T. Washington

**Georgely Formukong**

Covenant Life School
"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you."
 —Zig Ziglar

**Gustavo Frech**

Undecided
"Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it."
 —Lou Holtz

**Josue Granados Jr.**

Walter Johnson High School
"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."
 —Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Bernadette Hamm**

The Academy of the Holy Cross
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."
 —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Craig Haverback, Jr.**

St. John's College High School
"Don't count the days, Make the days count."
 —Muhammad Ali

**Victoria Lorenzo Rodríguez**

St. John's College High School
"What a wonderful thought it is, that some of the best days of our lives haven't happened yet."
 —Anne Frank

**Eric Marcelin**

The Heights School
"The true measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy."
 —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Daniel McGee**

Gonzaga College High School
"Remember what it takes."
 —Gary Williams

**Michael Melluzzo**

Gonzaga College High School
"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."
 —Winston Churchill

**Luca Nicolacci**

The Heights School
"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail."
 —Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Marco Nicolacci**

The Heights School
"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great."
 —Zig Ziglar

**Samuel Parkhurst**

Glenelg High School
"If my mind can conceive it, if my heart can believe it, then I can achieve it."
 —Muhammad Ali

**Michael Polis**

Gonzaga College High School
"You don't lose when you get knocked down, you lose when you stay down."
 —Muhammad Ali

**Khloe Roberts**

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
"It always seems impossible, until it's done."
 —Nelson Mandela

**Kai Shaw**

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."
 —Harriett Tubman

**Eddie Velasquez**

The Heights School
"Happiness is a state of mind. It's just according to the way you look at things."
 —Walt Disney

**Javier Vila Simon**

Georgetown Preparatory School
"I am because we are."
 —Ubuntu Saying

Thank You, Joe Powers!

After 12 dedicated years to The Woods Academy, our fearless leader Mr. Joe Powers will embark on a new journey. Joe has led wisely and with compassion, placing the best interest of students at the heart of every important decision. When Mr. Powers completes his tenure on June 30, he will leave The Woods firmly positioned for continued success while remaining rooted in the mission of preparing students to lead lives of significance.

During the past 12 years, Mr. Powers has made a significant impact on The Woods Academy community. Just a few highlights include:

- Creating our fifth grade business class where students learn about the stock market and how to invest it, and also how to start a small business
- Launching our RISE Scholar Program, which allows our seventh and eighth grade students to develop a deeper understanding of self and the selected area of study, design a purposeful project that connects with the area of study, demonstrate impact, and formally present the full scope of learning that took place.
- Encouraging our students to think strategically and outside the box through the innovative curriculum at The Woods Academy
- Envisioning a new school building through our Building to Lead campaign with natural light, and spaces for collaboration and innovation
- Being present every morning



Joe Powers has served as Head of School at the Woods Academy for the past 12 years.

for our families as they arrive at school, welcoming students with a handshake and a good question like “What book are you reading?” or “How about that game last night?!”

- Helping our eighth-grade students during the past 12 years getting accepted to their top choice high schools along with merit scholarships
- Increasing enrollment with families that care deeply about The Woods Academy
- Navigating the school successfully through a pandemic
- And so much more!

Thank you, Mr. Powers, for making The Woods Academy a school that families consistently describe as warm, welcoming, and their child's second home. We are forever grateful!

OPT

Our Favorite Memories of Mr. Powers

We asked our community to share their fondest memories of Mr. Powers and there was nothing but love for our Head of School!

“I had the privilege of seeing Mr. Powers every morning as he greeted my son David when I dropped him off at upper school. He always met us with a smile, a laugh (sports team jabs for us Boston fans) and kind words. As I drove off into the day, and I think of this now, I’m filled with gratitude. There is almost nothing more important than feeling seen, being welcomed with love and kindness. Thank you Joe!”

“My fondest memory of Joe is seeing him outside greeting the students everyday at drop off. It gave me, as a parent, such comfort knowing my girls were headed into day where the leaders of the school cared so much!”

“Our fondest memory of Joe was having him barbecue wings for our family in our backyard. He truly cares to get to know each student and their family. He’s so personable! Our family will always remember his smile. We are grateful for his leadership and blessed to know him.”

“We first met on the day of Epiphany when we were looking for schools. Because of a snow



Mr. Powers always loved being involved in the classroom.

storm, the school was closed, we knocked, and low and behold he [Joe] opened the door and took us to his office. At first, we didn’t know who he was, and to our surprise, we spent 1.5 hours talking about education, values, and community. Finally, an elderly

gentleman whom he addressed as ‘Coach’ brought him breakfast and his comment was: “you cannot say no to Coach”, and we immediately decided that the Woods was the best option for our kids. Over the years, Joe has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the highest standards of leadership, professionalism, and ethical values. He will be sorely missed.”

“Love for the Yankees! Joe is a great guy and we will miss him.”

“He has always been warm and welcoming while also providing strong leadership for the school.”

OPT



Mr. Powers with a group of fifth grade students.

Welcome to The Woods Academy, Dr. Palladino!

The next Head of School at The Woods Academy will be Dr. Jessica Palladino, who will begin on July 1. Dr. Palladino is originally from Montgomery County, MD and is currently the Principal at Rolling Terrace Elementary School.

Dr. Palladino holds both a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction. Her experience in elementary school settings includes serving as a teacher, a reading specialist, and a staff development teacher as well as an



Learn more about Dr. Palladino by scanning the QR code on this page.

instructional specialist. She also has experience teaching at the graduate level.

When asked how she would lead The Woods as an inclusive and welcoming Catholic school committed to preparing students to lead lives of significance, Dr. Palladino described her personal experience of “the long-lasting, positive impact of a strong Catholic education, not only academically but in shaping ... character.” Dr. Palladino further explained, “[i]n my work both as an educator and as an administrator, I have sought to exemplify what I view as the guiding principles of my own personal faith, including love for one another, hope and belief in the goodness of others, and finding joy and light in our daily lives.”

Although she doesn’t start for a few weeks, she has come to The Woods Academy quite often to meet parents and students as well as our amazingly talented faculty and staff. Her energy is positively electric and we’re all so excited for this next chapter at The Woods.

OPT

By Malcolm Lester, Head of School of National Presbyterian School

(Below is an excerpt from Malcolm Lester’s toast to Joe Powers at a recent AISGW Heads Luncheon)

What Joe has done at Woods over the course of his 12 years there is remarkable, and he has elevated the profile of The Woods in measurable ways. I have been fortunate to send graduating students to the Woods from both Grace Episcopal School and NPS, and the families all share how warm and extraordinary “Dr. Powers” is. Joe does not have a doctorate (yet), but I hold him in such high esteem that I have not corrected those who have used that salutation.

Joe has led with purpose and a sense of fun. What better way to start an entrepreneurial program at The Woods than by launching a barbecue sauce company, Joe’s Wingman Sauces, with Woods students making, bottling, and selling the wondrous elixir. I invite you to go to joeswingman.com to take a look at the products. (And it is good stuff—one year I ordered the Jalapeno Sopping Sauce for my whole admin team, which Joe personally delivered, and my colleagues loved it!)

A Toast to Joe!



Joe Powers, always at your side.

Don’t leave it to me to tell you about Joe. Let’s hear from those who know him best—The Woods Academy community. In honor of Joe’s cherished New York Yankees—and that is the only subject about which we disagree, as I am from Massachusetts—here is a Top 7 List. 7 was Mickey Mantle’s number, which seems like an appropriate thru-line in talking about Joe.

Here is what those at the Woods Academy said about Joe Powers:

1. Joe is beloved
2. Each morning he stands outside and gives each student a handshake or fist bump

3. Joe’s favorite phrases are “peace” and “knucklehead” (I like the dichotomy there)
4. He has little donut and candy bets with students about who will win a certain sporting event
5. Joe plays with the kids at recess and gets in the action
6. He is truly there for the children; he is their biggest supporter and advocate
7. Joe is an easy going, even keeled, wonderful human being and he will be very missed

Joe is now headed back close to his roots. He was born in the Bronx, attended Fordham Prep, and lived in Yonkers, and in less than 2 months he will begin as Executive Director of Waterside School in Stamford, Connecticut, a Junior Kindergarten through 5th Grade School with a mission similar to WJA and the Bishop Walker School.

The website for Joe’s Wingman Sauces says that “we are your food’s best friend” and that a wingman is always there by your side. Joe, thank you for being a best friend to many during your service at four AISGW schools—Beauvoir, Georgetown Prep, Washington Jesuit Academy, and Woods—and for being a great, loyal, and trusted wingman for all of us...one who is always there by our side.

OPT

The Woods Academy

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Bethesda, MD 20817
301-365-3080

Head of School, Joseph E. Powers

OPT Editor, Caitlin Chalke
Director of Marketing and Communications

www.woodsacademy.org



THE WOODS ACADEMY

**Congratulations to the
Class of 2023!**



High School Acceptances: Academy of the Holy Cross, Bullis School, Connelly School of the Holy Child, DeMatha Catholic High School, Edmund Burke School, Georgetown Day School, Georgetown Preparatory School, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, Gonzaga College High School, Holton Arms School, Landon School, Maret School, National Cathedral School, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, St. Anselm's Abbey School, St. John's College High School, Sandy Spring Friends School, Sidwell Friends School, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Walt Whitman HS



The permanent tabernacle window allows for outdoor adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, made easier with the presence of benches.



The tabernacle faces out the window, towards the parking lot, with plenty of space for people to gather.



The Infant of Prague greets the penitent through the window at the St. John Vianney House.



The St. John Vianney Confession House

Outdoor Confession and Adoration Continues at Resurrection Parish

At the onset of the pandemic in the Spring of 2020, Resurrection found ways to get creative and still offer a rich sacramental and prayer life to its parishioners despite Church closures and social distancing requirements. They began to offer outdoor adoration and confession each Friday afternoon from 4:30-7:30 p.m. They continue to offer this, despite the fact that parish life has returned to normal in many ways.

Now, outdoor adoration and confession is available from 4:30-6:30 p.m., with the final hour held inside the Church. In order to offer both adoration and confession with reverence and dignity, Resurrection parish has built a 24/7 tabernacle window and the St. John Vianney Confession House. While the tabernacle is always present, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is offered through the window only during the Friday afternoon time slot. The St. John Vianney House is simple but offers priests protection from the elements, allowing them to remain outdoors hearing confessions for several hours. It is named after St. John Vianney, who is the patron saint of parish priests. The pandemic provided an opportunity for Resurrection parish to find new ways to minister to the people within its community.

OPT

Church of the Resurrection Parish

3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD

Rev. John M. Barry, Pastor
301-288-4662

Musical Offerings at Resurrection



An orchestra performing at Resurrection back in 2022



Performer Laura Huval



Conductor David Chan



Soprano Hera Hyesang Park

Every month from September through June, on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m., Resurrection presents free concerts: Irish music, Big-band, lute and viola da gamba, jazz, organ and trumpet, etc. On Sunday, May 21, a group of young, award-winning artists from New York will perform works by Igor Stravinsky and Antonin Dvorak, as well as the Maryland premiere of a new virtuoso piano quartet transcription of Robert Schumann's masked-ball suite *Carnaval*. Ensemble 132 is a visionary collaboration of energetic chamber musicians, creating programs of novel re-imaginings of classic repertoire from symphonies to sonatas. They will feature Kate Arndt, violin, Luther Warren, viola, Zachary Mowitz, cello, Sahun Hong, piano.

On Sunday, June 4, the Apollo Orchestra will present operatic selections from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, featuring MET soprano, Hera Hyesang Park, with guest conductor David Chan, Concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The

orchestra will also present Schubert's Symphony No. 8 in b minor "Unfinished," and Mendelssohn's Overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream." This concert will be magical from beginning to end!

Contemporary Catholic Music Artist Laura Huval will present a Summer Musical Mission at Resurrection on Tuesday July 18 and Wednesday July 19. Laura Huval is a Grammy-nominated recording artist, a published artist with Oregon Catholic Press, a Catholic speaker, author, seasoned music minister, educator, retreat leader, and founder of Joyful Noise Ministries. She inspires and engages all audiences with her powerful music, life-changing workshops, and love for God. Her mission is "sharing the Gospel one song at a time." Her program will be called "Praying with Music." More information about Laura can be found on her website: <https://laurahuval.com/home>.

OPT



Kate Arndt, Luther Warren, Zachary Mowitz, and Sahun Hong of Ensemble 132



ST. VINCENT
PALLOTTI
— HIGH SCHOOL —

CONGRATULATIONS!
ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2023!

Anand Abraham
Evie Agho
Olumide Akinola
Ike Afamefune
Chaigozim Agoh
Jaidyn Alford
Eleanor Alston
James Aryee
Morgan Beck
Jasmine Ankoma-Sey
Sean Bawuah
Larry Brent Jr.
Ronte Britton
Jordan Brown
Dominic Carbonell
Khadejah Brock-Taylor
Kenion Campher
Johnpaul Chukwu
Alhaji Conde
Chase Essex

Desmond Gamble
Sidikie Daramy
Preston Fero
Sebastian Garcia
Mitchell Garner
Ciarra Griffith
Christy Ha
Amari Gravely-Smith
Nia Grymes
Bailey Harding
Kennedy Harper
Noelle Horne
Kristopher James
Jason Hilbun
Kofi Irving
Shayla Jones
Maelys Kingbo
Kamarre Lawrence
Jayden Lewis
Isabella Lang

Ethan Leach
Mohnein Lewis
Madilyn Magno
Moises Maltez
Shaun Mayronne
David Makinde
Jayden Martin-Engel
Rishon McIlwain
Deborah Mensah
Allron Monsanto
Aiden Moore
Alexander Moore
Elida Morales
Keith Morris
Ailee Morrison
Taylor Murray
Connor Olsen
Khalil Mullings
Yasmine Noland
Kameron Parrish

Ryan Pennington
Isiah Price
Zeina Rahi
Matthew Perry
Ameria Proctor
Jaden Reis
Christine Reyes
Anthony Robinson Jr.
Ashton Rosier
Anaya Riviere
Sheldon Robison
Kaila Ruffin
Charles Rukus IV
Tommy Sigg
Zane Skovron
Rhily Santanello
Surujnarine Singh
Lauren Smalls
Jahbria Smith-Whitehead
Nathan Stewart

Isabel Tenney
Peter Spann II
Peyton Stoops
Iyana Thompson
Ava Tillman
Ryan Tran
Jayla Towles
George Trimble
Marc Wallace
Elizabeth Walser
Jace Wiggins
Phoebe Wilkerson
Michael E. Williams
Oliver Woodgett
Ashley Yemoh
Anthony Young
Daniel Wingate
Jacob Wright
Aamir Young
Anthony Young

Another Golden Apple at St. Jude Regional Catholic School!



Reverend Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude, congratulates Golden Apple Winner Mrs. Katie Cain. Photo by Becky Sella.



Mrs. Cain and her seventh-grade homeroom, along with her husband Josh and daughter Haley, Assistant Principal Mrs. Kat Balog, and Reverend Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude. Photo by Becky Sella.

By Michelle Ardillo

On Wednesday, April 19, 2023, representatives of the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington and students, faculty, and staff from St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) gathered in the Shrine of St. Jude to surprise Mrs. Katie Cain with the announcement that she was one of 10 teachers awarded the 2022-2023 Golden Apple Teacher of the Year. Aside from being seventh-grade homeroom teacher and teaching math to grades 5-8 at SJRCs, Mrs. Cain is also the Student Government Association moderator, the eighth-grade team moderator for the DeMatha Quiz Bowl competition, the Upper School Faculty Team leader, a loving wife, a wonderful mom to

daughter Haley, and so much more. Mrs. Cain has become a pillar in the school and her commitment to the students, parents, and teachers is truly remarkable. Mrs. Cain emulates what it means to accept the call from God for her vocation as a teacher in a Catholic school.

Mrs. Cain came to SJRCs in the fall of 2018 and has become a vital part of the upper school faculty. In addition to being a real team player, she is a great math teacher. She loves math and works hard to transmit to her students that positive feeling about a subject that many find challenging, if not daunting. She works with her students individually before and after school to ensure that they are successful on tests and quizzes. She plans her lessons thoroughly and incorporates fun educational games for short sessions at

the end of her classes. She is not a teacher who ever just “phones it in.” She is always on time, fully prepared, and 100% doing her best. As our upper school team leader, she is the glue that holds us all together, keeping track of all of the deadlines and events that we encounter on a weekly basis. She is the keeper of the “special schedules,” those times when class times have to change due to assemblies, school delays, or early dismissals.

Mrs. Cain grew up in a Catholic household and attended the University of Dayton for her degree in education. She married into a Catholic family full of teachers from Montgomery County and moved here to live, teach, and raise her family. As soon as her daughter Haley was old enough for our pre-school program, the two of them

came to school every day together, arriving early so that Katie could prepare for her teaching day. Haley is now in kindergarten at SJRCs and is thriving in our close-knit and warm environment. Haley’s devotion to the Blessed Mother is yet another example of Mrs. Cain’s strong Catholic influence on her daughter.

Mrs. Cain is an avid reader and, even as a math teacher, believes in the importance of reading for students. She has a fully stocked classroom library, allowing any of her students to check out her books, which she collects on weekend trips to bookstores. Each day she writes a quote on her board, a subtle reminder of the importance of a positive attitude, which she herself models each day, always smiling, always volunteering, always stepping forward.

Mrs. Cain starts each class with a prayer that her students recite with her. She models her Catholic faith for them in her actions, in her words, and in her own demeanor during prayer and our weekly school Masses. She isn’t just Catholic, she lives her faith every day, all day. Her students, and indeed all of us who are her colleagues here at SJRCs, see her reverence and participation in the Mass, receiving the Eucharist, and singing along with the school choir, and through her modeling, we are all made stronger in Christ.

We are especially proud of Mrs. Cain, but we also are thrilled with our school receiving a Golden Apple award for the second year in a row! Please join us all in congratulating Mrs. Cain on being recognized for this special award!

OPT

Sister Act Jr. Performed at St. Jude Regional Catholic School

By Becky Sella

On March 31 and April 1, St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) students in grades six through eight captivated audiences with *Sister Act Jr.*, which takes place in 1970s Philadelphia. Sister Mary Clarence (actually struggling nightclub singer Deloris Van Cartier in disguise) joins the Queen of Angels convent after witnessing a murder, and though



Students perform a lively number in *Sister Act, Jr.* Photo by Becky Stella

Deloris and the Mother Superior do not see eye to eye, the disco diva is an answered prayer to a declining parish. Deloris takes charge of the choir and wins them over with her soul and spirit, garnering the media attention and community support that the parish desperately needs. As the choir rises to fame and is invited to perform for the Pope,

Deloris’s cover is blown, and she and the sisters must face down some seedy criminals. If you were not able to enjoy this year’s foot-tapping tale of faith and sisterhood, stay tuned for information regarding next year’s musical to be announced soon.

OPT

18 Students Inducted Into NJHS

By Carol Hampe

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) welcomed 18 new members last month. The NJHS is one of the nation’s oldest, largest, and most prestigious student recognition programs, and is based on five key principles: scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Being a member of the NJHS is more than just a title. It means standing up when facing obstacles, finding a way through problems, and not sitting and waiting for

things to happen or for things to get better, but to make them happen.

JRCs welcomed these new members, who bring new energy in support of the continuing work of the NJHS: Eighth grade: Gemma Barish, Marian Belardo, Janica Belen, Matt Landicho, David Palank, Adrian Patiag, Jorge Velasquez, and Bethel Yosef. Seventh Grade: Charles Anani, Sofia Asso, Kishi Flores, Laura Keller, and Susana Lopez-Chavarriaga. Sixth Grade: Ayla Barish, Karina Deja, Leah Nguyen, Emme Price, and Amalia White.

OPT



The newest inductees into the National Junior Honor Society at St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Photo by Becky Sella

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD,
Pastor

301-946-8200

St. Jude Regional
Catholic School

Jeanne Donatelli, Principal
301-946-7888

Maureen Martin,
OPT Editor

MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

The Shrine of St. Jude Parish was blessed to have 130 young people from its Faith Formation program and St. Jude Regional Catholic School receive their First Communion on Saturday, May 6, at two different Masses. The concelebrants—Deacon Nicolas Scholz, Father Paul D. Lee, Father Jorge Ubau, and Father Robert Kosty—are pictured above with the communicants. Many thanks to the catechists who prepared the children: Lily Ehart from SJRCS and Eva Bengero, Denise Branco, Enid Diaz, Cristina Golab, Mary Ibanez, Kateri Orellana, Angela Soriano, and Girlee Tecson from the Faith Formation program. The reception was hosted by First Grade parents. Welcome to the Lord's Table!

OPT



ABOVE: All of the First Communicants on their special day. Photo by Becky Sella

LEFT: SJRCS community members celebrate this beautiful sacrament! Photo by Elizabeth Cadenas



Congratulations to the Class of 2023



**Yesenia
Araniva**

*Don Bosco Cristo
Rey High School*



**Gemma
Barish**

*The Academy of
the Holy Cross*



**Marian
Belardo**

*Stone Ridge
School of the
Sacred Heart*



**Janica
Belen**

*Stone Ridge
School of the
Sacred Heart*



**Samuel
Bonilla**

*Don Bosco Cristo
Rey High School*



**Anthony
Carbajal**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



**Kaela
Edwards**

*The Academy of
the Holy Cross*



**Matthew
Greene**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



**Cristian
Guirola**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



**Rekiye
Hibret**

*Wheaton
High School*



**Betel
Kebede**

*Walter Johnson
High School*



**Matt
Landicho**

*Georgetown
Preparatory
School*



**Pablo
Medina**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



**Ansie
Orosco**

*Don Bosco Cristo
Rey High School*



**Elian
Orosco**

*Don Bosco Cristo
Rey High School*



**Rynne
Oseroff**

*Sherwood
High School*



**David
Palank**

*St John's College
High School*



**Adrian
Patiag**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



**Amen
Seleshi**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



**Braden
Swift**

*Brunswick
High School*



**Joseph
Urbina**

*DeMatha Catholic
High School*



**Jorge
Velasquez**

*St John's College
High School*



**Bethel
Yosef**

*Our Lady of
Good Counsel
High School*



ST JUDE
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, Principal

Father Paul Lee, Pastor

We are . . . St. Jude!

Adult Bicycle and Scooter Classes Offered in May and June

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT), in collaboration with the Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA), is offering adult bike classes in May and June. The classes include a learn-to-ride and a basic skills class. MCDOT also will offer three remaining free scooter classes in spring.

Participants in the bicycle classes will learn how to start and stop, balance, glide, pedal and steer a bike. Each student will progress at their own pace. The classes will be led by experienced WABA instructors.

Advance registration is required to participate in the bicycle classes and the cost is \$10 for Montgomery County residents. There is no charge for WABA or Capital Bikeshare for members.

The classes are open to residents 18 and over, are limited to 25 people and fill up quickly.

Registration is currently open for all classes with available space.

The last remaining Adult Learn to Ride bike classes with limited space:

- Saturday, June 17. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. GEICO Chevy Chase Building, 5260 Western Avenue, Chevy Chase.



The schedule for Adult Basic Skills bike classes:

- Saturday, June 3. 10 a.m.-noon. Wheaton Ice Arena, (back parking lot), 11717 Orebaugh Drive, Wheaton.

Bicycles and helmets will be provided at no charge for the Adult Learn to Ride class participants and can be rented from WABA, if needed, for the Basic Skills class participants.

The free two-hour adult scooter classes are offered on a drop-in basis:

- Saturday, June 3. Noon. Wheaton Ice Arena, (back parking lot), 11717 Orebaugh Drive, Wheaton. Scooter classes do not require pre-registration. Anyone 18 or over with a valid driver's license or ID can join.

For more information and to register, visit MCDOT's website at www.waba.org/classes or call 240-777-8380.

Classes are outdoor and will be canceled during inclement weather. For updates on class cancellations, visit tinyurl.com/cycleclss.

OPT

May 31: World No Tobacco Day

According to the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, quitting smoking even if you're 60 or older and have been smoking for decades can improve your health and reduce the risk of cancer, heart attack, stroke, and lung disease. In addition to possibly adding years to your life,

quitting tobacco use can also improve blood circulation, bring



World No Tobacco Day was created by the World Health Organization (WHO) to draw global attention to the tobacco epidemic and the preventable death and disease it causes.

back a better sense of taste and smell, help you save money,

Quitline at 855-QUITVET).

OPT

New Affordable Senior Apartment Community Opens in Silver Spring

Includes Holy Cross Hospital-affiliated Wellness Center

A new apartment complex for seniors named for former County Executive Isiah Leggett was dedicated on Thursday, May 4. Located in the Central Business District of Silver Spring at 1315 Apple Avenue, the Leggett is a mixed-income, multi-use community that sets a standard for senior



Continued on page 39

Let's Talk Assisted Living.



It's a conversation we've been having with seniors and their families for over 30 years. At Victory Housing, you'll discover our simple and straight-forward approach to assisted living. From all-inclusive rates to individualized care, our award-winning communities offer the ideal setting to call home. **Call or visit us today, let's talk.**



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Marian Assisted Living
Olney/Brookeville • 301-570-3190

Raphael House
Rockville • 301-217-9116



www.VictoryHousing.org

A Non-Profit Organization



The Avalon School Adds STEM Robot Club for Fourth Graders

Can you think of a more fun way to learn about robots than through Legos? The Avalon School is proud to initiate its first robotics club training for local competition.

Recently, Avalon was awarded a Student Support and Academic (SSAE) Grant to provide further academic enrichment, and the school was able to purchase Lego robotic kits for five groups of four to six students.

The First Lego League program offers a guided STEM curriculum for ages 6-14, culminating in a local competition. Avalon has begun the program with its current fourth graders, hoping to have them ready for competition in the fifth grade. The program is meant to develop STEM skills, as well as to build character, helping elementary students learn the ins and outs of working on a team.

Parent Keith Weber stepped in to lead the fourth graders in the new after-school program. A software engineer, Weber was excited to share the skills he's learned while coding, programming, and working with robots.

"I was worried they'd be bored," Weber mentioned, "but all of the kids were enthralled, focusing



Avalon fourth-graders work together in groups after school in their Lego robotics club.

intently on accomplishing the task."

Though Avalon intentionally does not offer computer classes or programming for younger students, Weber witnessed students excelling at working with the robots: "Their critical thinking skills helped them tremendously in solving problems,"

he asserted.

Just as the young boys happily build and construct new robots, Avalon is happy to be building young minds. The school wishes the best of luck to its first lower school robotics team.

OPT

COMMUNITY

Con't from page 38

apartment living. The newly constructed building offers one- and two-bedroom units for County residents who are age 62-and-over, with 238 units set aside as designated affordable. It was built above a new County recreation center that will open soon. The first tenants in The Leggett are scheduled to move in later this month.

The Leggett complex will include the+ new 133,000-square-

foot South County Regional Recreation and Aquatic Center. The center is part of a public-private partnership between Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission and Lee Development Group. It will offer a state-of-the art recreational facility with basketball courts, a public Olympic size pool, a therapy pool, spa, a gym, exercise and weight rooms, movement and dance studios and a culinary arts kitchen. The complex is near an extension of the Capital Crescent Trail.

OPT

CHOIR

Con't from page 20

during the annual spring concert on May 4th. The audience was even invited to join in on a few occasions! And, to make the experience even more interactive, choir members asked the audience to solve

some punny riddles between sets. Why did the trombone cross the street, you might wonder . . . to get to the other *slide*, of course! Or, what do you call a cow that plays music? (A moo-oo-sician!) Beautiful voices, happy grins, and a few giggles made for a lively, entertaining concert.

OPT

ORDINATION

Con't from page 21

with sacramental needs. Father Mathias generously ministers to our many parish groups, such as the Mothers Group, That Man Is

You men's group, and our weekly Gospel Sharing Group. His soft-spoken manner comes with a ready smile and words of kindness. He is a blessing to all.

Holy Cross Church prays for his continued ministry in the vineyard of our Lord!

OPT



Lindsey Barnacle
St. John's



Vivian Barry
Holy Cross



Katherine Begert
Holy Child



Frederick Brinkman
Georgetown Prep



Carlos Checa - Sacasa
St. Anselm's



Katherine D'Andrea
Holy Cross



Nathanael D'Andrea
Undecided



Michael Daniel
St. James



Cleary DuFour
Visitation



Love of Learning • Faith in God • Service for Others

Graduation
Class of 2023



Timothy Grant
Georgetown Prep



Caroline Henneberry
Holy Child



C. Jack Houlding
Georgetown Prep



Joshua Joseph
Undecided



Winfred Liu
Georgetown Prep



Daniel Marshall
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Iain McVie
Gonzaga



Mateo Riobó-Morales
Walter Johnson



Aidan Scott
Gonzaga



Natalia Silvani
Holy Cross



Tomas Socias
St. John's



Carolina Valderrama
Walt Whitman



Olivia Zisa
Walt Whitman

The Light of Christ Illuminates the Easter Vigil

By Marisa Stoolmiller

The resurrection of Jesus gives hope to all. The Easter Vigil began with a lit fire outside the church and a blessing and lighting of the Easter candle. This was followed by a procession into a darkened church and the flame from the Easter candle spreading from person to person, a powerful symbol of Christ as the Light of the World. As Christ's light enters the church, it can also enter our hearts. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Beginning with the resurrection, God's light spreads throughout the world and throughout history. This Light alone – Jesus Christ – is the true light, something more than the physical phenomenon of light."

We were especially blessed to add more light to our church by welcoming thirty catechumens and candidates into full communion



Easter Vigil blessing and lighting of the Easter candle at SJN.

with the church. Each year, the Catholic Church welcomes its new members on this most sacred night. It is a profound experience for everyone involved. One of our candidates, Lily Schellhase, described, "The experience of the Vigil was like coming home after a long time away and being taken in with love and as if you were missed by the whole congregation even though a lot of them had never met you before."

The journey for each catechumen

and candidate to Easter Vigil is different. Kayla Kennedy beautifully described how she came to the Catholic Faith.

I had the most beautiful and personally powerful experience that first Adoration. I was moved in such a way that I knew it was God, and he was present in the Eucharist. From that point forward, I was committed fully to the journey of becoming a Catholic and receiving Communion. My first Communion

Continued on page 50



Monsignor Robert Panke, Pastor of St. John Neumann parish, introduced and welcomed seminarian Deacon Martin Begley before he shared an insightful reflection with the parish on April 15, 2023.

Deacon Martin Introduces Christ as Bridegroom

By Larissa York

“Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the mornings, what you will do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love,

and it will decide everything.”
-Joseph Whelan, S.J.

Amidst the Easter season, Deacon Martin Begley shared an insightful reflection on the Nuptial Imagery in the Gospel of John. He discussed how Jesus revealed Himself as the Divine Bridegroom in the New Testament. He also shared that the Book of Hosea compares Israel to an unfaithful wife. Deacon Martin further highlighted how God describes the joy of marrying Himself to His

Continued on page 50



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023!



Joanna Baxter
Covenant Life



Glodi Boyongo
Avalon School



Veronica Ciecwiez
Gaithersburg
Biomedical Program



Christian Cruz
Northwest High School
Magnet Program



Jessica Cruz
Richard Montgomery



Emery Dyer
Connelly School
of the Holy Child



Addison Elliott
Academy of the
Holy Cross



Maria Gomez
Washington Christian
Academy



Rodrigo Guerra
Gaithersburg



ChrisEmanuel Joseph
Clarksburg
P-TECH Program



Miles Kabwasa
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Ryan Lawson-Lartego
Seneca valley
IB Program



Keisha Lema Grimaldo
Winston Churchill



Jaden Mekede
Poolesville
Humanities Magnet



Faith Melendez
Gaithersburg
Biomedical Science



Grace Ngatta
Seneca Valley



Nicole Oraca-Campos
Urbana



Varghese Parampil
St. John's Catholic Prep



Aydia Polanco
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Alex Rofayel
Seneca Valley



Lauren Staub
Academy of Holy Cross



The gym was transformed into part gallery, part tearoom for our third grade invited special guests to help celebrate our 2023 Artist Tea.



The Spring Soiree was a success! Our Havana Nights theme featuring cigars, Cuban cuisine, mojitos, and Cuban fedoras was the perfect way to support St. Raphael's school.

More St. Raphael News on Page 54

Congratulations to Mrs. Williams!

Congratulations to Golden Apple recipient Catherine Williams! Mrs. Williams is one of our beloved faculty members, leading the First Grade in both learning and faith. The entire school community was able to celebrate the surprise announcement. Students waived golden pom poms and enjoyed special treats as Mrs. Williams was gifted with flowers and her \$5,000 check. It was a



ABOVE: Mrs. Williams with her first-grade students

LEFT: Students waive golden pom poms to celebrate the big announcement!



joyous occasion and wonderful to have the Archdiocese recognize the amazing teaching that happens here at St. Raphael's.

St. Raphael's school is lucky to have had four Golden Apple winners

in the past few years. The Golden Apple Award is granted to 10 Catholic school teachers in the Archdiocese of Washington each year. Awardees are recognized for their teaching excellence, but also to their dedication to teaching the faith both through instruction and example. The Golden Apple Award is sponsored by the Donahue Family Foundation. Award Recipients will be gifted with their Golden Apple at an archdiocesan event on May 18.

OPT

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

Laura Magafan, OPT Editor

301-762-2143

www.straphaels.org
www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:
@SRSRockville

Congratulations,

CLASS OF 2023!



Connor Ashbarry
St. John's College H.S.

Lucas Cardillo
DeMatha Catholic H.S.

Charlotte Christakis
The Academy of the Holy Cross

Alezandra Clements
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Jason Cobb
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Jane Cronin
St. John's College H.S.

Natalie deKowzan
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Rod Djavan
DeMatha Catholic H.S.

Sebastian Fiol
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Clare Hansen
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Adrianna Hernandez
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Allison Hite
The Academy of the Holy Cross

Matthew Holm
DeMatha Catholic H.S.

Connor Jacobs
Georgetown Preparatory School

Sienna John
The Academy of the Holy Cross

Riley Kimmel
St. John's College H.S.

Ewan Lazo
Winston Churchill H.S.

Brooke Marshall
Winston Churchill H.S.

Brianna Martinez-Olivares
Richard Montgomery H.S.

Eve Mayer
Oakcrest School

Alina Mussio
Georgetown Visitation

Ashlyn O'Grady
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.

Ella Simon
Seneca Valley H.S.

Camila Vargas
Sherwood H.S.

Felipe Vasconcellos
Our Lady of Good Counsel H.S.



ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL
1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854
www.straphaelschoolmd.org



A 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Celebrating Mercy's Class of 2023

Congratulations to Mercy's Class of 2023! Parents placed Class of 2023 signs in the yards of the eighth graders and "#8thGradeSpotlight" photos are being shared out on our social media pages along with a profile of each student. The school will hold its annual "Clap-Out" celebrating our outgoing eighth-grade students with applause, signs, and music! Class of 2023 students were accepted into the following schools: Georgetown Preparatory School, Gonzaga College High School, Connelly School of the Holy Child, Georgetown Visitation, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, The Avalon School, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, St. John's College High School, St. Andrew's, Portsmouth Abbey, RI, Fontbonne, MA, Notre Dame Academy, MA, Ursuline Academy, MA, and Winston Churchill High School.

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Fr. Charles Antonicelli, Pastor
301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School
Mrs. Christine Green, Principal
301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676

Literary Magazine Showcases the Creativity of Mercy Students

St. John Paul II said, "The aesthetic value of creation cannot be overlooked." It is with this in mind and in this spirit that teachers at Our Lady of Mercy sought to showcase students' creative endeavors with the publication of the first volume of its art and literature magazine, *Windows*. The 40-page publication features the art and writing of every seventh and eighth grader. Mercy's art teacher Ms. Caitrin Waites and middle school language arts teacher Mrs. Meg Kummer partnered on this year-long project. Student work includes poetry, narrative writing, non-fiction writing, and original fables. Art projects use mediums such as watercolor, chalk pastels, and ink and feature work inspired by famous artists.

OPT



The first volume of Mercy's new art and literature magazine, *Windows*, showcases seventh and eighth grade creative works.



Gently used sports equipment collected by Mercy's MS Soccer Team filled Leveling the Playing Field's van!

Bringing Back Better – The Mercy Way!

The Mercy Parent Teacher Organization has been busy organizing family events this spring. In addition to the Father-Daughter Dance and Parent Caribbean Night, families are looking forward to the Mother-Son Picnic, Family Fun Night, May Crowning, and the 3rd Annual Mercy 5K Run!

On April 28, Mercy welcomed over 250 guests at our Grandparents' and Special Visitors' Day. After a lovely welcome reception, guests were treated to a concert featuring Mercy's instrumental and string groups and the choral group, followed by a special school Mass and classroom visits. In addition to these activities, guests were able to enjoy the incredible Art Show highlighting the creative talent of every Mercy student.

OPT



Cheering on their classmates during the eighth grade vs. faculty kickball game!

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 54



OUR LADY OF MERCY



CLASS OF 2023

CONGRATULATIONS!



St. Bart's hosts a snack sale to raise funds for Christ Child's May Layettes

St. Bart's Service in Support of Mothers

During the month of April, St. Bartholomew's held two snack sales during morning recess to raise funds to support Christ Child DC's Layette Drive. Using the funds raised, we purchased 500 bottles of body wash and made 100 cards to be included in their May layettes.

Throughout the month of May, we're running a baby bottle campaign for the Gabriel Network. Each family will receive one empty baby bottle to collect change, cash, or checks. The money raised will help the pregnant mothers and families who turn to the network for practical, emotional, and spiritual support.

OPT

Grandparents help to celebrate May Crowning and First Holy Communion

St. Bart's celebrates Grandparents Day on the Friday before Mother's Day. The half day is full of events and activities to celebrate the bonds of family, faith, and tradition. The morning starts with a Continental Breakfast for grandparents and special guests, followed by performances from students in PK through fourth grade. After breakfast, grandparents of middle school students head to the classroom to sharpen their skills and enjoy a class or two until it's time for the May Crowning. The May Crowning procession is led by the eighth graders (in their Graduation suits and white dresses) and the second graders (dressed up in

their First Communion outfits). The rest of the student body follows behind, each student holding a flower to crown Mary. Towards the conclusion of the May Crowning prayer service, the seventh and eighth graders participate in a candle lighting ceremony, where the light of leadership is passed on from an eighth grader to a seventh grader. We are grateful to have Stone Photography capture the beautiful moments of this special day and would like to thank everyone who helps make it a success. We also want to wish our second graders a most blessed and joyful First Holy Communion.

OPT

St. Bart's Teachers are Appreciated!



Principal Frank English enjoys a mini massage for Teacher Appreciation Week

We just couldn't wait to celebrate our teachers, so we kicked off Teacher Appreciation Week one week early. Monday started with mini massages and refreshing acai bowls. Tuesday morning came around and teachers were asked to leave their classroom immediately and to report to the Parish Hall. Surprised and confused, they obliged, leaving their homeroom in the very capable hands of parent volunteers. Inside, the Omelette Guys were waiting to take their orders. More than just a meal, this allowed the entire faculty and staff to enjoy it TOGETHER, unrushed, and uninterrupted. Teachers received notes,

cards, and gift cards on Wednesday. The cold and clouds prevented us

Continued on page 50

St. Bartholomew Parish

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Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Smith

Pastor

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St. Bartholomew School

Frank English, Principal

301-229-5586

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor

202-512-8226



ST. BARTHOLOMEW
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Reverend Mark Smith, Pastor • Mr. Frank English, Principal



Alicia Bautista
GEORGETOWN
VISITATION

"Decide what you want.
Believe you can have it.
Believe you deserve
it and believe it's
possible for you."
- Jack Canfield



Jude Buber
OUR LADY OF
GOOD COUNSEL

"Bumpy roads often lead
to beautiful places."
- Dave Martinez



**Bennett
Danser-Anger**
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL

"Baseball is 90% mental
and the other
half is physical."
- Yogi Berra



Isabelle Delgado
WALT WHITMAN
HIGH SCHOOL

"Sometimes you will
never know the value
of a moment until it
becomes a memory."
- Dr. Seuss



**Charlotte
Harrison**
MARIAN CENTRAL
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
(Woodstock, Illinois)

"That's why we are here,
isn't it? To love, and
to be loved."
- The Boy, The Mole, The
Fox, and The Horse



**Alexandra
Hughes**
GEORGETOWN
DAY SCHOOL

"To be an innovator, you
can't be worried about
making mistakes."
- Julius Erving



**Brooke
Hughes**
GEORGETOWN
DAY SCHOOL

"Living is the art of
getting used to what
we don't expect."
- Eleanor C. Wood.



Brynn Ligon
UNDECIDED

"Too proud to bend,
too poor to break I laugh
until my stomach
aches when I think
about myself."
- Maya Angelou



Katie Morrison
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL

"Build up your
weaknesses until
they become your
strong points."
- Knute Rockne



Joseph Obermeier
GEORGETOWN
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

"Whatever you do,
always give 100%. Unless
you are giving blood."
- Bill Murray



Caroline Ramsdell
THE ACADEMY OF
THE HOLY CROSS

"Shoot for the Moon.
Even if you miss, you'll
land among the stars."
- Norman Vincent Peale



Kate Schreiber
GEORGETOWN
VISITATION

"For there is always
light, if only we're brave
enough to see it. If
only we're brave
enough to be it."
- Amanda Gorman



Shane Strother
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL

"You can only become
truly accomplished at
something you love."
- Maya Angelou



Claire Welby
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
HIGH SCHOOL

"Life is 10% what happens
to us and 90%
how we react to it."
- Charles R. Swindoll



Essay contest winners Paige Koger and Andrew Matelis display their Chapter Winner Certificates for Goshen Mills Chapter Regent Terry Mark (on the left) and American History Chairman Karma Beal.

Daughters of the American Revolution Award de Chantal Students

Two de Chantal Students win annual contest with thoughtful and impressive essays

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
Michelle D'Amour Flynn
OPT Editor

By Mary Russell

Two St. Jane de Chantal School students, Paige Koger and Andrew Matelis, are winners in the American History Essay Contest sponsored by the Goshen Mills Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Paige is the Chapter's eighth-grade winner, and Andrew is the seventh-grade winner. The students read their winning essays during the Chapter's February meeting.

Continued on page 50

May is the Month to Honor Mary

St. Jane de Chantal's Communities Celebrate Mary with Spring Flowers

By Michelle Flynn

May is the month to honor the Mother of our Lord. Almost every de Chantal parish committee or group employs one or two ways to celebrate our Heavenly Mother. Our Junior Sodalists' May Crowning is a highlight for the community. The young ladies choose a few girls from their group to lead in a May Crowning ceremony

Continued on page 50



ABOVE: Junior Sodalists Charlotte Owens, Francesca Antonelli, and Penelope Harmon were honored with the chance to crown Our Lady at the parish's annual May Crowning

LEFT: Members of the de Chantal SPRED program are all smiles as they gather around their Mary statue.



More St. Jane de Chantal News on Page 63

Congratulations!

St. Jane de Chantal Class of 2023!



Francesca Antonelli
Holy Cross



Katherine Aquino
St. John's



Olivia Aquino
St. John's



Isaura Arias
Visitation



Lorenzo Baldwin
St. John's



Brigid Broome
St. John's



Cindy Cao
Holy Cross



Andrew Gaenzler
Gonzaga



Danilo Galindo
Good Counsel



Jax Goetcheus
Gonzaga



Ines Gomez-Perretta
Camacho
Caxton College



Sabine Hensel
Stone Ridge



George Hoag
Good Counsel



Drew Jimenez
Georgetown Prep



McKenna Jordan
Visitation



Sarah Jordan
St. John's



Taylor Kelley
Holy Child



Paige Koger
Stone Ridge



Colin Marcey
St. John's



Fiona McGuire
Blair



Donny Merola
Churchill



Morgan Muehr
Holy Child



Caelia Onana-Mfege
Walter Johnson



Charlotte Owens
Holy Cross



Katie Patterson
Stone Ridge



Jeanne Piubeni
Undecided



Theo Potter
Walter Johnson



Mia Reid
Stone Ridge



Nikolas Scott
St. John's



Thaddeus Shaffer
St. John's



Tyler Skibo
Walter Johnson



Sloane Stiebel
Bullis



Tommy Tierney
St. John's



James Westly
Walter Johnson



Nate Williamson
Magruder



Logan Wolf
St. Anselm's Abbey



Carly Wright
BCC

Living Stations of the Cross

Over 100 St. Martin's parishioners were involved in organizing and reenacting a Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. The parishioners followed the mile-long procession around the parish, praying at each station.



ABOVE: The Living Stations begin with Jesus being condemned. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.



ABOVE: Jesus struggles to carry His cross. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

RIGHT: Jesus is crucified. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

St. Martin's Carnival: Fun for Everyone!

By Anne Gemunder

The St. Martin's Carnival Fun Fair, held on Saturday, April 29 at Gaithersburg Elementary School, was a blast! The months of planning, organizing, and challenging work came together to create a one-of-a-kind fun family event. Over three hundred attendees, young and youthful at heart, entered under a multi-colored balloon arch, and were greeted with carnival music and the sweet smell of cotton candy. Families who had registered were handed a bag of car-



Students enjoy cotton candy at the St. Martin's Carnival. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

Continued on page 52



Teachers and staff welcome guests to the St. Martin's Carnival. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. David G. Wells,
Pastor

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St. Martin School
Stephen Lamont, Principal
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Catherine Cooksey,
Parish Editor
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**More St. Martin of Tours
News on Page 52**

St. Martin's Catholic School



Class of 2023

Academy of the Holy Cross
Daniela Salazar

Blake
Tanner Hahn

Clarksburg
Grace Agbleze

Connelly School of the Holy Child
Autumn Burkett

Damascus
Martin Almidon

DeMatha Catholic
Elye Carmona

Don Bosco Cristo Rey
Jariel Galicia
Angel Navarette

Gaithersburg
Sean Moore

Northwest
Aeribella Cajigal

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mollie Alexander
Christopher Castro
Emily Montalvo
Ryan Noll

Quince Orchard
Jason Rosewood

Saint John's Catholic Prep
Jordy Godoy

Undecided
Nathaniel De Mello
Isabel Hernandez
David Mensah



Principal: Mr. Stephen C. Lamont

Pastor: Rev. David G. Wells

115 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD 20877

www.smsmd.org

Phone: 301-990-2441



A crowd gathers for the Rose Gala



Delightful flamenco dancers



Everyone enjoying delicious paella

World Youth Day Pilgrims Rose Gala

All the World Youth Day Pilgrims, Sylvanna, Angel, Sebastian, Soraya, Anna,

Jacob, Kimberly, Susan, and all their families want to thank everyone that helped to make The Rose Gala a complete success. Special thanks to Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, The Sodality of Mary, Mary of Nazareth, Mr. and Mrs. Padama, and all who donated. Everyone had a great time with nice music, Flamenco dancers, delicious food from Tatiana's Paella, and a lot of joy. Thanks to all who attended and contributed. God Bless you all. Please pray for our pilgrims.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish

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Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer
Pastor

301-924-3838

Brenda Rosado
OPT Editor

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

More Mother Seton News
on Page 52

Celebration of the St. Joseph Table at Mother Seton Parish

By Don Kinler

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time and talent in making this year's St. Joseph altar a complete success. Through your generous donations, \$2,200.00 in cash and gift cards were collected in addition to the abundant food donations to Germantown Help.

We had a surprise visit from a newly married couple at Mother Seton. They met in 2019 after they both asked God in prayer to find their soulmate. As soon as Mohsen told Juliana that he was Muslim, she thought it wasn't going to work because of her strong Catholic belief, but God knew better. He was the one leading their path to a beautiful and strong family with their kids Jerónimo and Mohana, strength in faith and love not just for each other but for God.

They live their relationships in respect for each other's religion, proving that a threefold cord is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). Now they celebrate in communion with our parish the blessing of being now married in Jesus Christ and blessed by the father of the family, Saint Joseph.

OPT



St. Joseph Table organizing committee with surprise guests



Mohsen and Juliana, a young married couple from Mother Seton

Divine Mercy Sunday Feast Day

By Dorrette Paulin

“Jesus, I Trust in You”. Jesus said that He would grant graces to the souls who trust in His mercy. He asked St. Faustina to paint the vision of his merciful divinity being poured from his Sacred Heart and specifically asked for a feast of Divine Mercy to be established on the first Sunday after Easter Sunday so that everyone would take refuge in Him.

At Mother Seton Parish, we now have an established Divine Mercy Celebration. Preparation for the celebration started on Good Friday with the nine-day Novena and ended on the Saturday before our Sunday celebration -- a Feast Day that has grown rapidly and now includes attendance by parishioners from surrounding parishes.

The Feast Day celebration started with Eucharistic Adoration



Divine Mercy Prayer group with event organizer Dorrette Paulin

after the 12.30 p.m. Mass. During that time, our parish priests heard confessions and at 3:00 p.m. we recited the Divine Mercy opening prayers and parishioners joined the youth choir as they sang the Chaplet. We ended with the “Act

of Consecration of the Family to the Divine Mercy” and concluded with Solemn Benediction. The congregation departed and received a variety of blessed items: Holy Cards, Rosaries, Scapulars, and Medals.

OPT



Divine Mercy Sunday attendees



ABOVE: Congratulations to our second-grade students who celebrated their First Holy Communion. It was a beautiful day full of joy and excitement for our students and families.

BELOW: After two years of preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, our eighth-grade students were initiated into the Church on Sunday, April 23 led by Bishop Juan Esposito. We congratulate our newly confirmed students as they continue their commitment to God and the Church.



Future St. Patrick's grads showing off their high school sweatshirts.

A Reflection on Our Time at St. Patrick's

By Molly Schmidlein, Amanda Dow, Mia Fecko, Corinne Stringer (*The Badger Beat*, Editors-in-Chief)

It's hard to believe we've been at St. Patrick's for nine years. We've spent our childhood together, grown up together, and made memories that will last a lifetime. St. Patrick's became a second home for all of us from the moment we walked through the doors, and we are about to say goodbye as we go on our journeys to high school. Many of the best moments of our childhood have been inside the walls of St. Patrick's School, a place where we've grown every year in our knowledge, kindness, responsibility, faith, service, and everything in between. Our teachers, principal, and families have

always been there to nurture and guide us throughout our lives, preparing us for the next adventures awaiting us in high school and beyond. Our teachers have inspired us and left us with a love of learning. Our principal has encouraged us to live out our faith through service, being kind to others, and striving to be the best version of ourselves possible. Our parents have given their all to make sure we received the best education possible in such a wonderful and supportive community. We are incredibly grateful and blessed to be St. Patrick's students, and very soon, alumni. Thank you, St. Patrick's, for the many gifts you have given us. We will carry them with us throughout our lives and share them

with others. Being a student at St. Patrick's, some since we were five years old, has been an experience we will never forget. Part of us will always be a Badger!

OPT

St. Patrick's Parish

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Rockville, MD

Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Parry

Pastor

301-924-2284

St. Patrick's School

Ms. Christie Anne Short,
Principal

301-929-9672

Parish Editor

Contact parish office

More St. Patrick News on Pages 53 & 63



Congratulations - Class of 2023
St. Patrick's School



From Rockets to Robots, Curiosity Shines at Science Fair

By Erin Pant

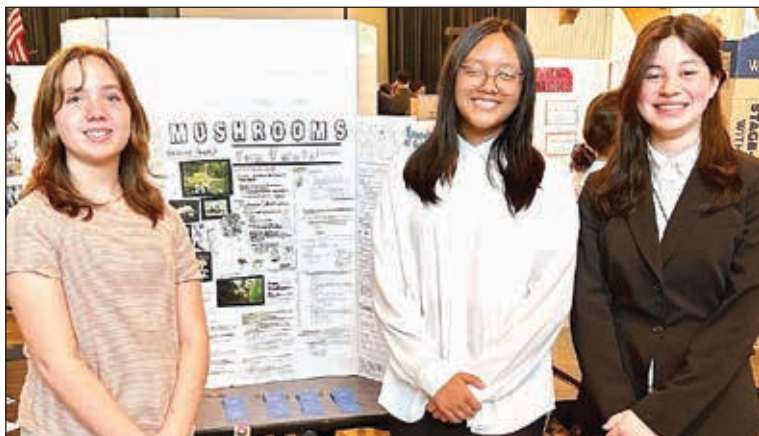
Eighty-six student scientists spent their spring designing, conducting, and analyzing experiments. Led by parent volunteer Mrs. McAndrew-Benavides, a new science fair model was introduced at Saint Peter's this year.

In March, students had the opportunity to sign-up for the voluntary activity and choose their project topics. Students could work individually or with a partner. Work took place outside of normal school hours. Weekly instructions, reminders, and resources were sent to assist students throughout their projects.

"It was a great learning experience where everything wasn't directed by certain guidelines or instructions, you were free to experiment and figure things out on your own and make your own deductions," said eighth-grader Marin Cobo, who investigated Cone Analysis for Rocket Height Optimization.

Students representing every grade from pre-kindergarten through eighth, presented their findings at the Science Fair on Friday, April 21. For students in PreK-5, the Science Fair was a non-competitive

Continued on page 52



ABOVE: Students from grades PreK-8 presented their projects at the Science Fair on April 21.

BELOW: Students made tri-fold displays and explained their projects to Science Fair attendees.



Growing in Our Faith

St. Peter's Catholic Parish has been alive with a vibrant liturgical and sacramental life this spring. Congratulations to our many students who have worked hard to prayerfully prepare for the Confirmations and First Communions. It is a blessing to celebrate these beautiful milestones as a faith-filled community and to see the many graces that God is bestowing on us!

RIGHT: Students from Saint Peter's School and School of Religion prepared for First Communion at a retreat on April 23. Students participated in five stations throughout the afternoon, including altar bread making.

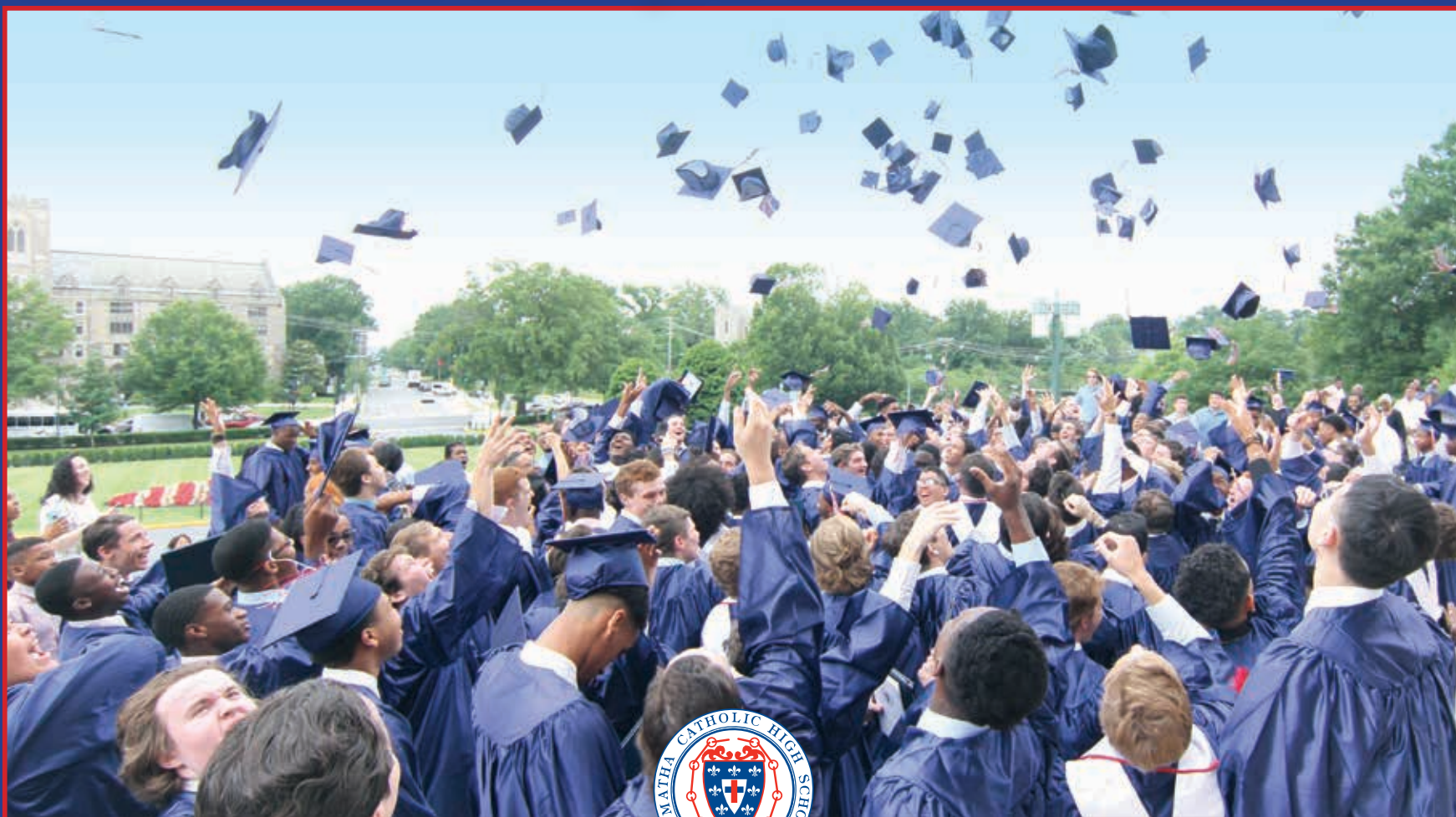


BELOW: One group of students pose for a photo with Pastor Thomas Kalita following their First Communion. More than 60 young people celebrated their First Communion at Saint Peter's on May 7.



Continued on page 48

✠ DeMatha Today, DeMatha Forever! ✠



www.dematha.org • 240-764-2210

4313 Madison Street Hyattsville, MD 20781

A Production Frozen in Time Finally has the Spotlight

By Tina Banks

As the auditorium fell to darkness, Natalie Avalos-Restrepo as Young Anna and Evelyn Pak as Young Elsa, lit up the stage in the Saint Peter's School production of *Frozen Jr.* The talented student cast of 45 performers and 38 stage-crew members, led by Director Phyllis Bottegal, Music Director Peter Nguyen, and Producer Caley Gallagher, dazzled sold-out audiences as they transported them to the fictional land of Arendelle.

It was clear from the opening curtain the cast was bringing the production to life for not only this year's hard working actors and actresses, but those who laid the foundation for this amazing performance—the *Frozen Jr.* 2020 cast. As the pandemic shut down the world, it impacted the 2020 production, forcing the cast to pass their magical powers onto another class. The 2023 performers let everything go as they dedicated their show to those performances forever frozen in time.

"It was amazing to finally see the play," said Crystie Byrde, mother of Michael and Matthew Byrde, 2020 and 2023 cast members, respectively. "I remember how hard Michael worked and his excitement to be in the 2020 production. I never got to see Michael as Hans, but seeing Matthew, Michael's younger brother, in the same costume Michael would have worn was just so special. I cried during the tribute as the production for both of them finally had the spotlight."

In *Frozen*, Take 2, the Drama Club's 23rd year of performances, the cast was worth melting over. As the young princesses transformed into their older versions, Nora Babu as Anna and Demi Storms as Elsa, they filled the theater with amazing vocals, making the audience forget they were watching a middle-school performance. Supporting cast members—Georgio Alarcon Sardelis as Kristoff, George Glekas as Olaf, Nick Barczy as Weslton and Matthew Byrde as Hans—performed scenes with confidence, making the audience feel every emotion and filling the auditorium with laughter and even some tears.

"It is great to see the children start off not knowing what is ahead, and then they evolve into characters," said Director Phyllis Bottegal. "It's

Continued on page 62



Cast and crew of *Frozen Jr.* dazzled audiences at three sold-out shows



Gabriella Aguayo



William Alnahhas



Nora Babu



Panayotis Balaras



Belen Benavides



Jules Burritt



Arthur Canfield



Marin Cobo



Olivia Cooley



Aurelio Del Pino



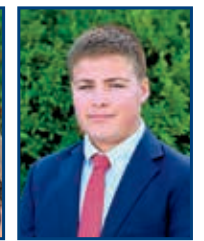
Congratulations!

**SAINT PETER'S
CLASS OF 2023**

God Bless You In High School



Addison Dickerson



Reese Dickerson



Roman Drews



Chidiebube Dumebi-Kachikwu

Fr. Thomas Kalita, Pastor

Mr. Nelson Abreu, Principal



Ephrata Fikremariam



Paloma Finan



Barok Gebrmichael



Emma Gibbs



Gabriella Giron



Abigail Gorogias



Charlee Hartzog



Claire Ikwuemesi



Nathan Jeudy



Alexandra Kissal



Madison Lynch



Isla Miller



Grace Mueller



Lindsay Munoz



Omeed Norouzi



Timothy O'Boyle



Christian Press



Camden Ranero



Sio Riggio



Alice Rozario



Layla Rueda



Georgio Sardelis



Gina Song



Demi Storms



Samuel Thompson



Clare Westlake

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Rev. Thomas Kalita, Pastor

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St. Peter's School

Mr. Nelson Abreu

Interim Principal

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Cardinal Gregory Receives Illinois' Order of Lincoln Award

State's Highest Honor is for Public Service and Professional Achievement

In an April 29 ceremony at the Illinois State Capitol, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the Archbishop of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington (D.C.) along with five other laureates, was bestowed the Order of Lincoln, the highest honor in his home state.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and Lincoln Academy Chancellor, the Honorable Ron Spears, presented this year's laureates with a ribbon, medallion and certificate in a formal ceremony in the House Chamber.

"My heart will always be full of gratitude for you, Illinois," said Cardinal Gregory in accepting the award. "It is with abundant appreciation and fondness for my home state that I accept this award. Thank you for recognizing me – way over there in Washington, D.C. – as a son of Illinois."

Cardinal Gregory was honored as a native of Illinois who was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago and eventually ordained

a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He served as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese before being named bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois and later becoming the Archbishop of Atlanta and, in 2019, the Archbishop of Washington.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, noted his Washington counterpart's "exceptional faith journey" in a statement about the award.

"Chicagoans have taken pride in his numerous contributions to the faith and society, notably his service as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops when he championed the policies that ensured no priest with a substantiated allegation of child sexual abuse would ever serve in ministry.

"We are particularly pleased that this son of Chicago has been named a Laureate of the Order of Lincoln and join Governor Pritzker in congratulating him."

Illinois established the Order of Lincoln in 1964 to honor people from the state whose work "uplifts every community in the state." More than 350 laureates have received the honor, including athletes, authors, politicians, civic leaders, scientists and performers. Among them have been theologian and television evangelist Archbishop Fulton Sheen; Cardinal Albert Meyer, who headed the Chicago Archdiocese until his death in 1965; President Ronald Reagan, and the late movie critic Roger Ebert.

The other laureates this year are: Jayne Carr Thompson, former Illinois first lady, author and litigator; Karen Hasara, a former state legislator and mayor of Springfield; John W. Rogers Jr., co-CEO of Ariel Investments; Thomas E. Skilling III, longtime chief meteorologist at WGN-TV; and Paula Wolff, policy advisor for three Illinois governors and currently policy adviser of the Illinois Justice Project.

OPT

MARTIN

Con't from page 40

Bride (Isaiah 62:5) and Jesus's declaration that He is the Bridegroom (Mark 2:19 & Luke 5:34).

Deacon Martin examined John 2. Jesus's choice of performing His first public miracle at the wedding feast at Cana is significant because wedding feasts signified the arrival of the messianic age throughout the Old Testament (Amos 9:13-14, Joel 4:18, & Isaiah 25:6-8). Furthermore, it was customary for the bridegroom to provide wine at the wedding. So, Christ's transformation of water into wine revealed that He was both the Messiah and the Divine Bridegroom.

John 4 describes the exchange between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. Deacon Martin recounted that the meeting place of a well was notable because the patriarchs met their wives at wells (Genesis 24:10-61, 29:1-30, & Exodus 2:15-22). He mentioned that the woman represents the Samaritan people; she had five husbands, and the Samaritans worshiped five false gods (2 Kings 17:24,29).

Deacon Martin transitioned to Holy Week and parallels between the anointing of Christ and the Song of Songs. The perfumed oil, nard, is only mentioned in the Song of Songs in the Old Testament. The nard anointed the Bridegroom in Song of Songs 1:12. As the woman poured the nard over Christ, she announced that He was the Bridegroom and ushered in "The Week of the Bridegroom," the



Deacon Martin Begley, Seminarian of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.

Byzantine tradition's name for Holy Week.

The climax of salvation history is when Jesus lays down His life as a sacrifice for His Bride. On the marriage bed of the Cross, Christ consummated His marriage with the Church. This moment of union ushered in new life and formed the family of God. Traditionally, the Church was born out of Christ's pierced side "as Eve was formed from the sleeping Adam's side" (CCC 766).

Deacon Martin's reflection served as an invitation for sincere contemplation and a reminder that we each made for perfect union with God.

Deacon Martin Begley will be ordained to the priesthood on June 17, please keep him in your prayers.

OPT

ESSAYS

Con't from page 44

Paige's parents, Greg and Kristen Koger of Potomac, and Andrew's parents, John and Jennifer Matelis of Potomac, and grandparents, Joe and Bernie Matelis, and Larry and Carol Blume, also attended the meeting.

The DAR sponsors the nationwide contest annually, and it is open to students in fifth through eighth grade. It is designed to encourage the knowledge and appreciation of American history among our nation's youth. This year's assigned topic was the Second Continental Congress, which met from May 10, 1775 to May 1, 1781. The students were challenged to imagine they were a delegate from 1775-1776, and explain which colony they represented and what would be important to accomplish for their colony. Paige's essay described the three goals of a South

Carolina delegate; freedom from England, establishment of an army, and establishment of a government. In his essay, Andrew described the influence of the delegation from the most populous colony, Virginia, and their concern over taxes and British limitations on land ownership. Goshen Mills Chapter Regent Terry Mark and American History Chairman Karma Beal presented each student with a Chapter Winner certificate, a bronze medal, and a gift card to Barnes and Noble.

Recently Goshen Mills Chapter members were excited to learn that an independent panel of judges has named Andrew as the Maryland DAR's seventh-grade winner in the contest. He will be honored at the Maryland DAR Conference's Awards Luncheon on May 20th. Seventy-four St. Jane de Chantal School students entered essays in the contest, and each received a Certificate of Participation.

OPT

TEACHERS

Con't from page 43

from having the student-run car wash on Thursday, so on Friday a gift certificate to Flagship Car Wash was included in the Cinco de Mayo themed swag bag. While each of the daily themes brought smiles and

surprises, we want our teachers to know this, above all: we see your gifts, your struggles, your commitment, and efforts daily. You help to create a culture of inclusivity, a joy of learning, and a safe space where our children are seen and heard and for that we are deeply grateful.

OPT



OPT

Saint John Neumann Catholic parish welcomed thirty catechumens and candidates into full communion with the church on Saturday, April 8, 2023.

VIGIL

Con't from page 40

on Easter also led me to have an intense gratitude and thanksgiving for God and all he has done and will continue to do for my life! I

have finally found the relationship I was searching for my whole life and cannot wait to continue to walk this path."

As Lily, Kayla and the rest of the catechumens and candidates begin a new journey as new Catholics, fully clothed in the light of Christ, we continue to welcome and pray

for them, especially during this Easter Season. Congratulations to all who have made this important step in your faith journey. Thank you for your faith, courage, and witness, which truly makes the Easter Vigil the most beautiful liturgy of the year.

OPT

MARY

Con't from page 44

after the 10:00 a.m. Mass the first weekend in May. Charlotte Owens, Francesca Antonelli, and Penelope Harmon crowned the statue of Mary located on the church grounds in the aptly named *Mary Garden*.

In May, the parish's Pro-Life committee collected signatures of parishioners who would like to say rosaries for the unborn. They also

will be selling carnations, corsages, and small bouquets the weekend of Mother's Day to help raise funds for Right to Life of Montgomery County. They echo Mary's yes to God by helping women say yes to life.

DeChantal's Special Religious Education program gathered on the first Saturday of May for their May Crowning. They adorned their Mary statue with flowers and prayed for her intercession to her Son. They also enjoyed fellowship and donuts.

DeChantal school and faith formation classes will have their own May Crownings in the following weeks of May. The beautiful crown of flowers that our parishioners adorn on the Mary statues remind them of the beauty and virtues of Mary. Her gentle example of obedience, beauty, and love stir in the hearts of all Catholics throughout the year but in May they pray for these gifts to bloom over the whole world.

OPT

Parish Support for a Pastor in Pain

On March 19, the parish received a note from Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, the pastor of Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, that he had been appointed as Administrator of St. Paul while our pastor is on leave. He wrote, “I am joining you in praying for your pastor, Monsignor Filardi, as he takes some personal time for himself. May the Lord shower him with blessings and restore him as he needs. This decision of Msgr. Filardi is a sign to each of us. Recognizing the need and accepting help is commendable. May we all be so humble.”

Filling in for a pastor is daunting, but Fr. Fangmeyer and two other priests came for-

ward promptly to help out.

Fr. Rick Gancayco generally celebrates the Mass for the parish Sunday through Wednesday. He had already been helping out for some months. He grew up in Damascus, in a large, ambitious, and disciplined Filipino family. Many parishioners knew his father, a pediatrician here. Fr. Rick served as pastor of St. Martin’s in Gaithersburg, but he was also a missionary and a military chaplain for some years, and his sermons reflect those highly focused experiences. He says what he’s going to say, then says it, then says what he said – with clear titles and effective mnemonic devices – in three minutes. It is common to

hear people say after Mass on Sunday or during the week that they remember everything he said, and then prove it in 30 smiling seconds. Time is a serious factor to Fr. Gancayco; doctors kept predicting he would likely die last year. He’s living on borrowed time, but Whoever keeps loaning him time seems to be generous.

Fr. Ray Fecteau, a retired priest of the archdiocese, celebrates Mass for the parish Thursday to Saturday. He was the founding pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation in Darnestown, and he helped to establish Mary of Nazareth School there. He was chaplain for the law enforcement officers of the county, so

he was already acquainted with a large portion of the parishioners at St. Paul. He lights up when he says he knew Fr. Walter Norris, the wry dry iconoclastic pastor then pastor-emeritus at St. Paul for 30 years.

The parish staff, including Meghan McFarland, Cindy Mengle, and Matt Curley, serve quietly, keeping parish life in order.

So we wait patiently for Msgr. Filardi’s return, praying with Fr. Fangmeyer: “The Lord wants nothing but the best for Monsignor. May he experience it in abundance.”

OPT

A Tribute to Three Volunteers

The St. Paul community is full of people who love the Lord, and who act on their own initiative to strengthen the Church. Perhaps every person in the parish has a collection of stories to tell, but here are three glimpses of the volunteers who make the land and building attractive.

The flowers in the church on Christmas and Easter, and around the statue of Mary, are a simple joy. For eight years now, this beauty in our church has been due to one quiet woman. She shares her gift and sits in the back, smiling. She has some help the day before the two major holidays: thanks to them too! But mostly, this is her work. She would prefer to be un-named, to create and maintain beauty without any fuss. But since we can all learn from her gentle ways, perhaps we should know where to look. The church is attractive day in and day out because of Fran Hunt. Thanks, Fran!

The Norris Chapel needs maintenance. For several years, the doors have looked like the entrance to a haunted house, black and ragged. This spring, a quiet and skilled volunteer stripped them, sanded them to the underlying wood, applied several coats of polyurethane, and returned them to their original golden glow. The chapel is closer to the road than the new church; it is what people see first when they find St. Paul’s. So it’s good to lose the appearance of neglect, and to glow again. The individual who saw the need and fixed the door clings to his or her anonymity. But thanks!

Dale Miller took an amazing photo of the back of the church at sunset. It shows a pleasant sky behind the church and a glorious sky reflected in the window. What you see when you look in at the church is good; but what you see when you look out from the church, captured in a reflection outside, is glorious. It’s like the sunset of life: a corpse may look somber to us, but what the departed see may be eternally radiant. So the photo of the church offers a glimpse of the real work of the Church. Thanks, Dale!



Sunset in back of the church – what you see looking at, what you see looking out. Photo by Dale Miller



Jesus and some of His disciples, as depicted on *The Chosen*

Two Bible Study Programs: Get a Grip

The most powerful piece of literature in the history of the world, the book that lays out the mysteries of Christianity, is the Bible. So you should read it, right? Good luck.

When people plunge in on their own, planning to read right through, they generally do pretty well in Genesis and Exodus, then get lost and discouraged in the desert sands of Leviticus. Jeff Cavins, a nationally renowned scholar and speaker, offers a way through. He power-walks through a coherent chronology using just 14 books (the Bible is a collection of 73 different short “books” of various kinds), presenting a rich overview, an outline that the rest of books can fit into. He sketches the history of the world (!) in eight half-hour talks, from creation to salvation. This program is entitled “Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible.”

Phil Raum has been running the program for the parish (with thanks to Cindy Mengle and Matt Curley). It’s flexible; Cavins’s approach will orient beginners, but it can also

enrich anyone’s understanding.

During Lent, Matt Curley launched another discussion. He kick-started conversations of an on-going television series, *The Chosen*, which is an ambitious presentation of the Gospel. It’s not complete; the plan is for seven seasons, eight episodes each; three seasons are done and available, and the fourth is in production now. It’s a national phenomenon, claiming 108 million viewers and counting.

The show is historical fiction, with no pretense of scholarly accuracy; it is entrancing and inspiring. It’s a rich narrative about the men and women who were chosen to follow Jesus in his ministry, with complex characters based on the bare bones of the Gospels. Judas, for example, is a wide-eyed salesman, skilled and successful and ambitious, who finds the Lord’s casual approach to financial planning and security a little unnerving; Judas knows he needs training in the ministry, but he thinks he can offer some really good ideas about money. Mary and Mary Magdalen

are extraordinarily attractive characters, modest and quiet but deeply wise: that’s nice, but can they seize an audience? Actually, yes, emphatically yes – but see for yourself.

The parish discussion in Lent was about season one; more are coming later this year, says Matt Curley. The parish is using the Catholic commentary on *The Chosen* found on the “Formed” website (formed.org – sign up for free through the parish; see the bulletin for more details).

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Our Parish Times Online

St. Martin of Tours



Congratulations to St. Martin's Green Team Club on their recent recognition from the City of Gaithersburg's Environmental Affairs Committee! Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



Congratulations to the St. Martin's Drama Club for the successful performance of *The Claw*! Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

CARNIVAL

Con't from page 45

nival-inspired swag, a brightly colored program including a map, and tickets for all the fun. The tickets allowed guests to play over a dozen different games of chance, jump on one of two moon bounces, enjoy hot dogs, popcorn, and lemonade, and try their luck at the cake walk. Activities included tattoo painting, racing yellow rubber ducks named after favorite teachers, corn hole, and the cup stacking challenge.

The Silent Auction offered amazing items such as exotic trips, class baskets, Principal and Nurse for the Day experiences, and the latest technology gadgets. Although the event was an opportunity for the entire school community to be together and have fun, it was also a successful fundraiser for future school projects and programs. We are appreciative of our school families, sponsors, donors, and underwriters for their partnership and continued support of our mission.

OPT

Mother Seton

May Crowning and Procession

This year's May Crowning and Procession in honor of Our Blessed Mother took place on Sunday, May 7 after the 10:45 a.m. mass. The parishioners proceeded to the statue of Our Lady in the courtyard for the crown-

ing. The First Holy Communicants were invited to wear their communion attire for the Crowning and Procession. We prayed a decade of the Rosary at the conclusion of the event.

OPT

RIGHT: Fr. Lee Fangmeyer with First Communicants



ABOVE: Our Blessed Mother

RIGHT: Crowning Our Lady



St. Peter



The Most Reverend Roy E. Campbell, Jr. confirmed Saint Peter's eighth grade students and students from Saint Peter's School of Religion on Sunday, March 26.



In advance of confirmation, Father Nicholas accompanied the eighth-grade class on a field trip to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC.

FAIR

Con't from page 48

opportunity. For students in grades 6-8, "Best in Category" awards, such as Best Research Project, Best Experiment, Best Demonstration, and Crowd Pleaser, were presented. Judges included science professionals, local high school teachers, and community members.

"Our students showed off how curious, creative, and courageous

they are. I loved hearing them talk about their investigations!" said middle-school science teacher Mrs. Caldeira.

Fourth-grader Charlotte Scango's project explored whether fruit could produce power to light a light bulb. "No matter how old you are you can find a project that works for you," Scango said, "It was fun walking around learning about things, especially from the little kids."

Project topics represented a diverse array of scientific fields

including aerospace, biology, biomedical, chemistry, computer science, engineering, food science, geology, kinesiology, power, and life science.

"Special thanks to all of the volunteers from the parish, local schools, and community who helped make this event happen," said Mrs. McAndrew-Benavides. "I hope it's the beginning of a new annual tradition."

OPT

Senior Resident's Patriots Exhibit: From a Wheelchair Perspective

By SK Dr. Stephen Holowenzak, PGK, PFN,
Photographer from a powered wheelchair

A few weeks ago, SK Marvin Schuttloffel, from Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle Assembly #386 presented me with a USA patriotic cap at the Marian Assisted Living facility in Brookville, Md. His thoughtfulness was outstanding



ABOVE LEFT: SK Stephen Holowenzak with UMGC President, Gregory Fowler
LEFT: Marvin Schuttloffel presented Steve Holowenzak with the Patriot Cap

along with the symbolism and patriotism that the cap conveyed.

Afterwards I thought, "The cap just couldn't be kept to myself, it must be shared with others." I presented this idea to Elizabeth Orchard, Executive Director of the Marian House, who without hesitation said, "Run with it! It will delight

the residents and their families and make them very happy!" I asked each Patriot to take their senior resident's photograph—capturing the patriotism on their glowing faces, beaming eyes, and smiles all under the lid of a patriotic hat and with life stories of patriotism to tell! The "Wall of Senior Citizens Christian Patriots," was created. Residents' pictures with the cap reflected their courage and sacrifices and honored



ABOVE RIGHT: The Wall of Senior Patriot Residents

each American patriot on Veterans Day. The Wall became a show of love and tribute to all senior American Patriots at the Marian House.

Twenty senior Patriots were photographed, eight are shown on the Wall. Others were spread across the area adding new incoming residents. Family members, friends, and guests viewed the Wall. Other visitors included Knights from

St. Michael's and around the area and one special guest visitor, Dr. Gregory Von Lehmen, Special Assistant to the President of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). Other locations where the cap was worn were the 75th Anniversary of the UMGC, and the Montgomery County Fair. This was and continues to be a tribute to all senior "Patriots" worldwide.

OPT

St. Patrick



ABOVE: The students in action, putting on a great performance! Photo by Allan's Fine Portraits

RIGHT: We got a Golden Ticket! Our fifth-eighth grade students performed Willy Wonka, Jr. to three sold out shows! Another amazing musical showcasing our talented students and the directors, Mrs. Jill Fecko and Mrs. Gina Swanda, who make it all possible. Photo by Allan's Fine Portraits.



LEFT: The fourth-grade class spent a day in Annapolis visiting the State House, touring the United States Naval Academy campus, and riding the Harbor Queen on the Severn River. Always a fun and educational field trip for our students!



St. Michael the Archangel parishioners pose with pastor Msgr. Tolentino after completing their total consecration to Mary.

Springvale Retirement Community—Ministering with Love

By Andrew Russell

About six years ago, I was asked by our Pastor, Monsignor Eddie Tolentino, if I would conduct a prayer service for the residents at Springvale Retirement Community. Since that time, I, along with St. Michael's parishioners, Brenda Dawson, Linda Jordon, and Mary Ndemah have conducted a prayer service at Springvale three times a month and participated in Mass celebrated by a priest from St. Michael's once a month.

For a couple of years, we led a Bible study group on Monday afternoons. Ministering to residents at Springvale has been a wonderful experience and an opportunity to share love. Meeting so many good people who are seeking the meaning of their lives as they face the golden years has really changed my life. The kindness and the love

they have shown to us will never be forgotten.

A few weeks ago, we received the sad news that Springvale is going to close. The building will be torn down and replaced with senior apartments. We will miss Springvale, but with the help of God, and others at St. Michael's, we will find a new ministry to continue our work of love.

OPT

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St. Raphael



First grade went to The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo and enjoyed the nice day on

“Beyond Justification”

Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso Urges Representatives to Oppose Sweeping Immigration Bill

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. House of Representatives prepares to vote on H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration, sent a letter urging members of Congress to oppose the bill and “to support the drafting of bipartisan legislation that is more in keeping with our nation’s rich tradition of welcome.”

Bishop Seitz expressed concern that the bill would fundamentally weaken the decades-long commitment to humanitarian protection that the United States has demonstrated. He cited provisions that “would endanger unaccompanied children and inflict harm on other vulnerable persons, decimate access to asylum, mandate damaging detention and removal practices, restrict access to legal employment, limit — and potentially eliminate — federal partnerships with faith-based and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), undermine the rule of law, and more.”

“We do not question the good intentions of lawmakers who seek to enact legislation that would secure our nation’s borders. Indeed, we join in the call to enact effective and humane border management as part of a framework of comprehensive immigration reforms,” he wrote before adding, moreover, that the bishops “do not discount the challenges at our border with Mexico, nor the right of nations to maintain their borders.”

“However,” Bishop Seitz continued, quoting Pope John Paul II,



Bishop Mark J. Seitz

“our faith also compels us to be ‘vigilant advocate[s], defending against any unjust restriction [on] the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another’ and to call attention ‘to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their human dignity, even in cases of non-legal immigration.’”

While acknowledging that there may be several provisions within H.R. 2 that members support, Bishop Seitz stated that “passage, on the whole, is beyond justification” because of the harmful measures it contains.

The letter describes many of those provisions in detail and may be read in its entirety at: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/USCCB%20Letter%20on%20H.R.%202.pdf>

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy



Mercy eighth graders showed their spirit as they prepared to take on the faculty in a game of kickball.



ABOVE: Sixth graders brought the Renaissance theater alive during Mercy’s Renaissance fair.



RIGHT: Mercy sixth graders working hard during their field trip to the Chesapeake Bay.



ABOVE: Mercy’s newest Spelling Bee champions: Manboki Bolan (grades 3-5 winner) and Aisley Holahan (grades 6-8 winner)!

For Mother’s Day

Ten Things You Didn’t Know About Mother Seton – As a Mother

Every saint had a mother, but Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton’s own motherhood might surprise you...

Catholics often like to treat saints like they lived in another dimension — as if they didn’t have to grapple with the real-life issues that so many of us face in our own lives. Not so with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Her journey included the losing her mother as a young girl; hobnobbing with the likes of Alexander Hamilton and his wife; finding true romantic love with her husband; experiencing financial ruin; losing her husband to tuberculosis and then converting to the Catholic faith where she became one of the great figures in the American Church.

Mother Seton was also something else — a mother, herself.

The story of her spiritual and temporal motherhood will be a key part of the new \$7 million museum and visitors center that will open this September at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Md. In the meantime, here are 10 things you may not know about Mother



Seton’s own motherhood.

1. She had five children in the first seven years of marriage.

In addition, just two years after the birth of her youngest, she took in her husband’s six younger siblings, as well. There were now eleven children under the age of seventeen living under her roof. She also fretted about her “saucy boys” who “almost master me” and anxiously sought advice from a friend about her daughter Anna Maria’s stubborn will and bad temper, declaring that her daughter “despite all my endeavors is past my management.” But she deeply loved her children and called them “her little darlings.”

Learn more about Mother Seton’s children in this three-minute video.

2. Not only did she outlive two of her children, but her own life came into peril during the birth of her son Richard.

Catherine O’Donnell writes in *Elizabeth Seton: American Saint*, “She had had straightforward deliveries with her two earlier children, but as the hours passed it became clear that this birth... was different. ‘My illness was so severe,’ she wrote, ‘that both Mother and child were some hours in a very doubtful situation.’ When her father [a doctor]

Continued on page 60

Student Leaders Will be Missed

Our eighth-grade students have shown leadership in many ways this year. The activities they helped with, outside of their academics, have enhanced community at our school. In recent months, just to name a few: They encouraged friendship with their sale of “Candygrams”. Students submitted messages to students, parents, siblings, and friends, which were assembled with candy and sent out in time for Valentine’s Day. They helped raise over \$2,000 for the poor through “Change for Change” during Lent. They contributed to our student produced online newspaper, “*Friends of Saint Francis: A place to grow in faith and friendship with God.*” They sponsored a “Date Night” for our families where young and old gathered to dance the night away! In honor of Our Blessed Mother, they lead our school in a decade of the Rosary in multiple languages after our May Crowning.

Eighth graders had much to say about their time at Saint Francis International School. Malia Ford shared that, “Saint Francis has a wonderful learning environment and great teachers.” Rhys Coxen commented, “My time at Saint Francis has been full of education, activity, and socializing.” Leilani Boswell said, “I appreciate my teachers for caring and looking out for me.”

We will miss these fine young people when they graduate but will send them off with our love and prayers for the future!

OPT



ABOVE: At Calleva, students experienced outdoor challenges that promote personal growth, group cooperation, confidence, and leadership skills.



BELOW: Soon walking into the future!



ABOVE: Candygrams for Valentine's Day

LEFT: Students watch the result of their science experiment

BELOW: Friendships made over the years to last a lifetime!



Spring has Sprung at St. Francis International School!

Spring has brought a flurry of activities at Saint Francis International School. Our community came together and made 2,000 bags of food for the homeless on a recent Saturday morning. We had a yard sale and clean-up day to beautify our school grounds. The eighth graders held a bake sale to raise money for their graduation trip. The second graders' tulips were gorgeous! Each year they participate in the *Tulip Project* which involves research, writing, and gardening.

We had a successful Book Fair. We had visits from authors Valerie Tripp (in person) and 2016 Olympian Bronze medalist in fencing, Ibtihaj Muhammad (virtually). The first graders each received a copy of “The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship.” The parents put on an amazing Easter Egg Hunt for the students. We had a beautiful May Crowning, and the students showed off their creative abilities at our Talent Show.

Many field trips were taken. Students went to places like the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the Vocations Mass, to the Holocaust Museum, to the Memorial sites in D.C., to Annapolis to learn about Maryland history, and to the Recycling Center. We still have more to come as we head to the end of the school year – First Communion, Confirmation, Field Day, our End of the year Bar-B-Q, and more!

OPT



Seventh graders visiting Memorials in D.C.



Father and son helping bag food for the homeless.



A beautiful May Crowning!



First graders with their new books.



Second graders and their tulips.

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Sam Chapa, Principal

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

St. Mark Campus
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Hyattsville, MD 20783



OLQP Pastor Fr. Frydrych celebrated the Katyn-Smolensk Remembrance Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday. The relics of St. John Paul II and St. Faustyna were in front of the altar. Pictured also are lector Iza Macander and altar servers Stas and Jas.



Some of the representatives at the Katyn-Smolensk Mass, requested by the Polish American Congress-WMAD, on April 16, Divine Mercy Sunday: SK Richard Okreglak; Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak; SK Bob Dowlut; PAC-WMAD, PSO-ZHP Bozenna Buda; Embassy of the Republic of Poland Dr. Nikodem Rachon; PAC-WMAD, SK Jacek Marczynski; SK David Birely.



St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 GK Stefan Witczak received the Faith in Action Award from District Warden Franklin Morton at O.L. Queen of Poland, Silver Spring, on May 7.

Knight of Columbus, St. Max. Kolbe Council, Grand Knight Stefan Witczak Receives Faith in Action Award

By Bozenna Buda

Dr. Stefan Witczak, Grand Knight of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus, received the Faith in Action Award on May 7,

2023, at OLQP. It was presented by Supreme Knight Franklin Morton, District Warden within the Maryland State Council, on behalf of the Maryland State Deputy.

As Morton explained, the award is given to those who "within a Fraternal Year successfully complete 16 Faith Activities. The categories that make up the Faith Programs are Faith, Family, Community, and Life. This year at the Maryland State Convention held in Annapolis, Maryland, St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 was one of only 29 Councils to receive this award, out of 126 Councils that make up District 11."

Congratulations to Grand Knight Stefan Witczak! Szczesc Boze!

OPT

Celebrating Our Lady Queen of Poland Feast Day and Poland's Constitution with Holy Mass, Picnic, and John Paul II Book Talk



The Holy Mass on May 7, which was requested by the Polish American Congress-Wash Metro Area Division, was attended by representatives from the Polish Embassy and various organizations. The St. Maximilian Kolbe Council 16634 Knights of Columbus provided the honor guard. Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., presided at the Holy Mass with visiting priest Fr. M. Matejko. Also present were seminarian Maximilian Korzan, SK John Armstrong, SK & Deputy Warden Franklin Morton, SK David Birely, SK Tomasz Kolodziej, ZHP Bozenna Buda, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, SK Richard Okreglak, SK Jacek Marczynski, GK Stefan Witczak, SK Bob Dowlut (in back), Krystyna Osowski.

The OLQP and the greater Polish community in the Washington area had much to celebrate recently. Various events were held to commemorate both the feast day of Our Lady Queen of Poland as well

as the anniversary of Poland's Constitution, both of which fall on May 3, though the celebrations took place on Sunday, May 7. Events included a mass, a joyful picnic, and a book talk on *A Pope for All Seasons: Testimonies*

Inspired by Saint John Paul II, written by parishioner Monika Jablonska. Many people, especially from the local Knights of Columbus chapter helped to make the day a great success.

OPT



The parish picnic was headed by Parish Council President Izabella Macander with assistance from the Knights of Columbus Council 16634 and parishioners.



OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych welcomed everyone to the picnic and introduced Monika Jablonska, parishioner and author, who brought copies of her book, *A Pope for All Seasons: Testimonies Inspired by Saint John Paul II*. Her family accompanied her to the picnic.



OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych blessed those assembled as well as their food baskets on Holy Saturday, April 8.

More Our Lady Queen of Poland News on Page 58

**Our Lady
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Academy of the Holy Cross Students Put Catholic Social Teaching into Practice at St. Francis

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

On April 25, eight students and two staff members at The Academy of the Holy Cross traded in their school uniforms, backpacks, and laptops for work clothes, gardening gloves, and shovels, as they beautified the grounds of St. Francis of Assisi Parish as part of their All School Day of Service.

The eight ninth graders joined Media Specialist Sarah Chase and Theology teacher Patricia Petruzzelli in spreading mulch in the parish's Outdoor Stations of the Cross, deadheading daffodils in the Outdoor Stations and throughout the grounds, and watering 12 trees that had been planted last fall. The cleanup work – typically done as a parishwide project – offered a way to show the students how we can engage with one another, said parish Director of Social Concerns and Adult Faith Formation Tony Bosnick.

"It really reinforces the basic things we learn in Religious



Eight ninth graders and two staff members from The Academy of the Holy Cross join St. Francis of Assisi Parochial Vicar Fr. Grzegorz Okulewicz, fourth from left, on April 25 in the parish's Outdoor Stations of the Cross. The students and staff worked on the parish's grounds as part of their school's All School Day of Service.

Education, Youth Ministry, and the Rite of Christian Initiation for Christian Adults – that we're on a journey and we walk with one another," Bosnick said. "Also, that

we are a part of a local and global community, and this is one way to engage with that community."

The suburban parish was one of 26 sites throughout the District of

Columbia and Maryland where students, staff, and administrators at the 155-year-old school engaged in acts of service at sites ranging from the Anacostia Community Boathouse

to Habitat for Humanity Restores to Interfaith Works. Coordinated over seven months, the service day aims to expose students and staff to the needs of communities around them, said Maika Walker, the school's Director of Social Justice.

"Our mission we are called to by Jesus is to love God and people," Walker said. "We hope the Day of Service allows them to remember they are created to serve God, help others, and see that serving with their friends is fun."

Indeed, the students seemed to be enthusiastic about nearly every task that was given them. Following their steady work in the Outdoor Stations, the group ate lunch in the Youth Room, taking the time to pose next to a larger-than-life cut-out of Pope Francis, whose papal encyclical, "Laudato si," inspired their care for God's creation.

"It was really nice to have the students here – they are hard workers, as are the adult volunteers," Bosnick said.

OPT

St. Francis Pastor Creates "Welcoming Space" for His Flocks over 25 Years in the Priesthood

A relative latecomer to the priesthood, Fr. John J. Dillon had spent years teaching high-minded Latin to undergraduate and graduate students, along with many seminarians, at The Catholic University of America. But as he reflects on his 25th anniversary as an archdiocesan priest, the Pittsburgh-area native has realized the home-based practices of learning, listening, and leaning on God have formed his ministry more than his college dissertation subject ever could.

Since his ordination at the age of 48, Fr. John has served at five archdiocesan parishes in Maryland: as parochial vicar at St. John Regis in Hollywood and Little Flower in Bethesda, as parish administrator and pastor at St. Joseph in Pomfret, and as pastor at St. Mark's in Hyattsville and St. Francis of Assisi in Derwood. He has ministered to diverse congregations -- from farming families to undocumented immigrants to suburban households -- all, with the kindness, compassion, quiet leadership, and humble piety that have characterized his priesthood.

"The church is a family – sometimes, in families, things happen," Fr. John recently said. "But we need to learn how to forgive and be reconciled and not hold grudges."

Born in Pittsburgh on December 2, 1949, Fr. John is the eldest of four children born to Kate, a secretary, and John, an attorney and judge on the Butler County (PA)



St. Francis of Assisi Pastor Fr. John Dillon stands alongside founding parishioner Peg Smith after the parish's 50th Anniversary Mass in May 2022. Fr. John is celebrating his Jubilee as an archdiocesan priest on May 23, 2023; Fr. John will mark the milestone at the 11:15 am Mass at the church on May 21.

Court of Common Pleas. His roots in Butler date back to the early 20th century on one side and to the American Revolution on the other.

A product of a Catholic grade school and a public high school, he first considered a vocation to the priesthood in junior high but his parents suggested he wait. In high school, he discovered a talent for Latin, leading him to study classical languages at Villanova University where he graduated in 1971. After briefly attending the University of Missouri at Columbia, he began discerning the priesthood, moving to Washington DC in September 1972 to become a Capuchin friar

and priest.

The times intervened. In 1975, on the advice of a mentor, Fr. Robert McCreary, Fr. John joined the Mother of God Community, where he lived for 20 years; during that time, he earned his doctorate degree from Catholic University in 1982 and began teaching there. But after experiencing discomfort in the community, he opted to "stick with the church" and, this time, applied for and was accepted into the seminary in 1996.

Since then-Cardinal James Hickey accepted his earlier coursework at the Washington Theological Coalition, he finished at the Theological College in Washington DC and was ordained a priest on May 23, 1998, at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Fr. John's quarter of a century as a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington has

Continued on page 58



Haiti Ministry Coordinator Dan Cardile and tween parishioner Devereaux Einsmann sell Just Haiti Coffee in the Gathering Space of St. Francis of Assisi Church on May 7, one month after the parish marked 10 years of selling the 'fair trade plus' coffee to its parishioners.

Just Haiti Coffee Has Brewed More Than a Cup of Good Java for Social Justice-Minded Parishioners

In the 36-year relationship between St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Conversion of St. Paul's Parish in Léon, Haiti, one strong tie has formed amid nearly 8,000 pounds of roasted coffee beans.

That's the amount of coffee St. Francis of Assisi Parish has sold over the past decade on behalf of Just Haiti, Inc., a Washington DC-based nonprofit dedicated to a business model allowing wealth generated through Haitian resource development or the sale of Haitian goods being kept by Haitian producers. In April, St. Francis marked 10 years of selling the 'fair trade plus' coffee to its parishioners, an occasion that led Haiti Ministry Coordinator

Dan Cardile to reflect on the partnership's impact.

"The profits are made because all the [post-harvest] work is done by wealthier people so poor people can get it," Cardile said.

The parish in Derwood is one of a handful of Catholic churches in the DC area selling the coffee, whose origins lie in shade-loving coffee plants in Haiti. Working with six grower associations throughout Haiti – one of which is Leon's, representing 33 farming families – Just Haiti picks up dried coffee beans once or twice a year from the airport in Port au Prince. Each shipment containing 7,000-10,000 pounds of coffee beans is transported to

Continued on page 58

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May Special Events at Christ the King

By Liz Weiss, parishioner with Katie Ward, Director English Religious Education and Isidra Molina, Director of Religious Education for parish

May is a very busy month for the Religious Education program at Christ the King Parish. We celebrate the Virgin Mary all month. Mothers will receive a special blessing on Mother's Day. Also, there will be many First Communions. Children are preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. They will then receive Jesus for the first time in the Holy Eucharist on Mother's Day.

Katie Ward is teaching the seven English students preparing for First Communion. There are 19 students in the Spanish program preparing for First Communion. For Confirmation, JP Togbe is teaching six students in the English program, who are preparing in addition to the

20 students in the Spanish Program. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be on May 26. Students are learning about the saints whose name they chose for Confirmation. Thank you to Isidra Molina and her husband Deacon Molina for leading the Spanish speaking students. A big thank you to all the volunteer teachers in the English and Spanish programs this year.

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Fr. Stephen J. Carter,
Pastor
Paul Lamoreaux,
OPT Editor

SPACE

Con't from page 57

been marked by caring pastoral care of his flock and managerial challenges that befall any administrator. While at St. Mark's, he was instrumental in helping found St. Francis International School in Silver Spring, which opened in September 2010, but had to close his parish school that previous spring. At St. Francis, he greenlighted the Build Up Our Church initiative, establishing the Joyful Greeter, Communications, and New Parishioner Welcome ministries, brought to fruition a long-planned building and church enhancement project, and recently established a Mass in Spanish.

He has also survived three bouts of cancer, continuing to minister through illness with prayer and

faith.

St. Francis Parish Pastoral Council Member Ann Pierre describes Fr. John's leadership style as a combination of a servant leader and a democratic leader. She fondly remembers a recent visit he made to her home while she was recuperating from surgery and his hearing of her Confession at her kitchen table.

"He is a person of great integrity and has a genuine interest in sharing knowledge with his flock," Pierre said. "Fr. John uses technology with ease and this was a great asset to our parish, especially during the COVID shutdown."

"My spiritual life has been strengthened by having Fr. John as my pastor and I believe it is the same for parishioners. Fr. John creates a welcoming space for all people, regardless of their race or ethnicity."

OPT

David Beaubien for greenlighting the partnership, Cardile credited current pastor Fr. John Dillon for "providing the space for this to flourish."

St. Francis parishioner Jeanne Kavinski is a regular supporter, a fan of the medium dark whole bean variety in bags and K-cups. She buys it, because she feels a connection with the coffee growers.

"You know where the money is going, because we have a sister parish in Haiti – it's important," said Kavinski, who sings in the parish's Contemporary Ensemble and prays with the virtual Rosary group. "Plus, the coffee tastes good."

Cardile agrees, likening parishioners' support to Catholic social teaching's call to put love into action through charitable works and social justice.

"Parishioners respond because they sense it's an issue of justice – it's not just an issue of charity," he said. "And I think they want to be a part of that."

OPT

Easter Celebration at Christ the King

By Liz Weiss, parishioner

Easter Mass was quite special at Christ the King. The church was crowded. People were dressed in their



ABOVE: Father Steve celebrating Easter Mass

LEFT: The Easter bunny visits Christ the King

colorful Spring clothes. The choir sounded so joyful. Singers were in white robes with sparkling gold sashes. The church was decorated festively with spring flowers and many white Easter lilies. Gold banners hung from the walls. The beautiful fabric painting of the Resurrection reminded us of the importance of

this special feast day. The giant Cross in the front of the church now had a gold sash on it. The Paschal candle burned brightly. Father Steve's sermon focused on the importance of Easter in the Catholic Church. At the end of the Mass the Easter Bunny arrived and the children received special treats. What a wonderful day for our community!

OPT

Our Lady Queen of Poland



LEFT: OLQP Polish Saturday School students, with parents and Principal Ewa Chlebowska and Teacher Urszula Kolodziej, display their beautifully crafted palms on Palm Sunday, April 2.



ABOVE: The OLQP Lenten retreat speaker on April 2 was Fr. Boguslaw Dabrowski, Franciscan missionary and the author of several books.



LEFT: OLQP Polish Saturday School students made traditional artistic Polish palms for their annual fundraiser. They were helped by School Principal Ewa Chlebowska, Teachers John Armstrong and Urszula Kolodziej, and parents and friends.

The Lord's Table Serves the Hungry

By Mike McAllister

The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen provides an inviting dining room service to anyone in need of a free, warm, nutritious meal. Multi-course meals are prepared and served to guests by various religious and other organizations.



ABOVE: Meal preparation at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen

LEFT: Fun in the kitchen

The Lord's Table has been in operation since 1984 and currently uses the Kitchen and Fellowship Hall of the Epworth United Methodist Church

in Gaithersburg. It is open on weekdays from mid-September through May from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish (OLVP) supports The Lord's Table by providing volunteers on the fifth

Thursday of any month that has five Thursdays (usually three or four times per year). There are many volunteer opportunities available for this wonderful ministry, including prepping, cooking, preparing salads, cutting desserts, serving the guests, and general cleaning. Recipes and ingredients are all provided by The Lord's Table and there is a kitchen manager onsite to help guide volunteers and answer any questions.

Cooks are generally needed from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and servers from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Some volunteers often stay a bit beyond their assigned times, when possible, to help with other tasks like plating meals or cleaning up.

The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen strictly follows health guidelines established by Montgomery County and provides a very safe environment for both volunteers and guests. The Lord's Table is an approved Montgomery County Public Schools volunteer organization. High school and middle schoolers may help serve as long as middle

school aged students are accompanied by an adult. Students can receive Student Service-Learning hours for serving and cleaning-up.

Volunteers for this ministry are rewarded with the knowledge that they have provided a healthy, nutritious meal to fellow human beings, and the guests are always very appreciative of the volunteers' efforts.

Parishioner Mike McAllister is the coordinator for The Lord's Table OLVP crew. He is welcoming those interested in learning more or in signing up to volunteer. His contact information is mikem141@aol.com or 301-706-8210. The direct signup link for the OLVP team is found on the parish website under the Social Concerns option of the Ministries Tab (<https://www.olvp.org/social-concerns>). Parishioner Sue Rambo coordinates the substitutes and monthly crew members for non-OLVP weeks. To join this larger ministry please email Sue at smmahn@aol.com. "If you're waiting on God, do what waiters do: Serve."

OPT

Season of Sacraments

By Erin Clegg

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish welcomed thirty-five boys and girls for their 2023 First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The first communicants, with beaming faces and hands folded, walked in two lines into a full church ready to see them receive their First Eucharist. Numerous first communicants served as lectors for the readings and petitions, and brought up the gifts during the Mass. Beautiful music filled the church by our talented Director of Music, Jyoti Hench. Catechists, including seminarian Wynne Kerridge, were thrilled to participate in the day and see the children mature in their faith. OLVP Sodalists also served a myriad of roles to ensure the success of the event. Fr. Greg was overjoyed to see the children receive the blessed sacrament and to witness the amazing support of the community. Afterwards, many enjoyed the parish grounds and visited the new Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

On June 3, 2023, our parish will also participate in the Archdiocesan Regional Confirmation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Twenty-seven youth have been



ABOVE: First Holy Communion Class of 2023

FAR LEFT: Prayerfully participating in the sacrament of the Eucharist

LEFT: Receiving Our Lord for the first time



preparing to receive the sacrament for the last two years and even wrote letters to Archbishop Gregory prayerfully expressing their readiness. Each selected a Confirmation Saint name and will proudly share why should the Cardinal ask them. We are excited for these youth to be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and go out on mission as soldiers of Christ!

It has been such a joy to see our youth so passionate to receive these sacraments. The future is nothing short of bright with these youth in our mix!

OPT

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Cropbox Dedication: (L-R) Principal John Sullivan, Abigail Sloan '24, Gabriela Lopez '24, Director of Social Justice Maika Walker, Science Chair Alison Simon, Director of Campus Ministry Linda Ruskowski, Brian Mulholland, Patrick Mulholland, Leah Durant, Lawrence Durant, Nancy Durant, Rev. Scott Hahn, President Katy Prebble, Zoe Wilson '24, Veronica Gomez '24.

Holy Cross Cropbox Dedication Launches Partnership to Feed the Hungry

On Thursday, May 11 under beautiful morning sunshine, The Academy of the Holy Cross hosted a dedication ceremony of the newly installed Cropbox – a reformatted shipping container that will grow fresh produce hydroponically, that will be donated to area food pantries through the John S. Mulholland Family Foundation. The project is through the vision and generosity of Leah Durant of Leah V. Durant and Associates and Family. Durant is also the founder of the Center for Urban Sustainability Projects (CUSP).

Durant partnered with Brian Mulholland of the John S. Mulholland Family Foundation to find a Catholic school in the area to house the Cropbox, learn the technology and manage the growing, and harvesting the produce. Mulholland contacted Holy Cross President Katy Prebble, who jumped at the opportunity. The project is a combination of social justice and environmental science education—faculty members Maika Walker, director of social justice; Linda Ruskowski, direc-

tor of campus ministry; and Alison Simon, chair of the science department have all received specialized training from Nancy and Lawrence Durant, hydroponic horticultural technicians. Students will also be trained to grow and care for the plants and the Cropbox environment while learning about environmental sustainability and feeding the hungry.

During the dedication event, Prebble, Mulholland and Durant addressed the entire Holy Cross school community along with special guests gathered for the occasion. They offered words of gratitude for the partnership and vision that brought the project to life. The dedication included a blessing by Rev. Scott Hahn, a member of the Mulholland Family Foundation board and a ribbon cutting.

The first harvest of produce has recently taken place and provided to the Mulholland Family Foundation to be distributed to food pantries. Volunteers from Holy Cross will maintain the project through the summer months and into the fall when students will be trained.

OPT



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MOTHER SETON

Con't from page 54

was summoned, the physician thought he might have to sacrifice his grandchild in order to save his daughter." Eventually, a safe delivery ensued.

3. Her sons served in the Navy

Her eldest William joined the U.S. Navy in 1817 and started his service on the USS Independence. He served 17 years. Richard was the captain's clerk on the USS Cyane. For nearly a year he was on duty off the coast of Africa before he contracted a fever and died in 1823. He was buried at sea, and served at sea. Each year, the Seton Shrine hosts the Sea Services Pilgrimage, and Mother Seton is the Patroness of the Sea Services. Learn more about William's service in the short film, "Son of a Saint."

4. She was constantly worried

about her sons' faith.

She wrote many letters to her Richard and William when they were young men, and worried about William while he served in the Navy on a ship without access to the Eucharist. She once wrote, "I must answer for my children in judgment, whatever faith I lead them to." After her conversion, she delighted in her three daughters' ready acceptance of the faith, but feared for her sons, whose friends mocked the Church. Listen to this episode in Friends & Followers to learn more about her son William, or listen to this episode to learn about Richard.

5. She wrote a book of advice for one of her daughters.

As Mother Seton was nearing death, a large concern was to prepare her daughter Catherine to face life without her mother. (Her two other daughters were already deceased). In a "Little Red Book,"

Mother Seton wrote advice and spirituality to help Catherine navigate the world without her mother. This "Little Red Book" will be on display in the new museum this Fall, along with her daughters' hair locks.

6. Her own daughter went on to become a mother of a religious order.

Catherine joined the Sisters of Mercy and received the habit on April 6, 1847, and was given the name "Sister Mary Catherine". In her later years in the order, she was referred to as "Mother." Years earlier, in 1812, Mother Seton's eldest daughter Anna Maria took vows to become a Sister of Charity, as she was dying.

7. She lost her own mother at a young age.

Mother Seton's blended family actually began when she was three years old and her mother died. One year later, her little sister also

passed away. Her father remarried but her stepmother did not accept young Elizabeth and often sent her away to live with relatives.

8. She once wrote, "I will be the mother of many daughters..."

"I am at peace in the midst of fifty children," she wrote in the years following her opening of St. Joseph's Academy. "I am as a Mother encompassed by many children of different dispositions... bound to love, instruct, and provide for the happiness of all, to give the example of cheerfulness." In addition to the school children, Mother Seton's religious order grew to include many young women before her death and continued to expand long after throughout North America.

9. She struggled early during her conversion with her relationship with the Blessed Mother.

Mother Seton yearned for a mother, but she struggled initially

with developing a devotion to the Blessed Mother during her conversion. Learn more about how she accepted the Church's teachings on the Blessed Mother in this three-minute video.

10. She was a grandma!

Though she didn't live to see her grandchildren, her eldest son William had nine children, seven of whom survived to adulthood. One of them, Robert Seton, was ordained to the priesthood in Rome in 1865 after being educated at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg. He was private chamberlain to Pope Pius IX and was dean of all the monsignori in the United States. He later served as a priest in the Diocese of Newark, N.J., and was a trustee of Seton Hall University. In 1903, Pope Leo XIII appointed Robert as Archbishop of the titular See of Heliopolis in Phoenicia.

OPT



Bishop Juan Esposito conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation.



The children joyfully received the Eucharist for the first time.

Joys of Spring and New Sacraments



The First Communicants crowned Our Lady of Fatima at each of the three Sunday Masses.



Ashley Mae Drake was supported by her family as she was received into the Church.



The beauty of the Vigil began outside as the Paschal Candle was lit from an impressive fire!



Caleb Bodmer led the congregation as they traveled the Stations of the Cross.

The faithful of St. Mary's participated in Holy Week services, only enhanced by the beautiful grounds of our parish. The congregation came forward for the Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday. A solemn procession of the Cross on Good Friday, and the joy of Resurrection at Easter Vigil. The Church welcomed Ashley Mae Drake, who joined us in fullness of faith receiving Baptism, Confirmation, and her first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. The Easter Bunny also led the little ones of the parish on an exciting Egg Hunt.

The youth of St. Mary's have been on a journey of faith, prayer, exploration, and study in prepa-

ration for Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The Most Rev. Juan R. Esposito officiated the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on a rainy, but beautiful spring morning. The candidates were excited and well prepared. The presence of the Holy Spirit was most definitely present in the joy displayed by those Confirmed.

The younger children received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6. The children were provided with a large Miraculous Medal on a blue ribbon from the parish. The medal serves as a reminder that the children are dedicated to the Blessed Mother and have been asked to wear their medal each time they attend mass during

the month of May.

The Young Family Ministry began this winter under the guidance of Brenda Stohlman. Families with young children spend one Saturday morning a month together in the Parish Pavilion. The event is designed to help parents and children ages eight and younger gather for songs, stories, and games based on Liturgical events.

A May Crowning is held after all masses the same

weekend. The First Communicants attending each mass lead the congregation in procession and crowned the Blessed Mother. The Holy Communicants were invited

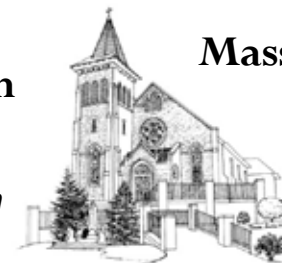
Continued on page 62

St. Mary's Parish
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Rev. Kevin O'Reilly,
Pastor
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www.stmaryonline.com



Fr. John Sweeny of the Legionnaires was the guest speaker at the Sodality Communion Breakfast. He joined parishioners for a delicious meal before sharing his thoughts on Our Lady.

St. Mary's Catholic Church
18230 Barnesville Road
Barnesville, MD
www.stmaryonline.com
301-972-8660



Mass Schedule

Saturday
July 29
4:00 pm



Saturday, July 29 – \$20
148th Annual Chicken Dinner Noon - 6 pm (or until sold out)
Jousting Tournament 1 pm - 4 pm
Maryland's State Sport
Delicious Barbequed Chicken Dinner

Country Store, White Elephant, Crafts, Baked Goods, Snack Bar, Live Music of "Sookey Jump"
Carry-outs and tent with outdoor seating available

All are Welcome!





Parents and children enjoyed singing together in Young Family Ministry.

JOYS

Con't from page 61

to be the guests of the Sodality at their Communion Breakfast. The guest speaker was Fr. John Sweeny, from the Legionaries of Christ.

The life of a parish is its people. Volunteers have already begun preparation for our 148th Barbequed Chicken Dinner, July

29 from Noon-until sold out. A jousting tournament, Maryland's state sport, will be from 1 pm- 4 pm. Delicious Barbequed Chicken Dinner Carry-Outs are available for \$20. The event will also feature a General Store, Bake Sale, Crafts, Snack Bar, and a huge White Elephant sale, as well as live music.

Please join our Parish Family as we continue to thrive!

OPT



Crafts and coloring tasks helped the little ones prepare for Lent.



Cast members perform as snow dancers and Elsa

FROZEN

Con't from page 49

wonderful to see them step on the stage and see their own hard work and confidence that they develop.

It's important for us to teach them how to work with one another, meet new friends, and become a family."

Congratulations to the *Frozen Jr.* family who are forever bonded through hard work and adversity!

OPT

John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family Summer Intensive Course

Called to Love: Theology of the Body

Numerous high schools in the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Arlington accept this course toward VCEA licensure or CEU requirements for teachers.

July 17 at 9:30 AM - July 21 at 3:00 PM

In the course we will examine Saint John Paul II's famous "Wednesday Catechesis on Human Love" by a close reading of the text and an exploration of the philosophical and biblical sources of his

powerful vision. We will also delve into supplementary texts that will aid us in understanding human love in its fullness. At the same time, the aim is to see the intimate connection of this human love with its Divine source, the Trinitarian God who is Love, and how the human being, in his entirety, images Him.

The course meets Monday through Friday, July 17-21, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., and 1:30-3:00 p.m. Class will be taught in person and offered online simultaneously.

The course fee is \$150. Payment can be submitted via check, cash, or credit card. To register, please complete the online registration form available at: www.johnpaulii.edu/events/called-to-love-theology-of-the-body-summer-intensive-course-4/

Registration for the course closes Thursday, July 13.

For more information, email: information@johnpaulii.edu

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Our Parish Times Online



DeChantal's 4th grade teachers, Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Morris joined their students to do the Dash!



Children of DeChantal parishioners and DeChantal students were excited to run the 5K and 1-mile races.

The DeChantal Dash Triumphantlly Returned!

Longtime DeChantal tradition comes back after a too long COVID hiatus

By Catherine Tomsbeck

On a sunny Saturday morning in May, the DeChantal Dash returned to an in-person event. Hundreds of runners and walkers of all ages participated in this bi-annual fundraiser. The one-mile family run/

walk was most popular and included teachers, parents and children of all ages. The 5K run participants included many De Chantal Cross Country teammates. The overall 5K Dash winner was De Chantal 7th grader Lexi Bishop with an impressive finish time

of 20:55, the 2nd Place finisher was Kris Nessler, father of Maya Nessler in 1st grade and the 3rd Place finisher was Nick Skibo, father of Tyler Skibo in 8th grade. The De Chantal Home and School Association is so grateful to the many generous sponsors of

the Dash. Thank you to the DeChantal community for their support but especially to the Dash Chairs, Dr. Loren M. Wilkerson and Melanie Stehmer-Townsend who tirelessly brought this beloved DeChantal tradition back to life.

OPT

St. Patrick



ABOVE RIGHT: Students gather at the starting line ready for the race to start!

ABOVE LEFT: Lots of school spirit filled our neighboring streets as we held our annual 5K and Fun Run at the end of April. In addition to this fun, spirited event, we also raised money for Samaritan's Purse to benefit those affected by the earthquake in Turkey. It was a perfect morning to spend time together as a community and help others in need.



LEFT: Students in Grades 4-6 spent the morning at Nationals Park learning how weather patterns affect baseball. After presentations from some of our local meteorologists, the students enjoyed a Nats game. The day was a homerun!

Retirement Fund for Religious



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give generously.

Please give at your local parish.

retiredreligious.org

To donate by mail:

National Religious Retirement Office
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington DC 20017-1194

Make check payable to Retirement Fund For Religious