



OUR Parish Times

Special Edition
Graduation Issue

MAY 2022

Living the Faith Together

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Faithful Voices

This issue of *Our Parish Times* is the final of the school year. Of course, we will be back in late August with another six issues for the 2022-23 year thanks to publishers Larry and Kathleen Hamm. As is our practice, we use this



Chuck Short

last issue of the year to graciously thank the many individuals who preserve and enrich 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 thank parish staff and volunteers in a very special way this year because of the difficult challenges they faced in reopening our churches and parish activities. Constantly changing health conditions required not just a single adjustment, but multiple and unpredictable adaptations to enable parish life to safely continue during the pandemic. Unless you are one of these awesome parish servants, it is difficult to truly understand the many considerations, controversies and hours of work necessary to protect and sustain parish life during these many months. Words simply can't express my thanks to all of them.

Seems we just ended an election as we now are asked to focus on another. 2022 is an election year for most local and state public offices. Certainly, the outcome of the election

Continued on page 30

We Are Greater Together

As I write this last column before the summer, I remain energized by and grateful for the huge crowds of people at our churches on Easter Sunday. It was uplifting, and many of my brother priests told me with big smiles how good it felt to have their parishioners back in large numbers celebrating the gift of eternal life.



Fr. John Enzler

Like me, you probably have seen signs that many people are ready and feeling safe enough to be active in the community once again, to see friends and family who may have been separated the last couple of years because of the pandemic.

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Via Crucis Held at St Michael the Archangel Parish After Two Years of COVID-19 Restrictions

By Helder Hernandez

After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, St. Michael the Archangel Parish held its long awaited, annual reenactment of the Via Crucis, Living Stations of the Cross. Since 1998, the Via Crucis has been an annual tradition of the St. Michael's community in which parishioners and devout Catholics process throughout downtown Silver Spring to reenact Jesus' crucifixion. The restricted social interactions imposed by the pandemic caused a void in the heart of the St. Michael's community, which could only be filled by the return of the Living Stations of the Cross.

The day started with fellowship and prayer for all cast members playing the parts of the Roman soldiers, the weeping women, Mary, and Jesus Christ. The cast members



St. Michael the Archangel Reenactment of the Via Crucis in downtown Silver Spring

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Make This a Summer Like No Other

Summer is right around the corner. Parents are thinking about vacation plans, camps, tennis and violin lessons, and childcare arrangements. Summer reading lists will be out soon, and graduations, First Communions, and final games are on the near horizon.



Patricia McGann

One thing we may not have thought about, though, is how we will make time for time with our children and grandchildren. As parents and grandparents, we have all expressed concerns about the amount of time our children spend on their devices - we may even have expressed those concerns while on our own devices.

What would it be like to schedule *no device* times? Now is the time to think about how we will manage the amount of time our children are on their devices, and now is the time to communicate those plans to our children.

Continued on page 5

Justice & Advocacy

Faithful Citizenship in Action

By Chris Farrell

ROCKVILLE April 26 – While all six Montgomery County Executive candidates were invited to the Catholic Charities' Montgomery County Executive Candidate Forum, five agreed to participate, and a positive COVID-19 test narrowed the field to four on the night in question. Marc Elrich, Peter James, Hans Riemer, and Shelly Skolnick took to the stage at the Shrine of Saint Jude for two hours of questions written by the Justice & Advocacy Council of Montgomery County and sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Elrich, James, Riemer and David Blair are competing in the Democratic Primary. Skolnick and Reardon Sullivan, whose "prior engagement" precluded his attendance, are the candidates in the Republican Primary. The 2022 primary election is Tuesday, July 19, and the forum live stream can be watched in full on the Justice & Advocacy YouTube channel, linked below.

Leadership Trio Crucial to Forum

Monsignor John Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities, served as moderator as he had four years prior. Rev. Paul D. Lee, STD, pastor of the hosting parish, welcomed both the in-person and virtual audi-



From left to right: Larry Couch, Marc Elrich, Peter James, Fr. Paul Lee, Hans Riemer, Msgr. John Enzler, Shelly Skolnick

ences. Father Lee lauded his parishioners and the county's diversity, wishing that "we grow as one family ... beyond tolerance and coexistence [to] empathy and compassion for the least among us." Larry Couch, who co-chairs the Justice & Advocacy Council with Mary Bennett, introduced the candidates, read a statement from David Blair, and thanked the

faithful citizens who braved the rain to attend the forum in-person. Couch explained that the forum was for the first time being live streamed over YouTube and archived there (use the QR code below to access the recording). Couch noted that the Justice & Advocacy Council is comprised of Catholics from par-

Continued on page 3

Invisible Words, an Art Exhibition Showcasing Sentiments from People Confronted with Homelessness, Opens in Washington

The Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) announced the opening of Invisible Words, a public art exhibition, featuring a curated collection of homeless signs on April 28. The display will use art to increase awareness, empathy, and compassion for people facing homelessness and dire poverty of resources. "IVC presents Invisible Words to open more hearts to empathy, and to inspire the service and advocacy that brings real and last-

ing hope," said Mary McGinnity, president and CEO of IVC.

"Invisible Words is quietly powerful," said Mary Podesta, vice chair of the national IVC board. "It draws you into what the authors are saying -- often eloquent, poetic, wry, self-reflective -- always human."

Invisible Words is intended to be an exercise in empathy and an opportunity for viewers to study the words in a new light. The signs will hang in a gallery setting on

the fifth floor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, offering a stark contrast to the sidewalks and underpasses across the United States where the signs were created and purchased.

The exhibit was created by social activist Wendy Abrams. "Homelessness is a heart-wrenching and complicated problem and art has the power to make you think," she said. "This exhibit was put together to encourage viewers to see things you didn't see before, or to see them through a different lens."

Abrams' previous work includes spearheading the team behind the public art exhibit Cool Globes, which featured oversized globes, showcasing solutions to climate change. Cool Globes premiered in Chicago in 2007 in partnership with the City of Chicago, and the Field Museum. Since 2007 through 2022, Cool Globes has toured across 4 continents and has been translated into nine languages.

Invisible Words is brought to Washington, DC on behalf of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC).



IVC President and CEO Mary McGinnity, a St. Rose of Lima parishioner, at the Invisible Words exhibit.

IVC seeks to offer a wide audience the opportunity to increase awareness, empathy and compassion for people facing homelessness and dire poverty of resources. As a national service corps of men and women over 50, IVC works to empower and bring hope to people trapped by poverty and marginalization. IVC operates today in 22

US cities providing services to over 300 social service organizations with proven impact.

The exhibit, consisting of about 50 signs, will premiere at D.C.'s newly, beautifully modernized Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library from March 13 to June 30, 2022. For more information, contact info@eleveneleven.org.

OPT



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The Way Women's Retreat

The Way is a free, 3-day guided meditation and prayer program for women who are survivors of abuse. It is an opportunity for healing and prayer and for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives.

When: June 3-5, 2022

Have you experienced dread, confusion, deep hurt, betrayal or anger when you think of the abuse you have suffered? Alternatively, maybe you are feeling nothing at all. You have every right to these feelings. They are natural reactions to the trauma you have survived.

You may be asking yourself:

- What do I do with all of this?
- How will confronting my abuse experience affect my life?
- How will I ever recover my trust in people, God, my Church again?



- Does it really matter?
- Do I matter?

The Way is the path to take to find answers to these and many other questions for which your heart, mind, body, and soul have been

searching. This is where your healing journey begins. These three days of guided meditations and prayer crafted around the Stations of the Cross will show you the steps Christ took to overcome dread, confusion, deep hurt, betrayal and anger not only for his experience of abuse – which culminated in his death on the cross and new life in the Resurrection – but for your abuse as well. You can choose to walk The Way with him, learn his ways, transform your pain and suffering into a new life, the life God has always wanted for you but that the sins of another has disfigured in countless ways.

To learn more or to register: please contact Deborah McDonald at mcdonald@adw.org or 301-853-4466.

OPT

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Something in the Water at St. Francis of Assisi Nurtures Vocations

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

As St. Francis of Assisi Parish celebrates its 50th anniversary June 5, this faith community in Derwood has given the Church a far-reaching gift – about a dozen people who entered the religious life after worshipping at the parish as a child or adult. This group, including three priests, seven deacons, and one nun, have gone on to remain at St. Francis, minister in the archdiocese, and serve in dioceses across and outside of the United States. Here are some of their stories:



Sister Laura Teresa Downing, IHM

Sister Laura Teresa Downing, IHM, STL

When Sister Laura Teresa Downing's youth minister once asked her and a friend during high school if they had considered the religious life, her screeching retort nearly caused the trio to veer off the road. Today, the Director of Campus Ministry at her alma

mater of Immaculata University in Pennsylvania helps guide young adults to their own vocations, with the hope they will do the same for others.

"My work with youth has always clicked," said Sister Downing, a 42-year-old Cheverly native. "I used to be the dorky, quiet girl, and now, I'm the Pied Piper of 18- to 22-year-olds."

Sister Downing – a sister with the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary -- spent her formative years in Cheverly, including one year at Catholic school, where she had the sense she would someday be like her principal, a Benedictine nun. When she turned 11, her family moved to Derwood and joined St. Francis, where Sister Downing taught religious education to preschool students and joined the Youth Leadership Board.

But it was her undergraduate experience observing the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary engaging joyfully with Immaculata students – and a subsequent mission trip to Peru -- that opened her heart to the possibility of joining the religious life.

"They were impish and fun – they shattered every stereotype of what sisters were," said Sister Downing, who made her final vows in 2009. "It was in that shattering of the stereotype, that I realized I could be a part of that."

After teaching at elementary, middle, and high schools for 11 years and serving as the theology instructor at Immaculata for three years, Sister Downing said 'yes' to rebuilding campus ministry, which had been decimated during the pandemic. She relishes forming about 55 students involved in campus ministry in their faith lives and then sending them into parishes.

"I think about what church we send young people to and how they fit into it. The Church is all the baptized and you're the baptized," she said. "You don't get to walk away from it."



Fr. Brendan Glasgow

Rev. Brendan Glasgow and Rev. James Glasgow

While growing up among seven children, both Fr. Brendan Glasgow and Fr. James Glasgow recall sitting with their parents, siblings, and parish priests at dinners around their kitchen table and then assisting those priests as altar servers at church. This proximity to

priests like Fr. Don Worch, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, and Fr. Mark Knestout brought home the normalcy and diversity of priests.

"[The priesthood] was normal and human but also something distinct and reverential," said Fr. James. "To have such an intimate relationship with priests sitting at

Continued on page 6

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

Con't from page 1

ishes throughout Montgomery County and invited others to join by participating in our monthly meetings held at 7pm on the fourth Wednesday each month using Zoom.

Eight Questions Drawn from Catholic Social Teaching

Msgr. Enzler explained that the questions intended to reflect Catholic Social Teaching and each candidate would have two minutes to address each question, with 30 seconds permitted for rebuttal if a direct challenge was made. In brief the topics and questions were as follows: **Affordable Housing** What will you do to address the housing crisis for low-income households in our County? **Policing and Incarceration Alternatives** What do you see as the way forward to address what seems to be a pervasive problem impacting Montgomery County residents based on race? **Environmental Concerns/Climate Change** If elected County Executive, what will be your Climate Action Plan and how would you prioritize those most affected by climate change? **Barriers for Immigrants** If elected, how would you address the struc-

tural barriers to housing and employment faced by undocumented County residents? **Food Insecurity/Community Partnerships** If elected as County Executive, what specific new or existing policies will you support to help provide food security to everyone in the County, and how will you ensure the viability of public/private partnerships as they address food insecurity? **Infrastructure Spending/Disadvantaged County Communities** How will you use the new infrastructure funds to benefit the poor and disenfranchised in Montgomery County? **Social and Economic Disparities** If you are elected County Executive, what is your plan to deal with the concerns associated with social and economic disparities in our county? **Educational Opportunity Gap** What will you do to combat this widening learning gap especially for low income and students of color?

Media Coverage

Both print and electronic media provided coverage of the Candidate Forum. *The Washington Post* sent both a reporter and photographer. Rebecca Tan's article can be found at www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/05/01/montgomery-maryland-marc-elrich-primary/. WJLA channel 7 news carried footage of the Forum.

Linking to You Tube

While there have been several Candidate Forums this cycle, ours is preserved for anyone interested in Faithful Citizenship and is accessible at <https://youtu.be/To7rpGiHJzU> though this reporter recommends viewing the video where you can boost and control the volume.

Important Dates and Deadlines

June 28, 2022	Last Day to Register to Vote
July 7-14, 2022	Early Voting!
July 12, 2022	Last Day to Request a Mail-in Ballot
July 19, 2022	Primary Election Day

To request a ballot by mail, contact the Maryland Board of Elections using <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1>

voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineMailinRequest/InstructionsStep1

Join us in our work

The next Justice & Advocacy Council virtual meeting is Wednesday, May 25 at 7pm, where county council races will be discussed. For more information and to receive a link for the meeting, please contact Larry Couch at lawrencecouch1@gmail.com.

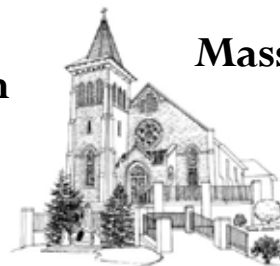
Chris Farrell is a parishioner of Saint Andrew Apostle Catholic Church in Wheaton and a former member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. His email is mayorofarcola@gmail.com.

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From left to right: Larry Couch, co-chair of the Justice & Advocacy Council, Rev. Paul Lee STD, pastor of the Shrine of Saint Jude, Msgr. John Enzler, President and CEO of Catholic Charities

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Mass Schedule

**Saturday
July 30
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 30 – \$20

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Noon - 6 pm (or until sold out)**

**Jousting Tournament 1 pm - 4 pm
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Delicious Barbequed Chicken Dinner



Family Pilgrimage: A True Way to Live Vacation

Back in 2005, Pope Benedict offered useful guidance on how to use summer vacation. He stated, "In the world in which we live it is almost a requirement to be able to restore body and spirit... where the often frenetic lifestyle leaves little time for silence, reflection, or the soothing contact with nature. Vacations are also a period in which one can dedicate more time to prayer, reading and meditation on the profound meaning of life, in the serene environment of



The Franciscan Monastery is truly a gem in the city. Its expansive gardens and unique architecture are a sight to behold.

one's own family and loved ones." Using these words as a provocation, consider taking a trip to one of the many Catholic sites in Maryland to learn, pray, and grow in faith as a family. Our rich history and heritage offer many opportunities to live our summer vacation with the words of Pope Benedict in mind.

Visit to Learn

The John Paul II Shrine, located in Brookland, NE DC offers sev-

eral unique experiences that may be of interest to families. First, spend time in the Redemptor Hominis Church, which features stunning mosaics by renowned artist Father Marko Rupnik, SJ. The chapel features images of North American saints as well as scenes from both the Old and New Testaments. Kids may be able to guess what the various images represent, such as the Tower of Babel or the Nativity of our Lord. The Luminous Mysteries Chapel also features mosaics, but more importantly, a relic of Pope Saint John Paul II. His blood is on display for veneration as a fixed part of the chapel's altar. Continue your visit downstairs and tour the phenomenal exhibit on the life and papacy of John Paul II. Parts of the exhibit include interactive feature and visitors are encouraged to leave prayer intentions at the end.

www.jp2shrine.org.

On Pilgrimage

The Franciscan Monastery, also located in Brookland, offers beautiful opportunities for pilgrimage and prayer. Visit the extensive grounds and gardens, which include replicas of several of the major pilgrimage sites in the Holy Land. Inside the Monastery Church, visitors can pray at side altars and chapels designed to replicate the Church of the Nativity and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The Monastery courtyard that wraps around the upper gardens is also designed as a rosary, which each column and arch within the colonnade representing a Hail Mary of the Joyful mysteries. This can help your children to physically enter into prayer. See the website for more information and to schedule a tour.

<https://myfranciscan.org/>

The Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City has been home to the Franciscan Friars for over 70 years. The main church is inspired by the Italian Renaissance and includes opportunities to pray the liturgy of the hours with the monks from within the carved choir stalls. As you pray, contemplate the fact that there are 72 choir stalls, representing the number of disciples commissioned by Jesus to spread the Gospel. The narthex of the Shrine houses a relic of St. Anthony of Padua. Finally, don't miss large Tau cross, the depiction of the Cross most preferred by St. Francis of Assisi and often associated with the Franciscan order. Consider visiting on June 13, the feast day of St. Anthony of Padua.

<https://shrineofstanthony.org/>

A visit to Emmitsburg can include two important stops, the first is the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. Though the iconic gold statue of the Blessed Virgin that is usually perched at the top of the mountain is currently undergoing restoration, a visit to the Shrine is still well worth your time. Pilgrims



Congratulations Blessed Sacrament's Class of 2022!

(from bottom left) Addie Moore, Bemnet Amdemichael, Glory Gezaei, Mali Lattisaw, Grace Bruno, Helena Redpath, Bridget Hickey, Kate Dunn, Katherine Montgomery, Ireland Donahue, Charlotte Grimberg, Gabi Jorio, Jane Fitton, Claire Blume, Bridget Christin, Jackie Gimigliano, Abigail Leonard, Alexa Pagliaro, Hayden Lynett, Declan McCahan, Keegan Corbett, Grace Deerin, Liza Kavanaugh, Kieran Lucas, Carver Ossi, Brendan Erceg, TJ Corcoran, Anna Simal, Hadley Bennett, Emma Muñoz-Pogossian, Lucas Barthel, Nolan Johnson, Liam McAllister, Griffin Pardo, Nora Neill, Dakota Nagel, Robin Sechriest, Jack DiMaio, Alex Grabarz, Jack Moody, Danny Samura, Joey Finnegan, Mac Knight, Everett Eckart, Simon Akele. Not pictured: Tyne Guillory, Max Webster.

Blessed Sacrament School, 5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW, Washington, DC 20015

First Female Eagle Scout

Sophia Pipta of St. Patrick's parish in Rockville is the first female to earn the rank of Eagle Scout in the community. For the past 3 years, she has diligently worked with this special goal in mind. She is also a founding member of Troop 19, the first BSA (Boy Scouts of America) female troop formed in Montgomery County. An alumna of St. Patrick School in Rockville, Sophia is currently a senior at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. She also served as an altar server for four years.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the BSA scouting program and is earned by just 8% of all scouts. For 109 years, this opportunity was afforded only to males. In 2019, Scouting BSA opened the Scouting program to girls. Troop 19 was established in 2019.

Requirements to become an Eagle Scout include earning at least 21 merit badges, demonstrating leadership, living by the scout law and service.



New Eagle Scout Sophia Pipta

The final requirement is to design and execute an Eagle Project that provides a benefit to the community.

Sophia's Eagle project was to plan and coordinate the implementation of a new hiking/biking trail at Cabin John Stream Valley Park. Leading a group of 28 volunteers, Sophia and her team planted 47 young trees

and covered up the old trail, allowing rejuvenation of the environmental area. She has enjoyed multiple week-long scouting camps in the summers and encourages scouts to participate in these opportunities for fellowship.

While attending Good Counsel, Sophia has enjoyed being a senior leader of her high school's Model United Nations club and engaging in the M.U.N. conferences in Philadelphia and Washington DC. During these conferences, student teams represent various countries to negotiate mutually beneficial agreements for global diplomacy. Through her school, she has volunteered for multiple Appalachian Service Projects held during the summer. This week-long service opportunity serves impoverished communities in West Virginia with various home repairs and improvement.

Sophia says that she is grateful to have the unconditional support of her community and she encourages young persons to enter scouting.

OPT

SUMMER

Con't from page 1

Maybe the hours between 5:00 and 9:00 at night are device-free hours. We can fill those summer hours with time at the local pool, taking walks in the neighborhood or a nearby park, or playing cards and Bananagrams. With plenty of notice, and regular reminders that this is not a punishment but rather a "life enhancement" exercise, this can work!

What if we decided to make dates for days with each of our children? If you have a son who loves baseball, you could make plans now for the two of you to attend a game. If the Nats games are too much, try the BaySox or the games at Cabin John Regional Park. It's the time spent together, and the sharing of the experience that matter. Agree to leave devices in the car and agree to enjoy more junk food than is usually allowed.

If your daughter is an aspiring ballerina or actress, lessons are great, but time spent with you at Strathmore, the National, or Olney Theater will create far more memories, and will allow you both to enjoy one another's company. A Sunday matinee with a follow-up treat at a bakery or Giffords Ice Cream will make for plenty of talk time, too.

Schedule one day a week for trips to the park with your little ones, or dinner and a movie with your teenager. Make sure that everyone

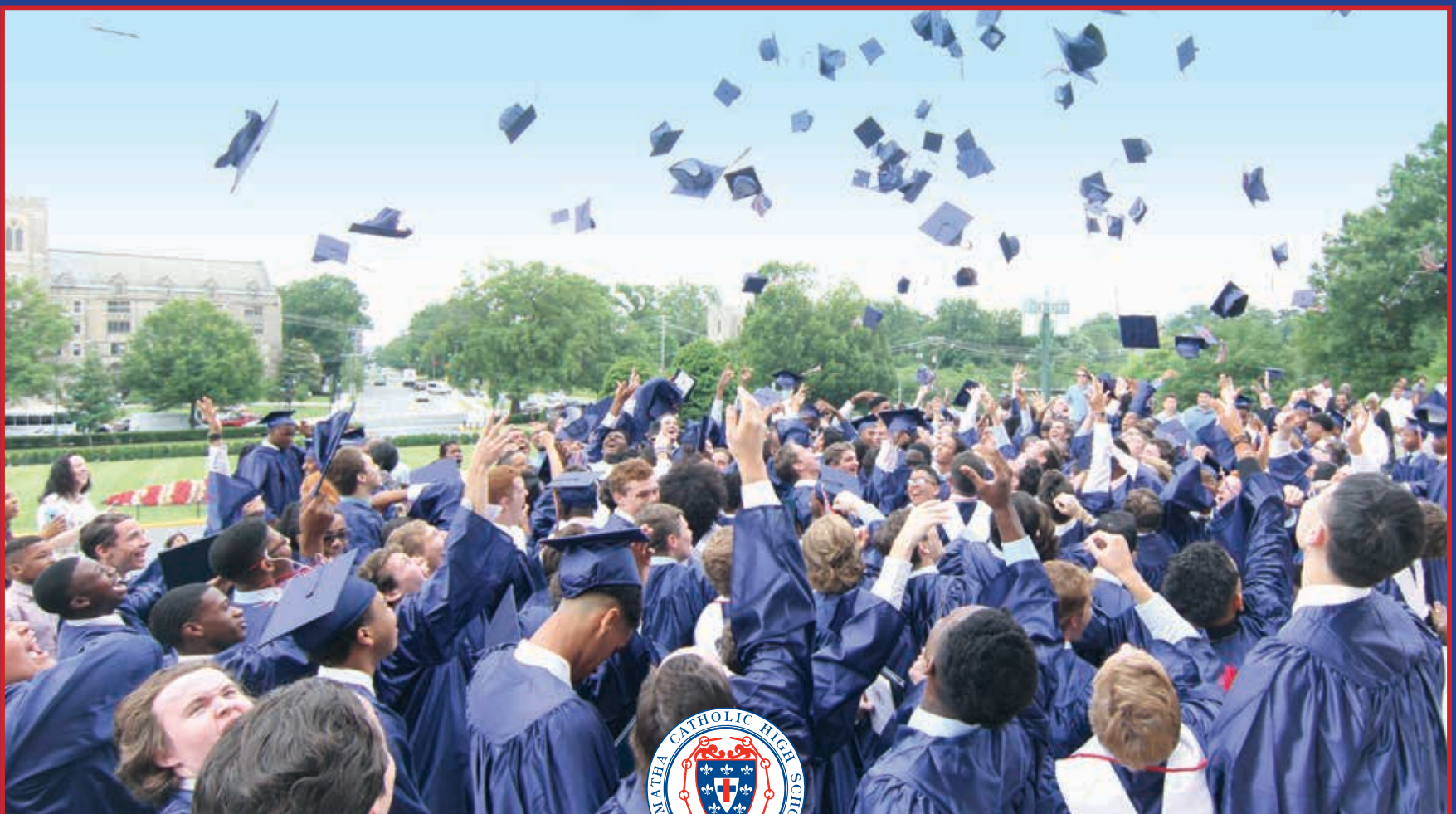
knows that once an outing is on the calendar it will happen! Then, sit down and mark out the days together. As you begin this process, remind yourself that you will not have this summer again - this is your chance to have these irreplaceable moments with your children.

Camps, teams, lessons and structured activities are all great, but there is nothing your children want more than you. They want you with them, listening to them, telling them stories about your life before them, about their lives as babies, and imagining the possibilities for their lives in the future. This won't be easy in the beginning, especially if your family spends lots of time apart - at work and school, and if the majority of your down time is spent on devices. We have lost some of our conversational skills, and some of our kids haven't yet learned how to have a reciprocal conversation. Summer is the perfect time to work on expressing ourselves and actively listening to one another.

Let's practice purposeful parenting and grandparenting this summer by making a conscious effort to put our children first. If we can allow ourselves to suspend our need to rush or to attend to other tasks when we are with our precious children they will feel the difference that comes with having our undivided attention and our relaxed companionship. We will learn a lot about our children, and we will find ourselves in September feeling pretty good about the summer of 2022.

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Religious Education amid Pandemic Affirms Value of Parent-Parish Partnership

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

As the third pandemic year for the Religious Education program concludes in May, Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson feels this year's experience affirms a basic tenet of catechesis: the value and importance of a robust parent-parish partnership in forming the faith of school-aged children.

Her observation came about during a 2021-22 program year that still required accommodations for COVID-19 protocols. With 231 students enrolled in religious education in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, the program offered the curriculum to elementary school-aged students in A and B groups on an alternating week schedule. On weeks students in one group went to in-person class, the other group completed an at-home lesson.

Middle-school students continued meeting weekly in person,

while children with special needs met online. Anderson also continued offering a homeschool option for families that wanted to continue teaching their children at home.

"While this partnership is not new, I believe that it has been strengthened and enhanced as parents have been asked to take a more active role in teaching lessons at home, whether through the homeschool option or along with in-person classes," Anderson said.

Parishioner Sarah Huon would agree with that assessment. With three elementary school-aged children attending on alternating weeks and one seventh grader in the homeschool program, Huon said the family spent a good amount of time completing the lessons. But she said the resources provided, including scheduling, session notes and worksheets, facilitated the instruction and helped encouraged age-appropriate conversations about the lessons. "The most enriching part of parent-led instruction is the per-

sonal communication with our children," she said. "To speak to them directly, to watch them internalize the information and ask probing, difficult and insightful questions was quite special."

Anderson said parents throughout the year shared several benefits from taking a more active role in their children's faith formation. These included feeling affirmed of their influence on their children's faith development, strengthening their family practice of faith, and deepening their own understanding of faith.

Huon observed this change in her own children, who seemed more likely to start conversations and ask questions related to their lessons when a parent taught them. "RE at home reinforces that the home is not simply a place for prayer and practice of the faith, but every bit a place for study, learning and exploring the depth of our faith," she said.



On May 1, Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson invites the elementary school-aged children taking part in the last in-person Religious Education class to respond to a prayer during the May Crowning of the Blessed Mother.

OPT

VOCATIONS

Con't from page 3

our table, it allowed that incarnate presence in our house."

Respectively ordained in 2019 and 2020 as priests in the Archdiocese of Washington, Fr. Brendan, 29, and Fr. James, 28, received their sacraments through Confirmation at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Both brothers remember the normal rhythms of parish life – attending daily Mass, partaking in hot apple cider served at the annual Christmas tree sale – as quietly nudging them toward their priestly vocations.

In fact, Fr. Brendan said his vocation calling is testament to how God works through ordinary means. "If you go to church and believe in the sacraments, God will show you your vocation. God does work in ordinary ways and will speak quietly to the purpose he has for each of us," said Fr. Brendan, who is serving his third year as parochial vicar at St. Peter's on Capitol Hill.

While still in the seminary, Fr. James returned to St. Francis in



Fr. James Glasgow

2016 as a summer intern, learning from current pastor Fr. John Dillon and the late Msgr. Ralph Kuehner, who was in residence. He helped with Vacation Bible Camp and helped facilitate small group discussions, giving him a new perspective on his first parish.

"Jesus asks for plentiful laborers for the harvest," said Fr. James, parochial vicar at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Rockville. "I see so many parishioners [at St. Francis] praying for vocations."

Deacon Rafael Pagan

When St. Francis parishioner Rafael Pagan decided to join the Adult Choir in 1981, he could not fathom that first 'yes' would lead him to cantor at the ambo, serve as president of the Parish Council nor enter the permanent diaconate program in 2008. Yet, it was the parish's rich sense of community and support that kept Deacon Ralf on the path he found himself.

"It's a community where the Holy Spirit moves very freely," said Deacon Ralf, a native of Puerto Rico. "Because it's an active community, it lays the groundwork for the fruits of vocations."

Deacon Ralf cites his friendship with and support from priests at St. Francis, such as Fr. Martin Gerber, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Fr. Mark Knestout, and Fr. David Beaubien, as helping nudge him to the diaconate program. Deacon Pascal Hong and Deacon Bill Wakefield provided support, as did Deacon Jim Datovech and Deacon Dan Finn, who were ordained while Deacon Ralf was in formation. Many parishioners, including his friends



Deacon Rafael Pagan

in the choir, prayed for him.

Ordained in June 2013, Deacon Ralf was assigned to St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Wheaton, a parish where 65 percent of parishioners speak Spanish. At his new parish, Deacon Ralf served at the Spanish Masses, prepared couples for marriage, and helped convalidate marriages.

Deacon Ralf is on sabbatical with the archdiocese and lives with his wife, Maureen, in Ceiba, Puerto Rico, where he has served since June 2020 in the Diocese

of Fajardo-Humacao. Assigned to St. Antonio Padua Parish, Deacon Ralf said he helps with Mass, celebrates Communion services, and helped coordinate a weekly food distribution of 1,200 boxes, each feeding a family of four for a week, at the height of the pandemic. He and Maureen have also opened their guest house to clergy members and ministry leaders from the Archdiocese of Washington who need a break.

He recalls St. Francis as a vibrant, true community, where people are unafraid to discuss vocations. "The spirit is moving there," Deacon Ralf said. "We take our faith seriously."

OPT

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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Derwood, MD

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On April 27, St. Francis of Assisi Garden Care Ministry Coordinator Maria Dunn, far left, shows ninth grade students from the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington the parish's rain garden. Thirteen ninth-grade students from the school spent their annual Day of Service at the parish, mulching the Outdoor Stations of the Cross and preparing grasses for replanting on the church grounds. Their efforts were part of a campus-wide service day, during which students, faculty, and staff fanned out at 36 sites throughout DC and Maryland to provide service.



Despite the rain the annual three-day flower sale at St. Francis was a success. Shown here are a few of the 55 volunteers who sold over 1,600 plants and 74 hanging baskets.



New members of St. John Neumann parish at the Easter Vigil. Photo by Yolanda Caraballo

Easter Vigil is celebrated at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church

New Catholics welcomed

By Rodney Harris

“Christ is Risen!” said Monsignor Robert Panke, pastor of Saint John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, during the opening of his Easter Vigil homily.

Msgr. Panke celebrated Mass on Saturday, April 16, 2022, along with Parochial Vicar Father Stefan Yap, Deacon Carlo Caraballo, Deacon Peter

Mlynarczyk, and others. Father Nicholas Morrison was also there. “Something special,” Msgr. Panke said, “Father Nicholas is a son of this parish... this is his first Triduum and he got to spend it with his home parish.” Father Morrison has been in Rome studying.

During his homily at the most important liturgy on the Church calendar, Msgr. Panke spoke about the importance of

Continued on page 19

Deacon Peter’s “The Little Bishop”

By Larissa York

“What do you know about St. John Neumann?” a seemingly simple question Msgr. Panke asked during the announcements after Sunday Mass. While a large group of parishioners went on pilgrimage to visit The National Shrine of St. John Neumann in 2018, the pews paused with perplexion about our parish patron.

On March 28, the birthday of St. John Neumann, Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk gave a talk about our beloved little bishop. Mlynarczyk started with a prayer followed by a clarification of pronunciation. He shared that while St. John Neumann was from Bohemia; the saint insisted on using the anglicized pronunciation of his last name when he came to the U.S. Thus, “NEW-men” is preferred to “NOY-muhn,” though both are correct.

Deacon Peter shared the story of the amazing life of St. John Neumann and God’s divine providence within half an hour. As the congregation listened intently, the relevance of our patron became clear. Deacon Peter was able to identify how St. John Neumann has continued to intercede for us and work through our parish in a particular way. He listed a series of fruits starting with Bishop Michael Fisher’s, a previous SJN pastor, assignment to St. John Neumann’s



Photo of Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk conducting a presentation on the patron saint of Saint John Neumann parish.

former territory of Buffalo. Deacon Peter continued pointing out how our perpetual adoration chapel is closely connected to the saint’s Eucharistic Devotion. He affirmed that St. John Neumann actively interceded for each of us before God and acknowledged his role in the number of religious vocations coming from our parish. Deacon Peter’s talk on our powerful patron is available on the St. John Neumann Parish - Gaithersburg YouTube channel.

Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk will be ordained to the priesthood, God-willing, on June 18th at 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and

Continued on page 19



Picture of Saint John Neumann displayed inside the parish.

St. John Neumann Parish

9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Msgr. Robert Panke
Pastor

Kimberley Rice
OPT Editor

**More St. John Neumann
News on Page 43**



Congratulations Graduating Class of 2022!



Million Fessuh
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Academy of the Holy Cross



Maraki Henock
Walter Johnson High School



Ian Hernandez
St. John Catholic Prep



Zachary Johnson



Christopher Martin
Gonzaga College High School



Michael Ogunsanya
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Shad Sandjon



Karl Schellhase



Maximilian Torres
St. John Catholic Prep



Sophie Williams
Academy of the Holy Cross



Stephanie Wyman
Mount DeSales Academy

WWW.MOGSCHOOL.COM

Honoring our Blessed Mother

During the month of May, St. John the Evangelist School honors Mary by praying a decade of the rosary each day at morning prayer. On Friday, May 6, students showered a statue of Mary with flowers, and our eighth graders crowned her while our pastor, Father Calis, read a special prayer. All of our students were blessed to receive their very own rosaries, donated by the Sisters of Mercy Associates in Vermont. We pray that our students will always have a close relationship with our Blessed Mother, who in turn, draws them closer to her son, Jesus!

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Above, SJE eighth-grade students crowned our Blessed Mother at Mass on Friday, May 6.

At left, Our First Friday Mass in May, which included our May Crowning and a rosary, was hosted by the eighth grade.



St. John the Evangelist Parish
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Rev. Joseph Calis, Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Caitlin Keeton, Principal
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Green Team members planted flowers around the statue of our Blessed Mother in our courtyard.



Members of our Green Team recently planted flowers to beautify our school sign. The flowers were donated by people who purchased plants as part of our annual sale.

Green Team: Laudato Si in Action

Earlier this year, second-grade students at St. John the Evangelist School expressed a desire to spend their recess time picking up trash and helping to clean up our grounds. This caught on and led to the creation of the SJE Green Team, which meets regularly to keep our campus looking beautiful!

Most recently, community members were invited to donate a plant for the Green Team when purchasing their own plants at our annual Plant Sale. Over 185 plants were donated, which Green Team members were able to plant around school.

OPT

VACATION

Con't from page 4

can visit one of the oldest replicas of the grotto at Lourdes in the United States, lighting a candle and offering their prayers for healing and for Mary's intercession. A grotto chaplain is available to bless water that you collect from the grotto spring. The gardens leading to the grotto also include devotional statues and the Stations of the Cross. Your second stop on your trip to Emmitsburg should be the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton. The Shrine is on the original site where the saint established her first convent and school. Mother Seton and her Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph were true pioneers in American Catholic education. Visitors can take a guided, docent-led tour through each of the historic buildings. The Shrine Basilica includes the tomb of Mother Seton, with a simple museum housed in the lower level. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton pray for us!

www.nsgrotto.org/ and <https://setonshrine.org/>

Maryland Catholic History

Fr. Andrew White, S.J. established a small chapel along the shore of the Port Tobacco River in 1641 to serve the fledgling Catholic community. He was one of the original Jesuits to sail from England on the Ark and the Dove, with the intention to help settle the British colony. It was from this site that Fr. White built his St. Ignatius Chapel. One of his important ministries was to serve the Potomac Indians, eventually learning to speak their language in order to better be able to provide instructions and the Sacraments. Since its founding in 1641, St. Ignatius has never ceased to be a place of prayer and worship. That makes St. Ignatius the oldest Catholic parish in continual use in the United States. <https://chapelpoint.org/>

Established by Fr. Thomas Mansell, S.J. in 1704, St. Francis Xavier Church in Warwick

is one of the oldest Catholic churches in the country. The church was established to minister to the scattered Catholics throughout Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania back when Catholicism was not tolerated in the English colonies. According to its website, "Maryland Colony's laws during this period and until after the American Revolution prohibited the building of Catholic churches and schools, and the holding of public office by Catholics. Wealthy families often had chapels in their homes where horse circuit-riding priests would periodically come to offer Mass". The land around the church was a plantation, used to generate income to support the priests in their secret mission. The same site of "Old Bohemia" was also eventually used for a boys' school. There, the Jesuits provided instruction for John Carroll, the first Catholic bishop in the United States. Your visit should include the Church, but also the graveyard and small museum.

www.stfrancisxaviershrine.com/

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore

The Diocese of Baltimore, the oldest in the nation, dates back to 1789. It was designated as an archdiocese in 1808. The year, the Basilica of the Assumption, the diocese's first cathedral, is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its dedication. The striking building is constructed in the neoclassical style, including a large masonry dome, and is considered the magnum opus of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, one of America's first architects. Given its dedication to the Virgin, the Basilica Shrine also has the designation of the United States' first National Marian Shrine. Visitors can appreciate it for its spiritual, historical, and architectural significance. Nota bene: the current cathedral, the Cathedral of Mary our Queen is also worth a visit!



The oldest active Catholic parish, St. Ignatius is a great way to learn about Maryland's Catholic history.

www.americasfirstcathedral.org/

St. John the Evangelist in Frederick

Similar to the plantation church of St. Francis Xavier, St. John the Evangelist was first housed in a small brick home in downtown Frederick. Worshipers met in secret, unable to practice their faith in the public square. Once the Penal Laws were repealed in 1776, the parish community initiated plans to build a proper Church. Visitors can appreciate the Greek ionic design and should look for the many examples of eagles in the artwork and architecture, a symbol of St. John the Evangelist. The Church also played a significant role in the Civil War, serving as a prison for Confederate soldiers. According to the parish website, "during an organ refurbishment graffiti discovered in the plaster behind the organ pipes, etched by soldiers housed in the choir loft."

<https://stjohn-frederick.org/>

The St. Patrick's and the Shrine of Sts. Peter and Paul in Cumberland

While most of the Catholic historical sites in Maryland honor the English Jesuits present at our founding, a visit to Cumberland can help today's Catholic Marylanders appreciate

the important and distinct role that immigrants played in building our Church. St. Patrick's, initially founded as St. Mary's in 1790 as a log cabin, was renamed and rededicated in 1851 in honor of the growing Irish population in the region. The new building, complete with ionic columns and a painted ceiling, was designed by well-known Irish architect, John Tehan. The Shrine of Sts. Peter and Paul was founded in 1848 by Bishop John Neumann, the first American male saint. It was originally built in order to minister to the many German immigrants who were settling around Cumberland. There you can enjoy the stained-glass windows that were imported from Innsbruck, Austria, stunning in their beauty.

Local Feast Day Pilgrimages

There is no need to travel far to celebrate the richness of our Catholic faith. Consider visiting our local parishes to ask for a saint's intercession and to live the liturgical year with the Church. A simple Our Father, Hail Mary, decade of the rosary, or sharing of a saint's biography can all be done with small children and are a beautiful opportunity to help build the domestic Church within our families and parish communities.

Some suggestions: Visit Our Lady of Lourdes in Bethesda or St. Mary's Catholic Church and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Barnesville on a Marian feast day this summer. Our Lady of the Visitation would be a great destination on May 31, the Feast of the Visitation. Make the trip to the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament in Northwest DC for the celebration of Corpus Christi on June 19. St. Peter's in Olney and St. Paul's in Damascus might both be stops on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on June 29. Finally, plan a visit to St. Jane de Chantal in Bethesda to celebrate her feast day on August 12.

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Class of 2022 members not pictured: Daimon Elian Borjas, Angelo Marcus Bowser, Samya Burroughs-Carney, Daniel Josiah Dennie, Izaak Izay Kirongozi, Cam'ron Lewis, Nia Ayanna Long, Cristofer Jose Quinde-Torres, Lizdeny Rose Quintana Perez, Lacey Rainey, Marcia Rcor, Shon Reid, Elijah Micah Smith, Giovanni Aleksander Wearing, Christopher Lloyd Williams, Beni Saad Steven Zoungrana

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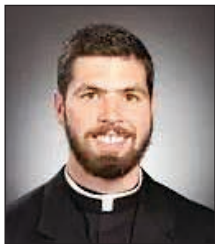
Mass of Priesthood Ordination

The Archdiocese of Washington announced the ordination of ten new priests. The Mass of Ordination will take place June 18 at 10:00 a.m. at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass will be recorded and posted on the Archdiocese's website and YouTube channel later that day.

Local parishes throughout MD and DC will host Holy Hours in the weeks prior to the ordination. Below are biographical sketches of the six new priests whose home parish is in Montgomery County.

Gerald Andrews

Gerald's home parish is St. Andrew the Apostle in Silver Spring. He attended St. John Paul II and Mount St. Mary's seminaries. One of seven siblings, Gerald and his siblings were raised in the Catholic faith, attending Sunday Mass and praying the Rosary. Many priests, religious brothers, and other young men showed him the great value of friendship with Christ the life of virtue. His faith grew during college when he began attending daily Mass and Adoration, which prepared him to receive and embrace the call to the priesthood. Before the seminary, Gerald studied aerospace engineering in college and acted in several of Shakespeare's plays with his homeschool Shakespeare group in High School. Gerald enjoys rock climbing and other outdoor activities, reading, and playing the tin whistle.



Mattia Cortigiani

Mattia's home parish is St. Bernadette in Silver Spring. He attended the Università di Pisa and completed a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology. The late Father Dante is a distant relative. Born and baptized in the Catholic faith, when the Christian Initiation was offered by the Neocatechumenal Way, it helped him to discover what faith is and to enjoy its many gifts. He also credits his grandparents, many priests, and his parents in helping him and supporting on his journey to priesthood. Mattia is fluent in Italian and Spanish language.



Carlos de Rodrigo Gutierrez

Carlos' home parish is Mother Seton in Germantown. He attended Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Washington, D.C. The third child born in a home of ten children, Carlos and his siblings were raised in the Neocatechumenal Way in Madrid, Spain. Through the Church, catechists, community, the help of priests, the rosary, pilgrimages, the Lord called him to the priesthood. Before the seminary, he completed both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Computer Engineering. He is fluent in the



Spanish language. Carlos enjoys soccer, basketball, walking, reading books about history, trying different types of great food, and listening to the radio.

Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk

Deacon Peter's home parish is St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg. He attended St. John Paul II and Mount St. Mary's seminaries. Deacon Peter was born fourth in a family of five children. He was raised Catholic and belongs to a family of heavy Slovenian Catholic influence. Time in adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament was crucial in the deepening of his faith life. Deacon Peter encountered Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, and this gave his life purpose and direction. There are three religious sisters in his family. Sister Mary Ann Lostoski, OSF and Sister Ann Marie Lostoski, OSF and Sister Marie Antoinette Kosak, OP. Deacon Peter enjoys playing sports, bicycling, skiing, and following all things in space exploration.



fluent in Polish, English, and Spanish and reads Italian and Russian. He also enjoys traveling, reading action and spy novels, hiking, playing the guitar, singing and listening to a variety of music.



Thomas Sullivan Robertson

Thomas's home parish is Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac. He attended Saint John Paul II Seminary and Pontifical North American College. He grew up the youngest of three brothers in a family of the Catholic Faith and received a Catholic education. Through this education, the door was opened for God to do His extraordinary work in his life, calling him to the priesthood. His Great Aunt is Sister Anna Gregory Sullivan. Before the seminary, he attended the University of Delaware and received a degree in Finance. He has a basic level fluency of Italian and Spanish languages. He enjoys being on the water, kayaking or taking out a motorboat. He also enjoys skiing, spending some time in the seminary woodshop, country music, finding travel deals, and visiting old friends.



Grzegorz Okulewicz

Grzegorz's home parish is Holy Redeemer, Kensington. He attended Redemptoris Mater Seminary in Washington, D.C. He grew up in a Catholic family with five siblings. His faith formation includes credits to: his home life, the Neocatechumenal Way and Fr. Andrzej. Grzegorz enjoys learning languages. He is

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-St. Francis de Sales



Caroline and Kate pose with their dad, Matt, ahead of the dance.



Second-graders Caroline and Christina strike a pose with Kindergartener Kate.

Dancing the Night Away: 2022 Father Daughter Dance

By Kathleen Morris

Saint Mary's was pleased to host the 2022 Father Daughter Dance in-person on Friday, March 25. Daughters and their dads, uncles, grandfathers, and stepdads joined in the fun! There was a DJ present to play some of the students' favorite jams, as well as dance contests with prizes awarded.

In addition to the dancing, there was a photo booth and a nail bar, where daughters chose their favor-

ite colors and designs. Daughters and dads took a break from the dancing and snacked on delicious pizza, cookies, and drinks.

Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped to make the 2022 Father Daughter Dance possible, especially Mrs. Pauline Tohotcheu, Mrs. Yanellys Ortiz, Mrs. Mary Frances Jones, Mrs. Jolie Scott, Mrs. Helen Sanjines, Mr. Nick Martinelli, Mr. Evans Musonda, and our professional photographer, Mrs. Rachel Garay!

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Mrs. Sweet explains about planting seeds.

Spring has Sprung in Saint Mary's Kindergarten!

By Kelly Sweet and 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.

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

Over the course of several weeks, the Kindergarten students were hard at work during their science classes.

Continued on page 15



Kindergarteners prepare the raised beds and soil for new plants.

St. Mary's Parish

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

Mrs. Debby Eisel, Parish Editor
301-762-4179



CLASS of 2022

John Paul Joseph Abela
Peyton Akiba
Senai Alexander Araya
Salvatore Joseph Arrigo-Manrique
Logan Sean Austin
Joe Emmanuel Disanka Balumuene
Nathaniel Jonas Barish
Alexander Benec Barlow
Maximilian Paul Beatty
Kwengo Benjamin
David Arthur Bierwirth Jr.
Patrick James Howell
Joaquin Javier Bucheli
Matthew Thomas Byrne
Nathaniel Bralliar Callabresi
Michael Hunter Canady
Micah Stephen Chambers
Chun Yin Arthur Cheong
Michael Anthony Christov
Connor Joseph Combs
Thomas William Donald Daniels
Joseph Bernard Dauchess
Samuel Harrison DeSalle
Tomas Sebastian Diaz-Bonilla

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John Michael Dujmovic
Creegan A. Etter
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Maximilian Dominic Gleason
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Nicholas Emile Jorgensen
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Zachary Addison Klein
Jude Raymond Maloney
Daniel Joseph Marcinak Jr.
George Lorenzo Marcolin
Joseph Paul McClorey
Leo Gerard Messenger
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Quang Thanh Nguyen
James Stuart North
Thomas James Nugent

Carson Emanuel Patrick
Pablo Percovich
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Raphael Dean Prince
Maxwell Forbes Profaizer
Jack William Raymond
Daniel Luis Rojas
Diego Timothy Sarca
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Joseph Emile Sypal
Charles Gabriel Syski
Aidom Michael Tadesse
Christian Anthony Talento
Patrick Edward Vassallo
Rafael Joseph Martinez Virador
John Patrick Wall
Seamus Andrew Walsh
Benjamin Patterson Wheat
Gabriel Antony Willard
Xavier Valdez Williams
Zane A. Wright
Terence Jermaine Wynn Jr.
Aiden James Young

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The following list is representative of the wide variety of colleges and universities where Heights students have been accepted over the past several years: Ave Maria University ■ Baylor University ■ Boston College ■ Boston Conservatory at Berklee ■ Bowdoin College ■ Bucknell University ■ University of California at Berkeley ■ University of California, Los Angeles ■ Carnegie Mellon University (Carnegie Institute of Technology) ■ Case Western Reserve University ■ Catholic University of America ■ College of Charleston ■ University of Chicago ■ Christendom College ■ The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina ■ Clemson University ■ Claremont McKenna College ■ Colby College ■ Colgate University ■ Columbia University ■ Cornell University ■ University of Dallas ■ Dartmouth College ■ Davidson College ■ Denison University ■ Dickinson College ■ Duke University ■ Emory University ■ Fordham University ■ George Mason University ■ The George Washington University ■ Georgetown University ■ Georgia Institute of Technology ■ Gettysburg College ■ Harvard University ■ Hillsdale College ■ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ■ Indiana University ■ James Madison University ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ The Juilliard School ■ Loyola University Maryland ■ Marymount University ■ University of Mary Washington ■ University of Maryland, College Park ■ Miami University, Oxford ■ University of Michigan ■ Mount St. Mary's University ■ University of Navarre ■ New York University ■ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■ Northwestern University ■ University of Notre Dame ■ University of Pennsylvania ■ Pennsylvania State University, University Park ■ Pepperdine University ■ Princeton University ■ Providence College ■ Purdue University ■ Rice University ■ University of Southern California ■ Stanford University ■ St. Joseph's University ■ Texas A&M University ■ Tulane University ■ United States Coast Guard Academy ■ Vanderbilt University ■ University of Vermont ■ Villanova University ■ Virginia Military Institute ■ Virginia Tech ■ University of Virginia ■ Wake Forest University ■ Washington and Lee University ■ Wesleyan University ■ College of William and Mary

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

By Jacqueline Means and Kathleen Morris

On Sunday, May 7, the second-grade students at St. Mary's Parish and School 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 people in the St. Mary's community helped the students along the way, including Father James, Mrs. Means, Mrs. Starkes, Mr. Cerritos-Aracen, Mrs. Eisel, and Mrs. Oyster. The second-grade students wore white dresses and suits to acknowledge the welcoming of Jesus in their bodies and souls through the Holy Eucharist.

Congratulations to the second graders and their families on this joyous occasion! Our new communicants look forward to celebrating the Holy Eucharist in our school weekly Mass and with their families on Sundays.

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.

OPT

SPRING

Con't from page 14

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 their bounty (with and without ketchup).

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!

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Second-grade students from St. Mary's School surround their teacher, Mrs. Means, on their First Holy Communion Day.



Beautiful St. Mary's Church is the backdrop as the second grade celebrates the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 7.



The faculty and staff of St. Mary's School, Rockville, MD would like to congratulate St. Mary's Class of 2022

Students accepted at these schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross, Brookewood School, Montgomery Blair HS Magnet Program, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Richard Montgomery HS, Rockville HS, St. John's College HS, Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart, Walter Johnson HS



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Rachel Virginia Allen *
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Gabriel Eduardo Amores *
Caleb Brian Elikem Amugi
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Tyler Leo Barberis *
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* National Honor Society Member
International Baccalaureate Diploma
Program Candidate
Science, Technology, Engineering,
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History Champ

Raymond McKelvey, a fifth grader at St. Patrick's School, competed in the Regional Finals of the National History Bee, held in Baltimore on March 26, 2022. After three preliminary rounds, McKelvey finished first overall and placed third overall in the Championship round. His scores from this regional competition have qualified him to participate in the National History Bee and the U.S History Bee in Orlando, Florida, which he will do this summer. He also qualified to participate in the International History Olympiad in Princeton, New Jersey. McKelvey has been competing in the National History Bee since he was in third grade. The process involves an online exam which qualifies students to participate in regional area competitions. The competition is buzzer-based and challenges students on historical topics from all historical periods and areas of the globe.

OPT



Champ Raymond McKelvey



On April 13, students in grades Third through Fifth enjoyed an engaging and interactive presentation on area weather patterns and forecasting by Channel 4 Chief Meteorologist Doug Kammerer.



The fourth-grade class spent a day in Annapolis. They visited the Maryland State House, the United States Naval Academy, and cruised the Severn River aboard the Harbor Queen.

A Prayerful Retreat

By Alex Guarini, eighth grade

Eighth graders have been working hard to prepare spiritually for the sacrament of Confirmation, where they will be sealed with the Holy Spirit and empowered to live the Catholic faith. One special part of their preparation is attending the annual Confirmation retreat organized by Mike McHugh, Director of Youth Ministry. The eleven-hour event occurred on Saturday, March 5. It was an important opportunity for the Confirmands to learn more about the sacrament and how to improve their faith.

Students were divided into small groups led by young adults who exemplified how to maintain pious lives. Each group remained together throughout the day, and small group leaders led insightful discussions. At various intervals throughout the day, orators spoke about various aspects about the faith. One young woman named Larissa spoke about discovering your Catholic identity. This included self-reflection about your personality and how others may regard you. Annie McHugh talked about how to maintain an effective prayer life. She taught that you should integrate prayer into your daily routine, that you should locate a quiet place to pray, and that you should practice different types of prayer. Seminarian Benedict Radich spoke about the

sacrament of Reconciliation and God's everlasting mercy. He analyzed the parable of the prodigal son and preached about God's forgiveness and love. Finally, a young seminarian named Maximus spoke about how to live a saintly life. In addition to these talks, Mike McHugh himself spoke about his faith experiences.

Faith talks alternated with games and team-building activities. Such activities were great for the Confirmands to move around and enjoy themselves throughout the otherwise meditative day. At 5:30 P.M., everyone attended the Vigil Mass. Each participant was proudly clad in a purple t-shirt reading Catholic: All Day, Every

Continued on page 30

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Pastor

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St. Patrick's School
Ms. Christie Anne Short,
Principal

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Contact rectory to apply



Congratulations - Class of 2022
St. Patrick's School

Joseph at Saint Peter's Brings Music, Smiles

By Joe Howard

An athlete trying his hand at theatre took the lead in Saint Peter's Catholic School's production of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which tells the biblical story of a boy expelled from Canaan by jealous brothers only to rise to prominence in Egypt and later help his family.

Football and lacrosse player Reese Dickerson impressed in the title role, supported in the school's largest-ever production by show director Phyllis Bottegal and music director Peter Nguyen.

"It's very exciting," seventh-grader Dickerson said of playing Joseph. "You've got to take on a lot of leadership. You've got to dedicate yourself."

Dickerson and fellow seventh-grader Andrew Chipperfield – who played oldest brother Reuben – earlier had impressed the show directors singing "God Bless America" during morning announcements, a preview of what they'd bring to the show.

"A rock opera is an entirely sung show," said Bottegal, the school's drama teacher. She credited the efforts of the cast and Nguyen in learning those songs. "It was a lot of fun, but it was hard," she said.

Music teacher Nguyen noted pandemic-related regulations steered the production,



Saint Peter's students performed a rousing rendition of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* – their largest-ever drama production

including "teaching the acting and seeing expressions that are half-covered" by masks. Nguyen credited everyone – including the set, costume and hair and makeup teams – for staying focused. "The kids have been great," he said. "There are some long nights."

While drama productions are normally reserved for seventh- and eighth-graders, the demands of the musical and dance numbers compelled the invita-

tion of fourth- through sixth-graders to participate.

Eighth-grader Ryan Ikwuemesi brought laughs as the Pharaoh of Egypt, delivering a hip-shaking version of "Song of the King" in a sequined jumpsuit fit for a King (of Rock and Roll). Georgie Sardelis singing "Those Canaan Days" as Simeon and Kasey Hartwick with Judah's rendition of "Benjamin's Calypso" were other lively solos.

Advancing the story were Gabriella Loudermilk and Demi Stroms as the Narrators, handling heavy doses of lyrics and choreography in harmony.

"These kids were so proud of themselves," said producer Lauren DeZinno, the school's Spanish teacher. "You could hear them chanting 'Go, go Joe,' and cheering for themselves. It was heartwarming."

OPT

International Night Returns

The rich diversity of Saint Peter's community was on display at the school's fifth annual International Night on April 30. Students, parents, and faculty were thrilled to see one of the school's most popular events return after it was unfortunately cancelled in 2021.

This year, the event was held outside. Host families set up informative displays and proudly shared information about a specific country. Attendees received paper passports and were able to collect stickers as they visited each country display. Hundreds of attendees enjoyed an evening sampling delicious food, learning different countries around the world and socializing with friends.

OPT



A beautiful night celebrating community and culture at Saint Peter's.



St. Peter's Parish

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St. Peter's School

Mr. Vincent P. Spadoni,
Principal

301-774-9112

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Living Stations

By Gabby Georges

This year the Saint Peter's Youth Group fully immersed themselves in the celebration of Lent. For the weeks leading up to Holy Week, we practiced and rehearsed the Stations of the Cross to present The Living Stations to the Saint Peter's Community. It was an emotional experience getting to see just a glimpse of what our Lord experienced on Good Friday. The teens put together an incredible performance and also delivered beautiful music to go along with it.

Throughout the experience, I felt more in touch and closer to God through the Lenten season. I was able to really think about and appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made for us. He loves each of us so dearly and to know that He was willing to die for us shows how much He truly loves us. The pain and suffering He felt could never be truly conveyed through Living Stations, but we did it out of love and remembrance for Our Savior. May we praise God Alleluia, for He is risen!

OPT



Saint Peter's Youth Group present the Living Stations of the Cross

VIGIL

Con't from page 7

the Easter Vigil. "Everything he [Jesus] set out to do, everything he told us he would do; that he would die and rise again and take away sins and bring us eternal life, is accomplished this night."

Yolanda Caraballo is the coordinator for the Hispanic Rite of Initiation Program at St. John Neumann. "What a glorious day for our parish to receive into the church these catechumens and candidates as well as their families," Caraballo wrote in an email.

Three catechumens and 12 candidates came from the Hispanic group. There were also five people from the English RCIA group, led by Paul Durbin, including two who were baptized.

"It was a pleasure to watch this group go through the RCIA process. They were attentive and eager to learn," Durbin said.

"What an extraordinary year we have had," Caraballo added. "Deacon Carlo Caraballo and myself have worked with our team of Catechists to provide all of the best formation for them."

Caraballo adds, "What an extraordinary year we have had."

OPT

LITTLE BISHOP

Con't from page 7

is open to the public. Holy Hours will be hosted at local parishes throughout the archdiocese leading up to the ordination. Following his priestly ordination, Mlynarczyk will celebrate his first Mass at St. John Neumann's on June 19th, the 45th anniversary of our patron's canonization.

Our St. John Paul the Great Vocations Society collected donations for the upcoming reception and purchase of a chasuble on behalf of our parish family. Most importantly, please continue to keep Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk in your prayers.

OPT



Owen Alsop



Nicolas Avalos Restrepo



Sebastian Avalos Restrepo



Sura Canfield



Felipe Cardoso Alano



Giovanna Cogliandolo



Maggie Friel



Nicholas Glekas



John Gorogias



Kasey Hartwick



Haley Hutchcroft



Josie Hutchcroft



Dana Judd



Jyotsna Kalampanayil



Carter Kilburg



Jack Kirwan



Jaden Leone



Thomas Lisle



Katie Little



Gabriella Loudermilk



David Lowey



Brady Lowman



Mark Musiitwa



Alexander Passarinho



Ciuffenna Riggio



Christopher Smith



Amanda Stradley



Matthew Stripling



Ayden Terrazas



William Troutner



Ava Velasquez



Catherine Waesche



Wesley Washington



Katherine Woods

SP SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Congratulations!

SAINT PETER'S CLASS OF 2022

God Bless You In High School

Fr. Thomas Kalita, Pastor

Mr. Vincent Spadoni, Principal



Viet Minh Ho



Sarah Howes



Charlotte Hutchins



Ryan Ikwuemesi





Mercy welcomed debut author Amina Luqman Dawson to meet with 5th and 6th graders who are studying her book "Freewater".

Guest Author Visits Mercy

Mercy welcomed debut author Amina Luqman Dawson to our school today. Ms. Dawson uses her writing to tell stories and to build an understanding of race, culture and community. Mercy 5th and 6th graders have studied her debut book *Freewater*, a historical novel about two enslaved children's escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom. Thank you to Ms. Dawson for sharing her time and talent with our students.

OPT

Financial Literacy for Mercy Middle Schoolers

Students in Leadership Seminar 7 & 8 enjoyed an engaging presentation from Chuchi Arevalo, director and founder of Spark Business Academy. Students were guided through an introduction to financial literacy and now have a new appreciation of bulls and bears! This is one in a series of financial literacy sessions being offered through Mercy's Educational Extensions Program.

OPT

Mercy leadership students participate in a financial literacy seminar.



Mercy Fund – Nothing is “Impastable”!

Once again, the Mercy community came together in support of the mission of Our Lady of Mercy School. Through the generosity of our school parents, staff, parishioners, alum, and

grandparents, we achieved 100% participation in the 2022 Mercy Fund. The school will celebrate with a pasta dinner on June 3!

OPT

Celebrating Mercy's Class of 2022

We are planning a series of events to celebrate the achievements and graduation of Mercy's Class of 2022. Parents placed Class of 2022 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!

OPT

Community Building

The Mercy Parent Teacher Organization has been busy organizing family events this

spring. Last month, more than 200 Mercy dads and their daughters danced the night away at the Father-Daughter "Let's Go Glamping" Dance! The mothers and sons will have their chance for fun on May 20 at the Trivia Game Night. The MPTO celebrated Mercy faculty and staff during Teacher Appreciation Week. Each day the staff was treated to a breakfast or lunch, notes of appreciation, and special treats. We are looking forward to the return of our Band and Choir Concert, the popular Field Day festivities and the addition of the Mercy Art Expo in June.

OPT

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Our Lady of Mercy School
D Engel, Principal
301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676



Sixth-grade students showed guests what life was like in the Middle Ages during the Mercy Renaissance Fair.

Countries from around the world were showcased by Mercy fifth graders during the annual International Day.



Mercy Leadership 7 and 8 students read Easter stories and then led the PreK-1st in a fun egg hunt!



CONGRATULATIONS STONE RIDGE CLASS OF 2022!

May you continue to be inspired by the *Goals & Criteria* of Sacred Heart education in bringing the Heart of Christ into the world!

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart is celebrating 100 years of empowering women to lead and serve with faith, intellect, and confidence. We are an all-girls grades 1-12 Catholic, independent school, with a co-educational Little Hearts program for children three months through Kindergarten, located in Bethesda, Maryland. Bus transportation is available throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

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Wyatt Thomas Fullmer	Abram John Bernhardt Urbanski
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Congratulations
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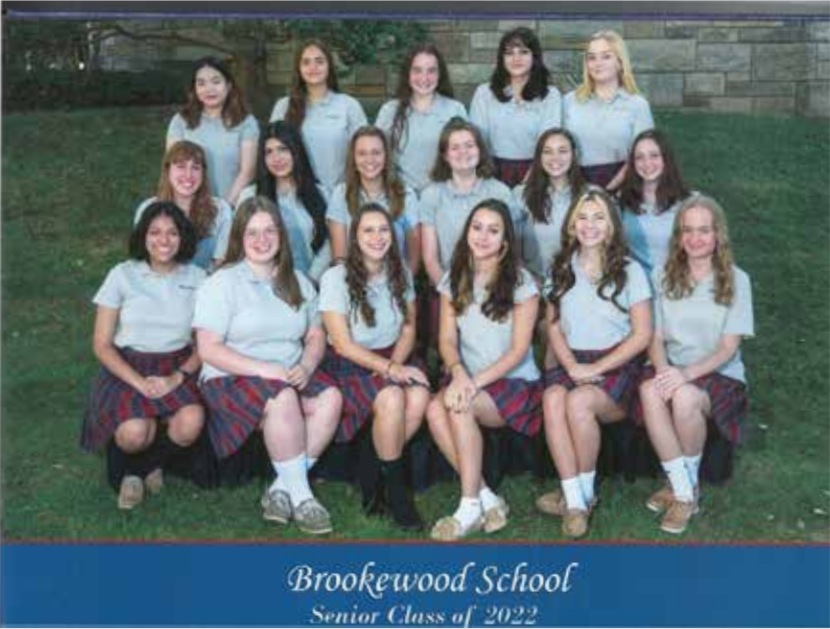
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Eleanor Maria Bostick	Anna Sofia Grilli
Grace Ann Carr	Paula Carolyn Kloehn
Fiorela D Constanza Arias	Brianna Daniela Luna
Rachel Elizabeth Davern	Francesca Milano
Cara Marie Dudenhoefer	Ashley Moran
Piaoyi Gan	Kyra Sophia Smith
Mary Guadalupe Garvey	Ella Marie SM Stroot
	Margaret Denise Teresa Tobin

Congratulations, St. John's Graduates!

The Class of 2022 collectively earned more than \$35,000,000 in scholarships.

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Derek James Aldridge*†
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Kaia Danielle Anderson*
Kennon Leo Pet Arnold*
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Heidy Melisa Martinez*
Ryder Stone Mattingly
Arturo Giovanni Mattocks
Elise Marie McDonald*
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Sean Carlos Menacho
Jon Oliver Meyer
Riley Anna Miller
Emily Ryan Mitchell
Jada Michael Mitchell*
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Katherine Rose Monahan*†
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† De La Salle Scholar
* National Honor Society

Daughters of the American Revolution Honors St. Jane de Chantal Essay Contest Winners

Matthew Matelis and Paige Koger won annual essay contest

By Mary Russell

Two St. Jane de Chantal School students, Matthew Matelis and Paige Koger, were recently honored by the Goshen Mills Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Matthew is the eighth-grade winner of the Chapter's American History Essay Contest, and Paige is the seventh-grade winner. The students read their winning essays to the Chapter's members during a ZOOM meeting earlier this year. Their parents, Greg and Kristen Koger of Potomac, and John and Jennifer Matelis, also of Potomac, as well as Matthew's grandparents, Joe and Bernie Matelis and Larry and Carol Blume, also listened in on the meeting. After they read their essays, the Chapter's American History Chairman, Karma Beal, reported that each of the winners would receive a certificate, a bronze medal, and a \$50 gift card to Barnes and Noble.

The DAR sponsors the annual essay contest nationwide, and it is open to students in grades 5–8. The contest is designed to encourage the knowledge and love of American history among our nation's youth. This year's assigned topic marked



Essay Contest winners Matthew Matelis and Paige Koger display the Chapter Winner Certificates presented to them by the DAR

the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on November 11, 1921. The students were challenged "to imagine that you had a brother who lost his life on the battlefields of France during World War I. You and your family attended the November 1921 dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier". The students

were asked to "describe what this meant to you and your family" and explain why it is important to remember those who gave their lives to serve our nation. Seventy-five St. Jane de Chantal School students entered essays in the contest and each received a Certificate of Participation.

OPT

St. Jane de Chantal's Teacher voted Catholic School Teacher of the Year by The Knights of Columbus

Nancy Ramsayer earned this prestigious award because of her tireless dedication to teaching and her development of deChantal's unique STEM Lab and program

By Catherine Tomsbeck

Ms. Nancy Ramsayer, De Chantal's STEM Lab teacher, was chosen by the Knights of Columbus as their overall 2022 Teacher of the Year. This honor is well deserved and recognizes Ms. Ramsayer's dedication to and love of teaching. Under her guidance, The De Chantal School's STEM Lab is where students learn, create, investigate, communicate, re-design, build, and improve their projects.

Ms. Ramsayer's daily lessons for students from Pre-K through eighth grade challenge students to use the Scientific Method of Inquiry and apply the Engineering Design Process. Throughout this school year Ms. Ramsayer's students have studied and created vertical farms, discovered the important role "package engineers" play while sending fragile objects around the world, designed and printed 3D objects, studied water flow through the construction of a model moun-



Nancy Ramsayer has been a teacher at deChantal for 14 years sharing her love of computer technology and STEM.

tain environment, and built rockets while learning the principles of aerodynamic engineering.

The De Chantal School Faculty and Students congratulate Ms. Ramsayer and are very grateful the Knights of Columbus honor her with the title "Teacher of the Year".

OPT



May Queen, Ms. Alexandra McCormick (middle) and her attendant Ms. Colette Johnson (left) smile with their Junior Sodality Leader Kate Beers after this year's May Crowning

St. Jane de Chantal's Jr Sodality Enter Spring by Honoring Mary and Thinking Critically

Jr Sodalists Honor our Holy Mother and Celebrate Essay Contest Winners

By Kate Beers

The Annual Sodality May crowning took place on May 1st after the 10am mass. Father Hammond presided, and the May queen, Ms. Alexandra McCormick, was attended by Ms. Colette Johnson. After mass, the congregation processed out to the St. Jane de Chantal Mary Garden to honor our heavenly mother. It was a lovely spring morning and the rain in the forecast did not materialize.

There was only a dry, cool breeze as the girls adorned the Mary Statue in the Sodality Mary Garden with a crown of roses, and laid flowers at her feet to begin the month of Our Lady.

A few weeks before, the eighth-grade Jr. Sodalists wrote essays on a theme to compete for two scholarships to their future high schools. The question was, "Catholic youth ministry programs have traditionally not been a hot destination for high school students. How do you

think churches could attract more teens to youth groups?" There were two winners again this year. First place went to Ms. Sydney Townsend who will be attending St. John's College High School in the Fall. The second-place finisher was Ms. Colette Johnson, who will be attending The Academy of the Holy Cross. The entire parish is very proud to have such intelligent and faith-filled young women.

OPT

St. Jane de Chantal Parish

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Bethesda, MD

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Pastor
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St. Jane de Chantal School
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~Eleanor Roosevelt



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"Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts."
~Winston Churchill



Andrew Cox
Georgetown Prep
"It doesn't matter how hard you work, I'm willing to work harder than you."
~Unknown



Dom D'Avella
Gonzaga
"Hard Work Beats Talent When Talent Doesn't Work Hard"
~Tim Notke



Lucy Deegan
Stone Ridge
"Elegance is the only beauty that never fades"
~Audrey Hepburn



Sara Garma
Aquinas
American School
"Dreams are a wish your heart makes"
~Walt Disney



Claire Gotzman
St. John's
"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them"
~Walt Disney



Jack Hill
St. John's
"If you don't hear the things you don't agree with, you may never know the truth"
~Jack Hill



Jack Irving
Gonzaga
"Great moments are born from great opportunity"
~Herb Brookes



Colette Johnson
Holy Cross
"My phone needs 15 minutes to charge, then I'll take you to the hospital." ~OG Mom



Kellie Kincaid
Good Counsel
"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."
~Jesus Christ



TJ Kummer
Walter Johnson
"I may not be the sharpest tool in the shed, but at least I'm in the shed" ~Cyrus Frooman



Cami Lock
Holy Cross
"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
~Theodore Roosevelt



Matthew Matelis
St. John's
"Today is the first day of the rest of your life."
~Charles Dickens



Clement Maubert
St. John's
"Success is a journey, not a destination. The doing is often more important than the outcome" ~Arthur Ashe



Chris McCord
St. John's
"The hardest choices require the strongest wills"
~Thanos



Alex McCormick
Holy Cross
"All our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them" ~Walt Disney



Congratulations to the Class of 2022



Joey McCormick
Georgetown Prep
"Success is not final; failure is not fatal; It is the courage to continue that counts"
~Winston Churchill



MC McGowan
Visitation
"The only rule is don't be boring."
~Paris Hilton



Jimmy McKinnon
Gonzaga
"9 is a divine number"
~Gatorade 9000



Gabby Michael
Brookewood
"Don't wait for things to get easier, simpler, or better. Life will always be complicated. Learn to be happy right now. Otherwise you'll run out of time." ~Unknown



Augie Moore
St. John's
"Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit."
~Vince Lombardi



Callum Pablo
Gonzaga
"I will either find a way, or I will make one."
~Hannibal Barca



Carolyn Porter
St. John's
"The difference between doing something and not doing something is doing something"
~Harry Styles



Sergio Quiroga
Good Counsel
"It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be."
~Master Oogway



Miles Raffa
Good Counsel
"There are no mistakes"
~Master Oogway



Sofia Salim
Stone Ridge
"When you accept things as they are, you allow yourself to make choices, that will help create the change you seek." ~Patricia Dsouza



Julian Shaw
St. Andrew's
"If you don't believe you are the best, then you will never achieve all that you are capable of." ~CR7



Noelle Skandalis
Holy Cross
"Believe you can and you're halfway there"
~Theodore Roosevelt



Gaspard Souberbielle
St. John's
"If you went back to fix all the mistakes you've made, you'd erase yourself."
~Louis C.K.



Sam Stancik
Good Counsel
"Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, when one only remembers to turn on the light." ~Dumbledore



Alex Tavongsa
Good Counsel
"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
~Theodore Roosevelt



Sydney Townsend
St. John's
"Believe you can and you're halfway there."
~Theodore Roosevelt



Kailey Trask
Good Counsel
"We don't have to know what tomorrow holds! That's why we can live for everything we're worth today!"
~Natsu Dragneel



Nick Trent
St. John's
"The past is the past but there is always the future."
~Sensei Wu



Victoria Trilling
Stone Ridge
"We have a choice: to live or to exist"
~Harry Styles



Cecily Vansant
St. John's
"Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed, and nothing ever changes without a dream." ~Debby Boone



JP Welsh
St. John's
"The harder I practiced, the luckier I got"
~Gary Player



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Hybrid sessions on Wednesday evenings:
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Final in-person only meeting
June 15, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. ET

All in-person meetings will be held at:
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The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life is co-sponsoring a virtual spiritual series for women with the Council of Catholic Women, exploring the mystery of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We will be using the book and discussion guide: *Real Presence: What Does It Mean and Why Does It Matter?* by Timothy P. O'Malley, published by Ave Maria Press.

Hybrid sessions, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
MAY 25: Obstacles to Real Presence

JUNE 1: Real Presence in Scriptures and in the Fathers

JUNE 8: Eucharistic Devotion and Real Presence

In-person only, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

JUNE 15: In-person final meeting: adoration, dinner, conclusion and reflections

Register online at <https://realpresenceseries.eventbrite.com>

The fee for all sessions is \$15.00, which includes dinner. Participants are responsible for getting their own book through the following link: www.avemariapress.com/products/real-presence or by calling (800) 282-1865.

For more information, contact the Office of Family Life at 301-853-4546 or visiblesign@adv.org.



May is Older Americans Month

Maryland has over 1.3 million residents aged 60 or older, who account for 22.6% of our total population based on 2020 data from the Maryland Department of Planning. Older Marylanders are a key source of our state's strength, drawing on lifetimes of experiences, successes, difficulties, and resilience.

When older Marylanders are empowered to stay in their homes and live independently in their communities for as long as possible, it benefits them and their families, friends, and neighbors.

For Older Americans Month 2022, older Marylanders are celebrating the many ways older adults contribute to, support, and benefit from their communities, as well as the many programs, advocates, and providers who help them do so. While Age My Way recognizes and celebrates the differences in how each person ages, here are a few common strategies that everyone can consider:

- **Planning:** MAP out a plan. Consider what you need and what you would

like to have to improve your daily experience in the community. What will you need to maintain your happiness and safety in your home or apartment? Is it food, clothing, a different living arrangement? Do you have a current list of all medications?

- **Engagement:** Assess your engagement. Would you like to get involved for the first time, maintain your status, or upgrade your level of involvement in the community? How do you define engagement with your community? Do you volunteer, work, or engage in civic or parish-based communities? Are you a caregiver for someone else? Is there something your community lacks that you would like to start an effort to address? Would you like to attend a senior center?
- **Access:** List ways to increase your access. Do you need to think about home improvements and modifications to help you get in and out?

Continued on page 45



Noor Bailey
Jackson-Reed HS



Rachel Barnacle
St. Johns



Kathleen Browning
Visitation



Claudia Burgess
Wilson HS



Mary Kate Carroccio
Holy Child



Will Day
Gonzaga



Vincent DeSomma
St. Johns



Katie Gottschalk
Visitation



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Logan May
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Jackson-Reed HS



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Visitation

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Holy Cross



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SHORT

Con't from page 1

for President in 2020 was important, however, the elections of 2022 are crucial because they directly impact each of our lives here in Montgomery County. Let's reflect on the **role of the Catholic voice in the public square** as we prepare for local elections.

Among our post-Easter readings are the letters of St James. Notably, James wrote, "What good is it for someone to say he (she) has faith, if his (her) actions do not prove it?... Faith alone with no actions is dead." 2.14

From Pope Francis, this teaching,

"We need to participate in politics for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: a good Catholic immerses themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

We are called to civic engagement as disciples of Jesus to voice our Christian values during the upcoming local elections and to use this opportunity to shine the light of the message of Jesus to all our 1.2 million neighbors. As local Catholics, we are grateful to the **Justice and Advocacy Council together with Catholic Charities** for engaging Catholic voices in the local elections by sponsoring a non-partisan

forum for all announced County Executive candidates. The April 26th forum was hosted by Fr. Paul Lee at St Jude's in Rockville and moderated by Msgr. John Enzler, President of Catholic Charities. It was well attended in person and by many virtually. The candidates were queried for two hours on topics including affordable housing, access to health care, immigration services and care the vulnerable and poor, among other topics. To view the recorded event, here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZTXnxJJseg-jbOqKxOK1WQ/> featured.

Here is a summary of why local elections are important to us:

If you are interested in County

government day-to-day services like libraries, recreation centers, roads and transit, police and other emergency services, environmental and health protection and many other direct services, you have a stake in who is elected as **County Executive**. This office is comparable to a large city mayor or state governor. As Christians, we pray for a virtuous executive who leads with compassion for the vulnerable; fairness for all constituents; and the ability to manage government resources wisely.

If you are interested in public policy and legislation, you have a stake in the **County Council** elections. The Council is a legislative body. It sets policy and passes

laws; approves and oversees the County's finances, especially the annual budget, including setting the tax rate; it is responsible for land use policy, including zoning. The new Council will have eleven members, four elected at large by all voters and seven elected by district voters. Here's the new district map: <https://gismontgomery.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f2f72715a6b8433287229867173cf640>

Many of you have an interest in the public school system. You should pay close attention to the often-underappreciated **Board of Education** elections. While the County government exercises fiscal oversight of the public schools, most educational policies are set by the elected Board of Education. The Board has at-large, and district elected members.

If you have an interest in criminal prosecutions, pay close attention to the Office of State's Attorney. This elected individual is the chief prosecutor for crimes committed in the county. Christians are called to justice and mercy. This elected office is one of the most critical to achieving balance in our county's response to offenders.

Many civic matters are reserved to the State government. Important matters such as abortion, health care, support for people with disabilities, employment and environmental issues are among the topics addressed by these State leaders. Christ's voice is needed in the campaigns for governor, Senate and House of Delegates as well as for the State's principal financial officer, Comptroller.

Dates to remember: You must register to vote by June 28; you can request a mail-in ballot by July 12; early voting in person, July 7-14; election day July 19, mail in ballots can be dropped off until this day and all polls are open throughout the day for in person voting.

For details about the 2022 elections, please go to the site of the **Maryland State Board of Elections, 2022 Governor's Election**, or locally at the **Montgomery County Board of Elections** at montgomerycountymd.gov.

This is your chance to help build the City of God on Earth.

Wishing you a restful and safe summer.

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Chuck Short

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RETREAT

Con't from page 17

Day. Confirmants also attended Eucharistic Adoration and confessions until the retreat's conclusion at 9:00 P.M.

One confirmandi, Patrick Moran, commented, "It was great to spend time with God and expand my faith." Morgan Shannon also enjoyed the retreat, stating, "I found the self-reflection and meditation very helpful." Confirmants left the retreat with a renewed perspective on the world and an augmented knowledge of the faith.

Resurrection Parish's Friday Late Afternoon Confessions and Adoration Time

Fr. John Barry, Pastor

It started two years ago as outside confessions for three hours in the parish parking lot. It was an idea for access to Holy Eucharist, as one would drive up "curbside" to the priest in his car in the parking lot. He could distribute Eucharist to those ready to receive Christ. Confessions were done for mostly all comers in the three hours.

It was what we could do at Resurrection in offering sacraments. The churches were all closed by the government by a pandemic control strategy of keeping crowded places empty. There were no public Masses, just private ones by the priests. The parish also filmed a Sunday Mass every week for people's home viewing anytime on the Lord's Day, via our website. We filmed a daily devotion, as well.

People wanted to be with Jesus as Sacrament. Added to the parish lot was an invitation for Eucharistic Adoration over the three Friday afternoon hours of 4:30 to 7:30pm. A 24/7/365 window was chosen on the church side for view of a parish tabernacle, easily seen from the parish parking lot on our Greencastle Road side lot. Cars could park in 20 spaces that were as close as 30 feet outside from the parish tabernacle inside the church at the window. Spotlights were put on the



Fr. John Barry

tabernacle for clear viewing. The Reconciliation Parking Spot of the priest was in clear view of the tabernacle, so he became the constant onlooker of The Lord as Eucharist from his confessions spot.

That was two years ago or more. Resurrection Burtonsville parish keeps devoted to its every Friday time of 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. for the faithful's access to Reconciliation and Eucharist. The Friday practice has kept going—even long after a good many members have returned for Sunday Mass! It's become a regular Friday holy time for parishioners and other Catholic guests.

The parish keeps to its outdoor times from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. each

Friday in the parish lot, where adorers of Jesus and penitents to Jesus gather. Then the Confessions and Adoration move inside the church from 6:30 until the 7:30 p.m. Benediction prayers begin. It makes for three hours availability each Friday of Adoration and Confession. By the numbers still visiting the parish's Friday afternoon offering, it shows that the practice has served a crucial need—made most obvious in the pandemic times. We needed more Adoration and better and longer Confession times. People of other nearby parishes are welcome to come on by and benefit by it. We also post what other nearby parishes offer for other times of confession availability or Eucharistic Adoration. Our regular Friday times offer a new option of serving Catholic's needs. Added on to the schedule has been First Saturday morning Masses at 7:30 following by a Holy Hour with Adoration (a silent time).

Fr. Barry, the sole ADW priest at Resurrection, covers most of it, and gets regular Friday help in Benediction closing from the other ADW clergy here—Deacon Beiberich, who also leads the Adoration-Benediction time at Riderwood Community.

Fr. says that all the Fridays and the First Saturdays are "worth the

effort because of the need and the response we have had with it since the beginning. Deacon and I wanted Christ to be sacramentally available to as many as we could serve. Friday afternoon to evening was a common free time to offer here... we're not stopping the practice right now in Easter 2022, because it is still so appreciated and supported... I know how the curb-side Confessions practice seemed odd at first, or so the viewing of a Monstrance or Tabernacle through a window was different. Yet, Jesus in a Lukan parable in chapter 16 said how He wanted His servants to be as clever as or shrewder than worldly enterprises. Therefore, if restaurants were doing curb-side, and getting some business back—then we felt the Church could do her more valuable service in a curb-side way. We found an immediate response to it! We do Confessions in a reverent way, despite the car-to-car side-by-side situation or of the walk-ups. The number of people in Eucharistic Adoration also surpassed any amount of participation we had before the pandemic, even if in outdoor practice for so long." This pastor is likewise getting much more Friday adoration time in, too, from my car or from any outdoor seat!"

Fr. Barry hosts most of these weekly triple hours; people can

visit whenever they want to. Even during the rest of the week, the 24/7 Tabernacle view has regular visits day and night by people. The church is also open to visits, via the office now, and we have all the regular liturgies taking place.

Our other Catholics at Riderwood Chapel also have kept to their monthly times of Confession and Adoration times there.

For more Eucharistic Amazement and more emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the parish has a new First Saturday 8:30 a.m. Mass in church, followed by a Holy Hour with Adoration and Confession time up to 10 a.m. Benediction. Pope Francis has encouraged the above practices, saying: "The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged place for our encounter with God (and) to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation means to be wrapped in a warm embrace (and) "We are called to be 'ambassadors for Christ' (2 Cor. 5:20). Ours is a ministry of reconciliation (it) means above all to invite everyone to a renewed personal encounter with the Lord Jesus."

OPT

Expressing Jesus's Love through Feeding the Homeless

The Resurrection Parish of Burtonsville helped to provide lunches the weekend of March 18-19 though its participation via the Laurel Winter Shelter for the Beltsville homeless shelter. The shelter houses over 200 homeless individuals and families. God provided an unusually beautiful warm March Saturday morning and a dry but cooler Sunday morning for collection and transportation.

Resurrection's Homeless Committee members John Laudwein, Pat Ryan, Dany Burns, Kathy Ford, Kathy Serra, Carmela Cowgill, Ruth Doherty, Sheila Kaplan, Jennifer Wright, Kelly Maltagliati, Lisa Peacock, Sabine Paul and Tina Peachman, helped to coordinate, collect, and deliver lunches and supplies such as laundry detergent, dryer sheets, diapers, hygiene products, cleaning products, coffee, tea, drinks, and breakfast items. Members of the parish signed up to make 10 lunches each containing sandwiches, fruit, snacks, and drinks. The Resurrection Women's Group

was of an exceptional help as they had the lunch drive as part of their Lenten service project.

Despite inflation and increased grocery costs, the generosity and God's love was evident as the Parish was asked to provide 400 lunches but ended up with over 440 lunches in addition to many items from the shelters wish list. The Spirit also guided parish members to donate a Chrome book, 200 reusable grocery sized cloth bags, and duffle bags which were graciously accepted and welcomed. In coordination with a local Girl Scout Troup and a generous member of the parish, 9 cases of Girl Scout cookies were also provided to brighten up the day off shelter members. Volunteers at the Beltsville shelter remembered the parish's participation last year and specifically thanked the parish for its continued support of this critical ministry. As is the case when we follow God's plans for us, He multiplies our efforts and not only provides but abundantly provides for the work that He asks us to accomplish.

OPT



The Apollo Orchestra gave their first concert since the pandemic on Sunday May 1.

Resurrection Music Concert Series

About 15 years ago, the Church of the Resurrection asked its Music Director, Annick Kanter-Saint Hubert, to organize a Concert Series. The concert series gives our parishioners an opportunity to outreach to the community at large, and gives our pastor, Fr. John Barry, a chance to welcome new faces entering our doors for the first time. The concerts are free and the offerings are varied.

The pandemic shut our doors right after a very successful Irish concert in March 20129; our first post-pandemic concert was held in October 2021, and the attendance was disappointing.

But attendance has been growing steadily since October, and we were thrilled to welcome more than 200 guests this past Sunday, May 1, to hear the Apollo Orchestra, featuring

world renowned cellist Amit Peled. The orchestra opened with the Ukrainian National anthem, followed by a work written in 202 by Carlos Simon, composer-in-residence at the Kennedy Center.

Since Christmas, we have heard classical organ works played by our talented organist Bill Wisnom; traditional Irish music (and dancers) with the Celtic Corridor; the Apollo Orchestra with Amit Peled.

We have three concerts left for this year. On May 22 at 4:00 pm, we welcome the Saxophone Quartet of the United States Army Field Band, the musical Ambassadors of the Army. They promise an "exciting, original array of music with all the unique sounds that only a saxophone quartet can bring!"

On June 5 at 4:00 pm, the Olney Big Band comes back, a highly anticipated event that will bring to life the music of the 30s and 40s.

On June 12 at 4:00 pm, the talented members of the Women's Choir "Voix de Femmes" will close the year with a program of whimsical poems set to music by – almost exclusively – creative, talented women composers.

OPT

Church of the Resurrection Parish
3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD
Rev. John M. Barry,
Pastor
301-288-4662

Recognizing and Celebrating SFIS Volunteers



School volunteers receiving a blessing by Fr. Larry Hayes. LR: Tyler Harris, Jerri Hunt, Martha Huber, PJ and Sue Fitzgerald, Patricia Rogers, Marianne Moore, Susan O'Callaghan Davis, Valerie Tripp, Rusty Kolodrubetz, and Andre Rack.



Volunteer Brunch attendees, LR back: Martha Huber, Susan O'Callaghan Davis, and Lisa Pfeifer. LR front: school librarian, Carolyn Johnson and Jerri Hunt.

Volunteers are a frequent and welcome sight at Saint Francis International School. We have many people who have been drawn to our school to use their gifts and talents to enrich the lives of our students and help our teachers. In recognition of their efforts, the weekly school Mass was celebrated in their honor and they were treated to a delicious brunch.

During the homily, Parochial Vicar of St. Camillus, Father Larry Hayes, O.F.M., spoke of how Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit. He said that our volunteers have responded to the Holy Spirit's call to serve in our school. He called them up to the altar and blessed them as the whole church extended hands in prayer. After Mass, principal Sam Chapa told us how very blessed we are to have these volunteers as part of our school community.

Our volunteers help throughout the school in a variety of ways. Some help in the library and some help by teaching lessons that supplement what the classroom teachers do - lessons on poetry, science, and cooking, to name a few. Others help give teachers breaks, help students prepare to do the Mass readings, donate books, help with technology, and more. Author Valerie Tripp has visited many times over the years sharing her secrets about writing.

There were volunteers who could not attend. Mary Rein comes in each week to shelve library books. Rosemary Hudecheck helps with testing. Tina Hudak leads a virtual Book Club with a group of our 5th grade students. Farmer Alan Magan helps our students learn to be gardeners and everyone gets to share in the bounty when we harvest our salad garden! Martin Tran helped teach Religion to 5th, 7th, and 8th graders. Our Ignatian Volunteer Aleks Braginski helps with the primary level. Allie Cohen donated many trees and helped the students plant them. We are incredibly blessed to have a number of priests to help with the spiritual life of our community - Fr. Shaun Foggo from Our Lady of Sorrows, Fr. Gino Correa from Holy Name College, and Fathers John Serio and Dieunel Victor from Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School.

Teresa Perez and her helpers decorated the Camillia Room and served a scrumptious brunch. It was a wonderful chance to let our volunteers know how much they are appreciated!

OPT

News from our School—SFIS

- ◆ Principal Day and Teacher Appreciation Week were celebrated at SFIS. We are blessed to have one of the best principals - Mr. Sam Chapa! Our Assistant Principals, Adam Kampia and Dr. Perencevich, work with him to make an awesome team leading our amazing teachers!
- ◆ We continue to celebrate Easter (since it lasts 50 days). The Easter Bunny visited and students in Pre-K through 5th grade had fun hunting for eggs!
- ◆ Spring Picture Day was a good reason for students to be out of uniform and wear their Sunday Best.
- ◆ Earth Day was celebrated with various creative and learning activities.
- ◆ Middle School students are discovering the workings of some old technology - a typewriter and phonograph.



Here is what's happening at our wonderful school!



St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Sam Chapa, Principal
(301) 434-2344

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

St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

SOAR Summer Trips!

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation has released its Summer 2022 Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation (SOAR) travel program for active adults age 55 and over. Unless noted, all transportation is provided on restroom-equipped motor coaches. All trips depart from and return to Olney Manor Recreation Park, 16605 Georgia Avenue in Olney.

You may register for a SOAR trip in any of three ways. The fastest and easiest way is to use the internet and go to ActiveMONTGOMERY.org. You may also mail your trip registration form or register in person.

Call 240-777-6840 for hours and addresses or if you have questions about the registration process. If you have questions or require more information about a specific trip, call the SOAR Coordinator at 240-777-4926.

Orioles v. Nationals at Camden Yards	Tu Jun 21	4:30pm-11:00pm	\$69
Evergreen & Homewood Mansion Tours	Th Jun 30	9:30am-4:30pm	\$72
Tour of The Manor House at Ladew	Th Jul 14	9:00am-4:00pm	\$86
Skip Jack Sailing & St Michaels Tour	W Jul 20	7:30am-5:30pm	\$79
Chesap. Bay Lighthouse Severn River	W Jul 27	9:30am-4:30pm	\$99
Tour of B&C Ellicott City Station Mus.	Fr Aug 5	9:00am-4:00pm	\$49

Non-residents of Montgomery County add \$15 to the listed fee.

Day Trippers

The Department of Recreation also offers less strenuous travel – the Day Trippers program for all ages. Trips leave and return from the Olney Manor Recreational Park.

Summer 2022 Day Trippers programs include:

To Kill a Mockingbird play, Kennedy Center	Sa Jul 9	1:45am-4:45pm	\$149
Beehive: The '60s Musical, Fayetteville, Pa	Sa Jul 16	9:30am-6:30pm	\$114
Kate Pearl Team Room, Westminster, Md	Fr Ju 22	9:30am-4:30pm	\$89
Carmine's lunch, Second City Kennedy Cntr	Sa Jul 23	12:30pm-7:45pm	\$156
Tour of 'Grounds for Sculpture' New Jersey	Fr Jul 29	7:30am-6:30pm	\$89
Jersey Boys at the Fulton Theater, Pa	Su Aug 7	9:00am-7:00pm	\$139
Do or Die Mystery Dinner and Show	Mo Aug 15	5:00pm-10:30pm	\$98
Kurios Cirque du Soleil, Tysons Big Top	Su Aug 25	3:00-7:30pm	\$119

OPT

Some arthritis drugs may reduce Alzheimer's and related dementias risk in those with heart disease

New findings from the ongoing Drug Repurposing for Effective Alzheimer's Medicines (DREAM) study suggest that certain rheumatoid arthritis drugs may lower incidences of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in people with cardiovascular disease. While the findings do not support the broad use of these drugs for treating Alzheimer's and related dementias, the results may point to a promising precision-medicine approach in specific groups of people at risk for developing these diseases.

The research was published in JAMA Network Open and led by NIA scientists in collaboration with researchers at Harvard Medical School, Boston; Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey; and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore.

Discovering new drug targets in Alzheimer's and related dementias is crucial for meeting the enormous public health challenge of these diseases. Prior studies on whether approved rheumatoid arthritis drugs lower the risk of developing dementia have pro-



duced mixed results. The ongoing NIA DREAM study previously identified several FDA-approved drugs that are being tested as candidate treatments for Alzheimer's and related dementias.

In this study, researchers analyzed data in Medicare claims from more than 22,000 people aged 65 years and older from 2007 to 2017, looking at whether those with rheumatoid arthritis who took one of three different classes of arthritis drugs were protected from dementia.

Researchers found that there were no statistically significant associations with lowered dementia risk except among those with cardiovascular disease who were treated with one class of arthritis drugs called TNF inhibitors. These inhibitors suppress the immune system by blocking

the activity of TNF, which is a substance in the body that can cause inflammation and lead to immune-system diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis. Moreover, a recent large Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) discovered genetic risk variants related to TNF signaling to be associated with the risk of Alzheimer's, suggesting

that abnormalities in this pathway may be causally related to the disease. Together, these findings demonstrate the importance of generating valid, actionable evidence on drug repurposing using routine health care data.

An important limitation is that the development of Alzheimer's and related dementias may begin many years before a clinical diagnosis. Given this, longer periods of treatment and/or observation may be needed to draw firmer conclusions about the null findings. Additionally, although the researchers strived to address limitations related to identifying Alzheimer's and related dementias in health care claims through their careful study design, there remains a possibility of bias from outcome misclassification. **OPT**

Source: National Institute on Aging

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Practicing Life in the Montessori Classroom

By Ms. Michele Carpenter, Co-Director of Montessori and Montessori II Teacher

One of my favorite areas of the Montessori classroom is the Practical Life section. This section was intended to “practice life.” There is polishing, pouring, washing, and dressing frames. Walking into our classroom, you might see a few things that are out of the ordinary for a primary classroom. Table washing, pouring, knitting, and pin punching may seem a little outside the ordinary curriculum. In our program, we work not just to develop letters and numbers, but to prepare our students for life.

All of these activities aim to develop the coordination, concentration, sense of order, and independence in the child. At first glance, these activities seem like trivial busy work.



Above left, a Montessori student learns how to wash a chair while working on hand/eye coordination and balance.



Above right, Montessori students at The Woods learn practical life skills in the classroom like sewing.

Many parents are understandably confused when their child says they washed a table at school. In this activity, the child is developing gross motor skills by scrubbing the table as well as having to maneuver the full bucket of water back to the sink usually with varying degrees of success (we're learning after all). She is also having to retain a process in her head, first wash the table with the sponge, then scrub, then wash, then dry. Working through each of these processes in a previously set sequence allows the child to develop a sense of order, this development of both the working memory and the mathematical mind.

Practical life lessons like washing the table also help to strengthen body muscles like the arm muscles

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The Woods students have weekly chapel where they reflect on how we can see God's presence in all things and how we can harness our talents, gifts, hard work, and joy for God's greater glory.

Trust, Happiness, and Compassion in Chapel

Mr. Randy Bednar, Upper School Religion Teacher

For chapel, students were recently reading a story about what life is and isn't about. In the story (author anonymous), it talked about trust, happiness, and compassion and how we would use these traits in our daily interactions at The Woods

Academy. It goes on to talk about choosing to use your life to touch someone else's in a way that could never have been achieved otherwise. We culminated this activity with students volunteering to offer their own personal stories on how they were touched by someone else's compassion and how they “paid it forward,” by helping others in times of need.

OPT

Fourth Graders Discover How Electricity Works

By Mr. Paris Person, Fourth Grade Teacher

During the second trimester, our fourth graders learned how electricity works in the world! The first experiment they worked on was wiring simple circuits. Students were able to build and test simple circuits; they learned how to make a lightbulb turn on with specific materials such as a battery, a battery holder, wires, a lightbulb socket, and a lightbulb. Once they mastered the order of the materials, they were able to build a simple switch that successfully operated a light bulb.

Next, we put our knowledge to

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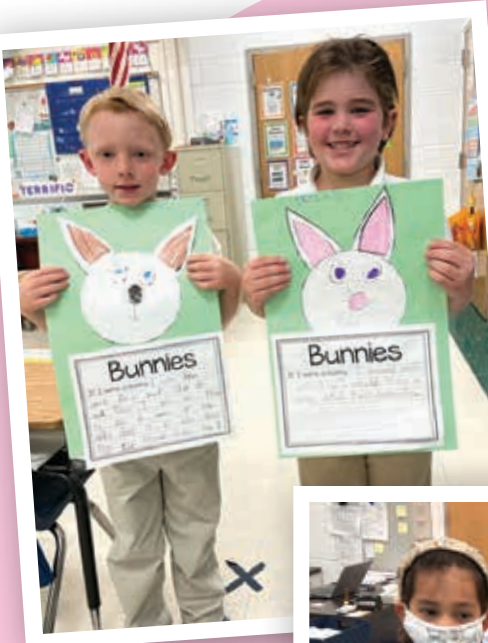


Fourth-grade students at The Woods create brushbots while learning about electricity.

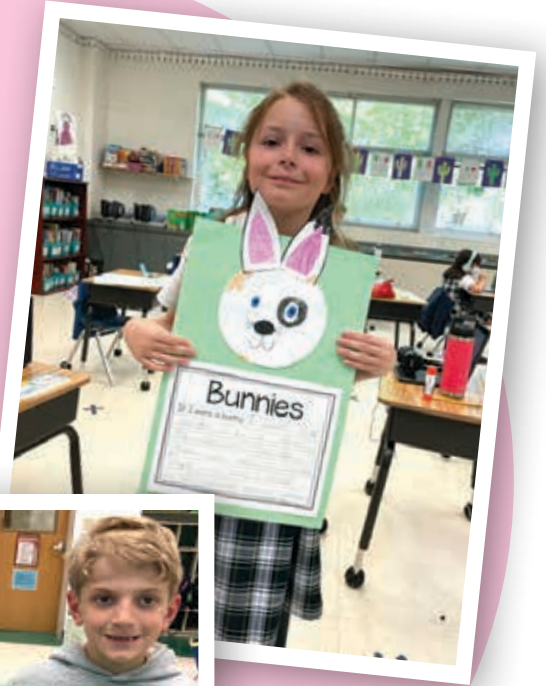
By Ms. Danielle Shegerian, First Grade Teacher

When we think of April, we think of Easter and of course rabbits. Our first-grade students had an exciting time learning about rabbits. We read non-fiction books and articles about rabbits and saw photos of real rabbits. We learned many interesting facts about rabbits. Some facts we learned were that not all rabbits have short hair, and some have long hair. We also learned that rabbits love to eat vegetables, hay, and rabbit pellets. A really interesting fact about rabbits is rabbits do binkies when they are happy.

If I Were a Bunny



First graders learned about rabbits during the month of April.



First-grade students participated in many different rabbit activities. One fun activity was “If I Were a Bunny.” Here, students created their own bunny faces and wrote about what they would do if they were a bunny. Many students wrote about what foods they would eat such as carrots, lettuce, and chocolate caramel bunnies. Students also included their daytime activities such as playing tag with their siblings and hopping around. While many students said they would live in burrows, some students wrote they would like to be a pet rabbit. Our students had a great time using their imaginations for this activity.

OPT

The Woods Academy

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Head of School,
Joseph E. Powers

OPT Editor,
Caitlin Chalke
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THE WOODS ACADEMY

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St. Anselm's Abbey School
St. John's College High School
The School Without Walls
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
The Potomac School
Georgetown Visitation
Preparatory School



St. Martin's Scholarships Support Catholic Education

By Anne Gemunder

The generous members of the St. Martin's community have established a legacy of setting up named scholarships for the benefit of deserving students. We are pleased to announce a new scholarship to support and encourage middle-school girls in their academic studies and character growth. Teeya Sahni, Class of 2018, has kindly offered to fund this scholarship, which is named in honor of her late grandfather, Parvesh Sharma. This individual award will be available yearly for the next four academic years, beginning in 2022-2023. The principal aim of this scholarship is to offer financial support to rising sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls and to encourage serious and deserving students to



The 2021 recipient of the Carl Matthew Waclawik Memorial Scholarship was Reanna Mae Bejo, who is pictured here with her parents. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

further their academic achievement and character development. The Scholarship Committee, comprised of Principal Stephen Lamont and members of the St. Martin's faculty, will make the final selection of the scholarship recipient based on their review of the application and the student's academic and comportment records. The inaugural Parvesh Sharma Scholarship will be announced at the Scholarship Awards Presentation on June 10, 2022. This scholarship and other annual awards represent a commitment by our school community to our mission, anchored in faith, rooted in service, and dedicated to excellence.

Through the benevolent efforts from our community, we offer five additional named scholarships to

our students. The Carl Matthew Waclawik Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Carl Waclawik, a graduate of the St. Martin's Class of 2006. The examples that Carl set while at St. Martin's of curiosity, creativity, and kindness, continue to be fostered at St. Martin's. This scholarship is awarded annually to help further the education of a St. Martin's Middle School student.

The Youstra Family Scholarship has been established as a tribute to Jo and Ray Youstra and their family, for their generous hearts and their many years of extraordinary service to St. Martin's. This scholarship benefits a rising eighth grader who has excelled academically, shown leadership qualities, participated in

Continued on page 37

In Loving Memory of Arlene Patti

By Anne Gemunder

With heavy hearts, we announce the loss of a beloved member of the St. Martin of Tours school community. On Sunday, May 8, Mrs.



Arlene Patti. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

Arlene Patti went home to the Lord after a sudden, brief illness. Mrs. Patti was the school's office manager since 2014, but she was also

the friendly, compassionate face of welcome for those who entered the school. Everything that she did for the community, she did with love, informed by the Gospel values of joyful service, empathy, and patience. She was a source of strength and calm in the moments of turbulence that often accompany a busy school environment. While we know she was lovingly welcomed into the arms of her Creator, her quiet but vibrant presence is and shall be sorely missed. Each member of our community has been positively impacted by Mrs. Patti. The St. Martin's community grieves together with Mrs. Patti's husband Donald, her children Casey and Katelyn, her parents, her siblings, and the many people who have been blessed to know her and love her.

OPT



St. Martin's 8th graders performed a Living Station of the Cross before Easter. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. David G. Wells,
Pastor

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St. Martin's Aftercare students enjoy a tour of the church altar and sacristy with Fr. Patrick Agustin. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



Eighth graders participate in the annual STEM night. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Con't from page 36

service projects, and demonstrated faith through character.

The Branagan Family Scholarship has supported St. Martin's students for decades in helping them to reach their potential. The recipient of this award is a rising seventh grader who has demonstrated significant personal and academic growth through the course of the school year. Both Branagan children graduated from SMS and their parents remain devoted volunteers to the school.

The Annie B. Shaw Scholarship is named in memory of the grandmother of Kaitlyn Matsko, Class of 2017. Mrs. Shaw was a strong supporter of Catholic education. It is awarded to a rising seventh or eighth grader who embodies exemplary academic effort and character.

Another recently added award is the Mel Washington Memorial Youth Scholarship. This scholarship is named in memory of Melvin Washington, a leader in the Poolesville community who tirelessly served St. Mary's parish in Barnesville and the Knights of Columbus for decades. He was a great example of how to lead and to serve. This award benefits an African American youth who demonstrates model citizenship and academic effort.

We celebrate and appreciate our generous alumni, parents, and friends of St. Martin's School who have established or support these various scholarships to the tremendous benefit of our students' academic, faith, and service aspirations. The need to support these deserving students is great and we especially highlight these efforts in the hope that they inspire others to consider helping change lives and build futures.

OPT

Requiescat in Pace Jo-Ann Arlene Patti, 1970-2022

Jo-Ann Arlene Patti (Arlene), 52, of Gaithersburg, Maryland returned home to the Lord on Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 8, 2022, after succumbing to COVID at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in nearby Rockville.

Born in York, Ontario, Canada just outside of Toronto, Arlene grew up in Ventura, California surrounded by surf, sun, and orange groves. At an early age, she attended Saint Paul's Episcopal School, where she developed her skills in piano and ballet, eventually performing the lead role in the ballet "Peter and the Wolf."

She attended high school at Cate School on the mesa in Santa Barbara County, where she excelled at piano, drama, track and soccer. Nicknamed, "Gnarly Arly," she played sweeper on defense, helping her team to reach the CIF playoffs in her Senior year. She also choreographed, sang and danced in Cate's performance of "Guys and Dolls."

After earning her bachelor's degree in Textile Sciences and Apparel from Cornell University, she returned to California where she met her future husband Don while working on former Oxnard Mayor Nao Takasugi's campaign for State Assembly. The two married at Mission San Buenaventura in 1995 and then earned their MBAs from the

RH Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, settling in the nearby area.

Her career included an Office Manager role for Nao Takasugi's State Assembly office, a five-year stint as a Marketing Manager with Intuit, and four years as an Office Manager helping grow the family business, Intrev, while she raised her son Casey.

Her favorite position, by far, was as the Office Manager at Saint Martin of Tours Catholic School in Gaithersburg. Arlene loved to juggle the many activities necessary to keep the school operating smoothly, to visit with the many young faces who stopped by her desk, and to pass time with her friends and co-workers along the way.

A fan of animated movies, she loved watching Studio Ghibli and superhero movies with her kids, and often passed her time reading manga. She also enjoyed nurturing her two children, Casey (21) and Katelyn (14), as they matured into fine young adults. Arlene was also a parishioner at Saint Mary's Parish and Shrine in Barnesville, where she, her two children and husband, Don, loved attending mass.

She is survived by her two children, Casey and Katelyn; her husband, Donald (DP); her father, Erle Andrew Pearson;

her mother, Alma Petronella Pearson; her brother Erle Andrew "Uncle Drew" Pearson II; her brother, Mark Adrian "Big Uncle" Pearson; her mother-in-law Peggy Patti; her sister-in-law, Sarah Molina Pearson; her brother-in-law, Michael Joseph Patti; her brother-in-law, James Edward Patti; her nephew, Mason Pearson; and her niece, Giovanna Pearson.

A visitation will be held for Arlene at Saint Mary's Parish and Shrine, 18230 Barnesville Road in Barnesville, Maryland on Thursday, May 19, 2022, from 6 to 8PM ET. A burial mass will occur the next day, Friday, May 20 at 11AM at Saint Mary's, followed by a luncheon in the church's Father Reid Pavilion. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to the funeral, which will be held in front of the outdoor altar, weather permitting.

All should wear purple.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the "Arlene Patti Memorial Scholarship" by mailing a check to Saint Martin of Tours Catholic School, 115 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 (mention "Arlene Patti" in the memo line); or, by donating via FaceBook at www.facebook.com/donate/1948544405331482/ through June 30, 2022.

OPT

St. Martin's Catholic School



Class of 2022

Academy of the Holy Cross

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Clarksburg

Kayla Nguyen

Don Bosco Cristo Rey

David Rodriguez

Georgetown Visitation

Emanuela Njoku

Gonzaga College

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Samantha Tomasi

Alexa Velasquez Flores

Saint John's College

Annabelle Melia

Seneca Valley

Andrew Moya

Shaniah Tavares

Undecided

Kyle Bikanda

Sheyla Corea

Jaden Martinez

Tilden Tebah

Spencer Umunna



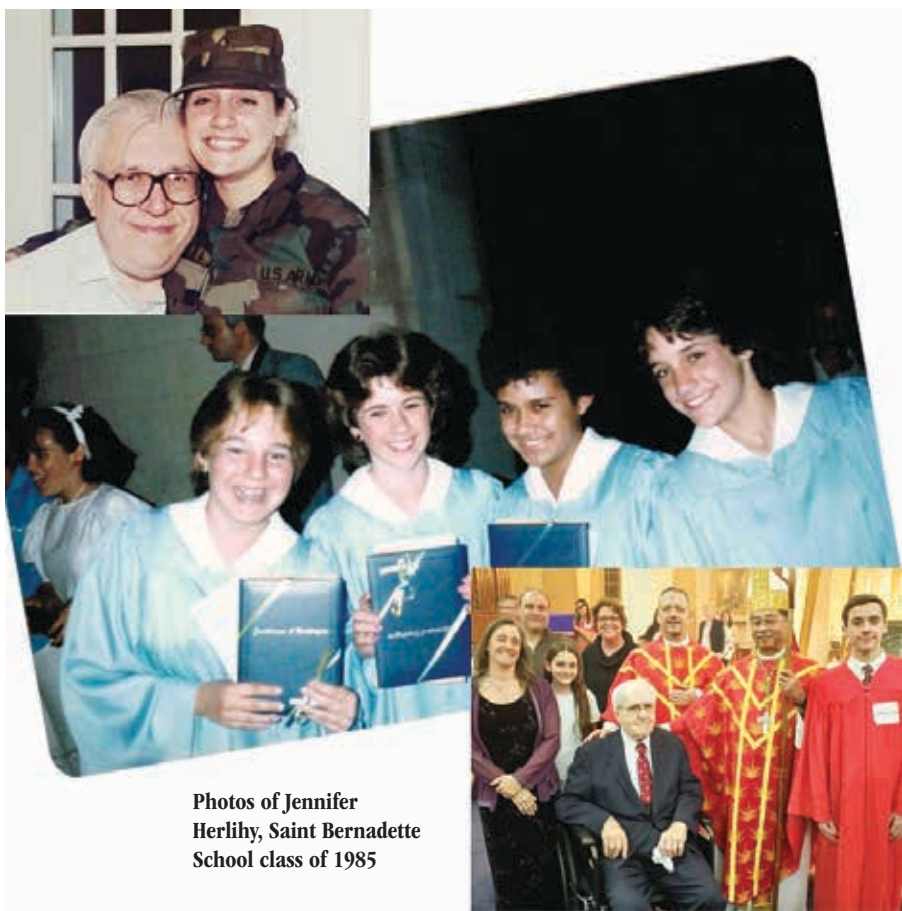
Principal: Mr. Stephen C. Lamont

Pastor: Rev. David G. Wells

115 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD 20877

www.smsmd.org

Phone: 301-990-2441



Photos of Jennifer Herlihy, Saint Bernadette School class of 1985



God bless Saint Bernadette's second graders!

First Communion at Saint Bernadette's

Second grade students at Saint Bernadette School have been busy bees preparing for their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 7. It was a beautiful mass, shared with family and

friends of Saint Bernadette School and Parish communities. Join us in congratulating them in this important step in their faith journey!

OPT

Fund-a-Scholar Success!

On the evening of Saturday, April 30, at the second annual Echo Dinner, Saint Bernadette School inducted Jennifer Herlihy '85 into the Saint Bernadette School Alumni Honor Roll. The event raised over \$20K for Fund-a-

Scholar initiative, which provides need-based tuition assistance.

To further support the Fund-a-Scholar program, please visit <https://saintbernadetteschool.org/fund-a-scholar/>

OPT



Above, each first communicant made a banner commemorating their special day.

Below, second graders at St. Bernadette's School use their classroom bulletin board to display artwork depicting the Body and Blood of Jesus in the form of bread and wine.

St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD

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

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

Erin Fridley, OPT Editor
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2022**



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**ADDISON
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**AVA
SERWIT-BERRY**
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The Journey to a Vocation

By sixth-grade students Lila Rienzo, Lukas O'Neill, and Kylie Cobb

"An interior call of grace which falls into the soul like a seed, to mature within it," is how Saint John Paul II described a vocation. On Thursday March 31, 2022, the sixth and seventh graders from Holy Redeemer and other sixth graders from the Archdiocese of Washington got to visit

the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Students had the opportunity to attend a Vocations Mass and to interview priests and religious there. Two of the many people they interviewed were Sister Denise and Vincent the seminarian. First, one group asked Sister Denise, "Who helped you become a sister?" Sr. Denise excitedly replied, "My parents really

helped me the most and they definitely supported me a lot." Then the group interviewed Vincent the Seminarian. They asked, "when did God first call you?" He responded with, "After my first Holy Communion He called me the first time."

Although the bus ride there and back was long, it was definitely worth the wait. Everyone thought the church was absolutely stunning with

its beautiful mosaics reaching high into the sky and with the organ music playing powerfully and majestically. The students thought the experience was amazing and they really recommend visiting the Shrine or attending a Vocations Mass. Think about what God is calling you to become, or what He wants **YOU** to do.

Is He possibly calling you to become a priest or a religious?

OPT



From left to right: Thomas Finne (sixth), Joshua Ryan (seventh), Alex Skinner (eighth), Hannah O'Neill (eighth), Ivana Lopes (eighth), Alicia Alborno (eighth), Nicole Pathak (eighth), Anna-Lucia Clark (eighth).

Inaugural Holy Redeemer Middle School Writing Contest

By Margie Davin, Middle School English Teacher

On April 26, eight students and their families gathered at the Writer's Center in Bethesda to find out who would win the inaugural Holy Redeemer Middle School Writing Contest. Taking first place in the poetry category, judged by Emily Holland, poet and editor of Poet Lore, was eighth-grader Alicia Alborno for "Waves of Memories." In the short story category, Zach Powers, author and artistic director of the Writer's Center, selected "Mayaluga" by eighth-grader Hannah O'Neill, to take first place. Below is "Waves of Memories" and an excerpt from "Mayaluga."

Waves of Memories

By Alicia Alborno

The steady ocean crashes
Upon the still white shore
Waves like distant memories
That I had once before
Of running in the fine wet sand
Wild and carefree
With no worries in the world
Just me, the sky, the sea
The sun on my face, the salty sea air
Were all that I needed, back before
I was aware
Aware of true hardship
Aware of real strife
And now that I know
Of the cruelties of life
I wish that I was back there
At that far off place somehow
The place I still visit
In my dreams even now

Continued on page 49

Why We Need to Read More

By Cara Fisher, eighth grade

Reading has been on the decline in the United States for many years now. Some say that books are outdated, old-fashioned, and unnecessary. It has even been said that we are shifting into "secondary orality." This is a sociological term meaning post-literary

culture. However, the benefits of reading are numerous and need to be taken advantage of. Readers have reported many benefits including, but not limited to reducing stress, increased positive attitude and an expanded vocabulary.

51% of young Americans feel hopeless or depressed. This is a staggering statistic. However, reading could help to mitigate this. Reading has been reported to increase positive attitudes and to reduce general stress. Reading reduces stress more than going for a walk or even playing video games. Another benefit is feeling more accomplished. 69% of people feel more accomplished after reading a book.

Research has shown that people

Continued on page 49

Joy in our HeARTS Festival at Holy Redeemer

Holy Redeemer Catholic School thoroughly enjoyed the return of the two-day Joy in our HeARTS Festival on May 4 and 5. Teachers and students from PreK3 through Eighth Grade embraced this year's theme, **Passport to Europe**, learning about European cultures by creating fine art, music, drama and cuisine.

The festival was planned by a committee of 16 parents and three faculty members. Kudos to art teacher, Cristina Morris, who along with colleagues Lisa Capobianco and Sharon Kennedy, shepherded faculty and students through the festival. Kathleen Seiler Neary, a veteran arts festival parent, rose to the challenge of coordinating the festival. Faculty led the sessions and parent volunteers came in to help. Principal Tommy Corrigan and Vice Principal Mark Crimans were among the faculty who led sessions.

Like everything at HR, the school-wide festival began on Wednesday morning with prayer. Gathering in the auditorium, students prayed an international rosary, with student leaders praying in different languages: French, Irish, Italian, and Spanish. The special intentions of Arts Festival founder and retired HR art teacher Mary DelBianco were remembered.

The middle school students enjoyed the privilege of signing up for workshops. There were 53 sessions for middle schoolers that featured improv comedy, ukuleles, cooking, and fine arts projects. The lower grades worked on four projects tied to a country (France, Spain, and Ireland). Projects included Monet water lilies, Matisse cut-outs, Picasso-inspired self-portraits, Cliffs of Moher murals, and Notre Dame rose window art.

Sounds of joy rang through the auditorium on Thursday afternoon, thanks to alumnus and parent, Sean Gaiser. This musical celebration included performances



Above, students show off some of their finished masterpieces.



At left, inspired by spring in Washington DC, a student uses tissue paper to recreate our city's iconic cherry blossoms.

Below, all members of the HR community were invited to rock out to live music at the end of the festival.



OPT



The HeARTS festival provided an opportunity for inspiration and fellowship, shown here as students have happy conversation while working with watercolors.

Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue
Kensington, MD

Rev. Mark Hughes, Pastor
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Holy Redeemer School
Mr. Thomas Corrigan, Principal
301-942-3701



Julieta Victoria Agüero

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Life isn't about how to survive the storm; it's about how to dance in the rain.
—Taylor Swift



Alicia Marta Alborno

Connelly School of the Holy Child
I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship.
—Louisa May Alcott



Kailey Jane Breitenbach

St. John's College High School
Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
—Dr. Seuss



Kyle Patrick Bretting

St. John's College High School
Don't give up; Don't ever give up!
—Jimmy Valvano



Delaney Brooke Bryer

Connelly School of the Holy Child
Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory.
—Dr. Seuss



Thomas Robert Ciconte

St. John's College High School
It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up.
—Vince Lombardi



Anna-Lucia Clark

Our Lady of Good Counsel
When something goes wrong in your life just yell "PLOT TWIST!" and move on.
—Unknown



Oscar Andres Echevarria

Georgetown Preparatory School
Failure is not the opposite of success. It is part of success.
—Arianna Huffington



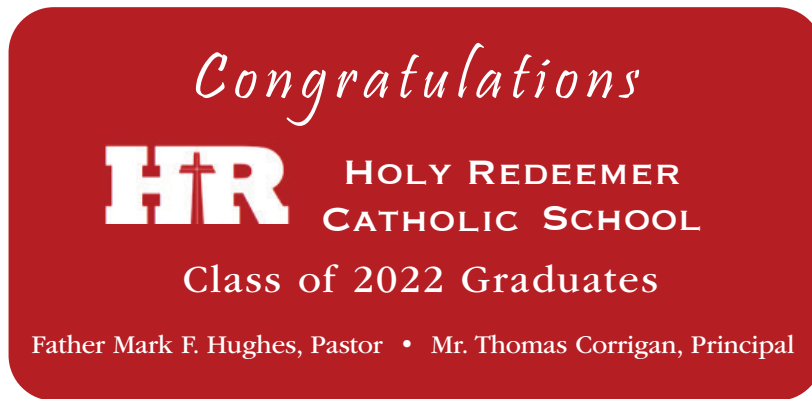
Ava Sofia Evans

Connelly School of the Holy Child
What we learn with pleasure we never forget.
—Alfred Mercier



Cara O'Sullivan Fisher

Georgetown Visitation
"One must always be careful of books," said Tessa, "and what is inside them, for words have the power to change us."
—Cassandra Clare



Sean Gregory Garayta

St. John's College High School
Power resides where men believe it resides. It's a trick, a shadow on the wall. And a very small man can cast a very large shadow.
—Lord Varys



Will Michael Harper

St. John's College High School
Live your life, live it right. Be different, do different things.
—Kendrick Lamar



Antonina Elizabeth Holloway

Academy of the Holy Cross
The road to success is always under construction.
—Lily Tomlin



Gavin Hunter Locke

Our Lady of Good Counsel
Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back.
—Babe Ruth



Ivana Duchanoy Lopes

St. John's College High School
The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.
—Albert Einstein



Clare Frances McCarthy

Georgetown Visitation
As we go on, we remember all the times we had together. And as our lives change, come whatever, we will still be friends forever.
—Vitamin C



Maeve Kisten McCarthy

Georgetown Visitation
Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.
—Helen Keller



Margaret Grace McHale

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
There are no regrets in life, just lessons.
—Jennifer Aniston



Claire Elizabeth Millard

Oakcrest
Above the clouds the sky is always blue.
—Saint Thérèse of Lisieux



Matthew Fitzgerald Morin Jr.

St. John's College High School
If you focus on what you left behind, you will never see what lies ahead!
—Chef Gusteau



Sofia Rose O'Brien

St. John's College High School
When life shuts the door, open it back up. That's how doors work.
—Diana Lopez



Hannah Sophie O'Neill

St. John's College High School
No one can push you harder than yourself.
—Unknown



Claire Elise Osborn

St. John's College High School
I'm feeling '22!
—Taylor Swift



Emma Taylor Pappazotos

Our Lady of Good Counsel
When we hit our lowest point we are open to the greatest change.
—Avatar: The Last Airbender



Jamie Robert Pappafotis

Walter Johnson
No matter how many fish in the sea it would be so empty without me.
—Eminem



Nicole Emma Pathak

St. Andrew's Episcopal School
Never regret anything that made you smile.
—Mark Twain



Mia Kathleen Perna

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
Perfect people aren't real and real people aren't perfect.
—David Kessler



Mara Isabella Phelps

St. John's College High School
Letting go is hard but being free is beautiful.
—Wilder Poetry



Francis Xavier Rienzo II

Gonzaga College High School
Even if you are not ready for the day, it cannot always be night.
—Kanye West



Alexander Chase Skinner

Bethesda Chevy Chase
We will cross that bridge when we come to it.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Joseph Shazam Strnad

Walt Whitman
Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.
—Albert Einstein



Kande Anaya Margaret St. Louis

Georgetown Visitation
[I] Want you to live like the world's on fire.
—Dylan Conrique



Margaret Rose Sullivan

Georgetown Visitation
In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take.
—Lewis Carroll



Rosina Terminiello

Connelly School of the Holy Child
Believe you can and you're halfway there.
—Theodore Roosevelt



Patrick Vale Francis Vouk

St. John's College High School
If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.
—Marty McFly



Lillie Reinemarie Willmann

Connelly School of the Holy Child
The expected is just the beginning. The unexpected is what changes our lives.
—Meredith Grey



The victorious eighth grade smiles alongside parents and faculty

St. Bart's Annual Eighth Grade vs. Parents and Teachers Basketball Game is an Entertaining Nail-Biter

Was it proof that God smiles on St. Bartholomew parish? Seven minutes into the eighth graders vs. parents and teachers basketball game, the score was tied seven to seven. 7-7-7, definitely a good sign!

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the annual competition roared back with gusto, with eighth-grader Elliott Johnson starting the scoring by knocking down a three-point shot. There

were lots of laughs as parents and teachers hung strong with the very athletic class.

Noting that the third quarter of academics was close to wrapping, Principal Frank English commented on how important the tradition is to the students as they prepare to leave St. Bart's.

"It's like the beginning of the end," said English. "The fun part starts and the work is almost done."

At halftime, the parents and teachers looked strong with a 20-17 lead. New pastor Father Mark Smith continued the school tradition of offering students a day off from school if somebody made a half-court shot on the first try. While eighth-grader Wes Connelly made a half-court shot, it was on his second try, so no day

Continued on page 43

A conversation with St. Bartholomew's new pastor

Multi-faceted. Spiritual. Easy-going, yet deep-thinking. Those are just some of the words that describe St. Bartholomew's new pastor, Father Mark Smith. Born and raised in Rockville, he is the youngest of 11 children, all graduates of St. Mary's.

"My parents were good, strong Catholics," he says. "Faith was a big part of our family."

After studying business and starting a small business centered around fitness, Father Mark was called to the priesthood at age 33.

"I had thought about it as a little kid, and I had thought about it in high school," he says. "At the time, I don't think the church was encouraging vocations the way we do now."

While his 20s were spent in business, they were also a time to observe human nature and connect the dots about man's relationship with God.

"I saw that a lot of people were seeking to be happy in life, and I came to see that what we believe has a huge impact on how our life turns out," Father Mark says thoughtfully. "I started to realize that what we think about God and what we believe about God makes all the difference in what we experience, and it has a huge impact on what our lives are about. That was the spark that drew me into the Church more fully."



Father Mark Smith, the new pastor at St. Bartholomew

As a pastor, he believes his role is to help parishioners make deeper spiritual connections.

"As a pastor, you're charged with the care of souls. Some people are more in touch with the relationship God desires to have with them than others. I enjoy helping to facilitate that relationship," he says. "God is seeking us out. I want people to believe that we need God. Life without God is imbalanced, destructive, and never works. When we let God be God and we view ourselves as His creation, there's harmony. There's flow. Things seem to work out."

At St. Bartholomew, he is impressed with how the community practices its faith, calling parishioners incredibly "genuine, generous, and authentic people." Father Mark is interested in enhancing adult faith formation, the process of learning about scripture, theology, and spiritual matters on a deeper level, as well as supporting the growth and good works going on in the school.

Before coming to St. Bart's, Father Mark spent time at Holy Redeemer in Kensington, and then as a pastor at St. Joseph's in Charles County and Holy Redeemer in College Park. He currently works

Continued on page 43

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St. Bartholomew Parish

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Pastor
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St. Bartholomew School
Frank English, Principal
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Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
202-512-8226

PASTOR

Con't from page 42

part time as a Spiritual Director at Saint John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC. In his free time, he hikes local trails, travels, and reads - especially short works by Father Jacques Philippe. His top priority, however, is at St. Bartholomew, where he reflects on the privilege and responsibility of leading the parish.

"I try to trust in God. He has a will and desire for this parish to flourish. The more we can stay close to God and discern His will, the better off we'll all be."

OPT

BASKETBALL

Con't from page 42

off was in the cards for this class. But it turns out a victory was.

With the eighth grade still losing in the final minutes, team manager Charlie Esquenet, sidelined with an arm injury, pulled a strategic move by putting in all his top players at once. In the end, eighth grade triumphed with a 41-40 win.

"I thought it was really fun," says Esquenet. "I'm glad the school lets us do this."

OPT

St. John Neumann

Living Lent as a Community

By Marisa Stoolmiller

Living Lent as a community provides a unifying experience; whether it be through praying, fasting, or works of service, Lent allows you to grow together on the same, Christ-centered path. St. John Neumann's parish had many opportunities-both in-person and online-to walk together in faith and grow as a community.

We prepared for Lent and started off on the right foot by holding our Parish Mission the weekend before Ash Wednesday. Rev. Jack Gleason led us through several reflections from Luke's Gospel, and we learned more about discipleship. It was a beautiful, community-building experience that allowed us to focus our minds and hearts on Jesus' life, embrace our mission, and step onto the path of Lent.

Throughout Lent, we had many opportunities to continue our shared path with scripture studies, parish talks on prayer and our patron saint, St. John Neumann, weekly Stations of the Cross, Fish Dinner, Exposition of Sacred Relics, Solemn Vespers & Candlelight Adoration, praying for the seminarians through our Vocations



Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022. Last row: Monsignor Robert Panke, Pastor of St. John Neumann parish, Fr. Nicholas Morrison, Deacon Peter Mlynarczyk, Thomas Morrison, Altar Server, Fr. Danny Morrison, Deacon Carlo Caraballo of SJN, Fr. Stefan Yap, Parochial Vicar of SJN, Deacon Ed Close of SJN genuflecting before the Holy Eucharist during Lent.

Tree, additional opportunities for confession, supporting Operation Rice Bowl, and our Loaves and Fishes food pantry. Sacred Relics of the Saints, a traveling exposition of relics led by Father Carlos

Martins, a Vatican-appointed expert on relics included an extraordinary Vatican collection of over 150 relics. Among the treasures were relics of St. Joseph, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little

Flower"), a portion of the Veil of Our Lady and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world.

Solemn Vespers with Candlelight Adoration was a particularly beautiful and moving experience; Seminarians from Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg joined us to chant Vespers, followed by Adoration completely illuminated by candles. There is something particularly special about coming together as a community for evening prayer.

The food drive for our pantry brought in over one ton of food. Currently, we are serving approximately 150 families each week, which requires about 2,000 pounds of food; this will keep our pantry going strong for the next several months and keep the parents, grandparents, and children that visit each week fed.

By the time Holy Week arrived, we were ready to walk the road to Calvary with Jesus. Holy Thursday and Good Friday services were particularly beautiful and well attended. The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services brought great joy. Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

OPT

ST. BARTHOLOMEW
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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



Cooper Abod
GONZAGA

I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.
-Michael Jordan



Weston Connelly
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL

"It's the one thing you can control. You are responsible for how people remember you—or don't. So don't take it lightly."
-Kobe Bryant



Charles Esquenet
GEORGETOWN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

"Most important of all, to be successful in life demands that a man make a personal commitment to excellence and to victory"
-Vince Lombardi



Caitlin Federowicz
HOLTON ARMS

"Don't stress over could've been, if it should've been, odds are it would've been."
-Mac Miller



Valentina Goodfellow
CONNELLY SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD

"What one is called to do, she is called to do with all her might."
-Cornelia Connelly



Lee Hartman
GEORGETOWN VISITATION

Success is not final; Failure is not fatal; It is the courage to continue that counts.
-Winston S. Churchill



Carson Hull
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

"It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up!"
-Vince Lombardi



Elliott Johnson
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL

People argue over whether the glass is half empty or half full. Why don't they just put more water in the glass?



Gibson McFarland
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new.
-Albert Einstein.



Mateo Millan Obregon
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Do or do not, there is no try.
-Master Yoda



Shiloh Oratokhai
WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

"Fortune favors the bold"
-Virgil



Ross Phillips
LONDON

"Do what they think you can't do."
-Duke Ferguson



Benjamin Place
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.
-Steve Prefontaine



Riley Randall
THE ACADEMY OF THE HOLY CROSS

The world is full of willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them.
-Robert Frost



Karl Schreiber
GEORGETOWN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up.
-Vince Lombardi



Sophia Smith
MARET SCHOOL

"Maybe the two different worlds we lived in weren't so different. After all, we saw the same sunset."
-S.E. Hinton



Andrea Sosa
SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP

"If you have an opportunity to make things better and you don't, then you're wasting your time on Earth."
-Roberto Clemente



Chace Thompson
WHITTLE SCHOOL

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."
-Maya Angelou



Olivia Vivas
WALTER JOHNSON HIGH SCHOOL

"If you want to succeed, focus on challenging yourself, not others."
-unknown



Thomas Waltzman
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

There is a difference between being right and being in the right.



Zachary Zupan
ST. PAUL VI CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

"Butterflies can't see their wings. They can't see how truly beautiful they are, but everyone else can. People are like that as well."
-Naya Rivera



Holy Cross pastor, Father Robert Buchmeier, and principal Lisa Kane present Susan Numrich with the 2022 Simon of Cyrene award at the annual spring Gala in early April.

Holy Cross Parishioner of the Year

Susan K. Numrich, PhD, was recognized as the Holy Cross Parishioner of the Year and presented with the 2022 Simon of Cyrene award for her leadership in our Lift High Holy Cross Capital Campaign. A Holy Cross parishioner since 1973, Dr. Numrich has consistently given generously of her time and many talents over the years, and richly deserves our recognition and gratitude.

For many years, Ms. Numrich volunteered as the Director of the Folk Group at Holy Cross where she was a guitar accompanist and vocalist. This year, she chaired the year-long capital campaign which

coincided with Holy Cross parish 60th Anniversary celebration. It was a tremendous success.

In addition to her dedication to Holy Cross, holds an AB, MA, and PhD in physics and worked as a research physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory in a variety of fields including underwater sound aboard ship in the Arctic, fluid-structure interactions, parallel processing, modeling and simulation and virtual reality. Upon leaving government service, Dr. Numrich joined IDA where her work includes studies in irregular warfare, the impact of cultural awareness on military operations, culturally "aware" modeling and simulation tools, data acquisition and sharing, and the potential uses of participatory media. Dr. Numrich was recently presented with the Goodpastor Award for Excellence in Research. Sue is truly an inspiration to all!

Everyone at Holy Cross extends their heartfelt thanks and congratulations!

Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue,
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301-942-1020

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

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

OPT

A Spring Band Concert at Holy Cross

On the afternoon of May 9th, the entire Holy Cross school community and many family members enjoyed a spring band concert in the sunshine under a bright blue sky on the lawn near Mary's Garden. Band Director, Jennifer Tifford, led the Fourth Grade beginner's band and the Fifth through Eighth

Grade advanced band in a range of songs that showcased students' musical talents and all of their hard work through the year. The youngest students clapped and danced to the beat of each song, and an enthusiastic, supportive audience applauded to show their support. Eighth-grade band members were recognized at the

conclusion of the concert as it marked their final performance at Holy Cross.

"Mrs. Tifford is an extraordinarily talented teacher, and her guidance allows our students' talents to shine. We are truly blessed," said Mrs. Kane.

OPT



Members of the 4th Grade smile for the camera after the spectacular debut of the Beginners' Band at the spring concert.



Two Eighth Graders perform at their last Holy Cross concert!



The advanced band's percussion section is all smiles before the afternoon performance at Holy Cross.

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

Catholic Charities recently held a spectacular gala at the Marriott Marquis. Our team put together a wonderful evening and raised a record amount of money – \$3.1 million dollars in unrestricted gifts for ongoing programs. About 1,000 people attended in person and virtually a wonderful evening of fellowship that provided important resources to help those in need.

While life may feel closer to "normal" for many of us, I remain mindful of how the pandemic has changed so much. I know some people are still not comfortable being out in large crowds. Others are told by their doctors to still be careful if they are older or have health issues. Still others feel safe

enough to get more involved and begin returning to life as they once knew it.

At this time of year in particular, I think about graduations and how there likely will be bigger crowds for those special occasions. I think about first holy communions and confirmations and the large numbers of people gathering in parishes to celebrate our sacramental faith. Weddings are getting back on track, with couples finally able to celebrate in a real ceremony with loved ones gathered around. We also are able to gather again to pray for those going home to God and support their families and friends during this time of separation.

If you are safely able to participate in these special moments of our faith, to attend sporting events, concerts and plays, or to eat at a restaurant, I have one huge request:

Please come back to church if you haven't already. Zoom meetings and online social gatherings are not the same as being there in person, and neither is Mass. I pray all of us who are able will celebrate not in our living rooms with a cup of coffee at our side but in our community enjoying the faith that we share with our fellow parishioners.

The Church has long taught that Jesus is present in the Eucharist in four ways: 1) in the Body and Blood under the appearance of bread and wine; 2) in the Word broken open for us in the Liturgy of the Word; 3) in the priest who presides and operates *in persona Christi*, "in the person of Christ;" and 4) in the congregation gathered. The community is so important that priests normally do not celebrate Mass without at least one other person present.

Attending Mass as part of the community is not just about what you receive. It is also what you give. Your presence strengthens the rest of us who are there with you. Together, we really are greater than the sum of our parts. We each have an important role to play.

Being together as a Church family is as important as being with our immediate and extended families. It is part of who we are. Think of it not as a huge sacrifice but rather a commitment to something good.

We strengthen ourselves physically with walks, bike rides, swimming and other workouts. We strengthen ourselves intellectually through our careers, studies, reading and more. We strengthen ourselves spiritually by receiving God's word, by receiving Jesus himself in the Eucharist, and by receiving the support of our sisters

and brothers in God's family. We also join our voices in praying for all the concerns in our world today.

I pray the same crowds who came for Easter and others who feel comfortable will recommit to attending Mass regularly on Saturday evenings or Sunday masses. You are always welcome at my 8 p.m. Mass at St. Bartholomew's (Bethesda, Md.) on Sunday night. With the summer months approaching, it can be easier to get more relaxed about church attendance, but it really is our obligation and responsibility. Deep down, it should also be our desire.

The Lord is truly present in the community gathered. Let us seek and celebrate the Lord's presence in your life and mine by coming together each and every week for the Eucharist.

OPT

ELECTRICITY

Con't from page 34

the test while expanding on learned concepts. They learned how simple circuits worked. Now they are going to see how motors operate in the next experiment. They took what they learned from the light switch and applied it to the next experiment. They created their own brushbots by using a toothbrush, lithium batteries, motors, wires, adhesive tape, and pipe cleaners.

There were a ton of trial and errors when creating the brushbots, but I reminded the students that it is part of science and do not feel discouraged if it does not work on the first try. This is where I wanted to teach them the concept of not giving up after a failed experiment and with all the trials and errors, they were able to learn from the mistakes and perfect their brushbots.

Before they created their brushbots, they needed to work together to create battle arenas for their brushbots. This was a perfect time for the fourth graders to show off their creativity and artsy side as they created four masterpieces of battle arenas. Our fourth graders displayed great teamwork and col-

laboration.

Once the kids showed their brushbots could operate successfully, they were able to have their battles. While some choose to battle, others decided they just wanted to see how far their brushbots could travel. So they explored the hallways of lower school. Their brushbots traveled far in the halls and they even got a chance to watch their bots travel down a ramp! The fourth graders knew they needed to preserve the battery in the brushbots so they could use them at home. The fourth graders were able to take their brushbots home and show them off to their parents.

They were thrilled to be working on the electric unit and cannot wait to start on the bird unit in the third trimester!

OPT

MONTH

Con't from page 28

Do you need durable medical equipment for greater mobility? Do you need assistive technologies? Do you desire a computer? Can you benefit from computer classes? Do you want a daily telephone call to check on your safety? Could you benefit from daily recorded messages that provide tips on staying healthy, preventing falling prey to scams? Would you like to take a virtual senior center tour? Would you like to have a conversation with your local Area Agency on Aging to optimize your use of supports available to help you better age



in your home or apartment? Do you have an emergency plan/bag packed if you had to leave your home in a hurry?

- Connection: Make a Connection List. Think of ways to make a connection with others. Do you like to write letters? Would you enjoy getting together with others over lunch and activities? Do you have an interest

for something you would like to share with others (reading, sewing, singing, walking, gardening)? Do you have a routine to connect with family and friends? Do you like sharing your stories on Facebook with family and friends?

Source: Maryland Department of Aging

MONTESSORI

Con't from page 34

and by extension the hand which prepares the child to pick up a pencil. Table washing is also a lengthy process, requiring a lot of attention and focus. This attention to a task, especially one with so many steps and pieces, prepares the child to take on more challenging and time consuming lessons in the classroom.

Practical Life also helps support the Mathematical Mind of the child. Each lesson is presented in a specific order, clearly mapping out which steps to follow in which order. This works both on the working memory of the child, as well as preparing the child for mathematical operations with multiple steps and processes. You only have to see one of our kids' smiles after she finishes table washing to know what effect it has on their confidence and independence.

As adults, our natural instinct is to help kids with everything- zipping up jackets, tying shoes, pouring a glass of water or cutting up a banana. In our class, they practice it all, developing skills that not only support coordination, concentration, order and independence, but helping them to recognize they are so capable.

OPT



Congratulations 2022 Graduates



Catherine Applegarth
Good Counsel



Allyson Butcher
Good Counsel



Jean-Luc Chretien
Good Counsel



Ryan Cooper
St. John's



Sophia Epshteyn
Holy Cross



Paolo Flaim
St. Anselm's



Yanet Gezahegn
Relocating



Luke Hillebrenner
Gonzaga



Madeleine Hilton
Holy Cross



Jemiella Jalloh
Undecided



Anon Joseph
Bishop O'Connell



Alexander Luce
St. John's



Pietra Maschioro
Good Counsel



Charles Mathews
St. John's



Mariana Morales
Undecided



Malachy Muoka
Bishop O'Connell



Giselle Paraon
Holy Cross



Isabelle Paul
Good Counsel



Samuel Rhodes
St. John's



Henry Schaefer
Good Counsel



Nicolas Silva Santy
Good Counsel



Isabel Wong-Simpson
Relocating to Greece



Afomia Yohannes
Holy Cross

Freed

It pays to
advertise in
Our Parish
Times



The sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students attended the Archdiocese of Washington Vocations Mass and then toured around the National Mall afterwards.



Many happy faces at the 2022 Kate Truax Lions' Roar

Return of the Roar

On April 30, the sounds of joy filled the streets of East Bethesda. Music, cheers, laughter, and high fives abounded as Our Lady of Lourdes brought back the 14th Annual Kate Truax Lions' Roar. The 5K/1K was started in 2008, and it has been held every year except for 2020 and 2021.

In 2013, the race was renamed in honor of Kate Truax, a beloved

middle-school teacher and bright light who lost her courageous battle with leukemia in December 2012. Ms. Truax's wonderful influence is still felt in the school, and she has inspired many of the school's current faculty members. Before the race, beautiful photos of Ms. Truax were shared and the crowd took time to remember her and thank God for the gift of her life and presence at Our Lady of Lourdes.

At 9:00, the 5K runners took off through a hilly downtown Bethesda course. Students, parents, alumni, and friends of all ages ran together. Xavier Long, OLOL class of 2017, was the overall winner. He was fol-

lowed by OLOL seventh-graders Luca and Marco Nicolacci. The final stretch of the race is uphill, and this year it was packed with supporters until the very last racers finished. After the 5K, the younger students ran a 1K fun run and promptly showed off their shiny gold medals. The post-race celebration included music and dancing, more delicious food than anyone could eat, raffle prizes, and great company. A community of love and support was on full display. There is truly no place like Our Lady of Lourdes!

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Fr. Walsh, Pastor
301-654-1287

Mr. David Long
Assistant Principal
301-654-5376

It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times



Our Lady of Lourdes students set up their cereal boxes for a domino challenge around the school grounds. The students donated many boxes of cereal for the Catholic Charities Lenten Food Drive this year.



OLOL middle-schoolers Nelly Boesen, Maria Foley, Judah Malkus, and Camille McCloud pose with their award-winning science fair projects.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Congratulations Class of 2022 Graduates

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



Alejandro Alarcon-Lopez

The Heights School
"Happiness is not by chance but by choice."
 - Jim Rohn



Matthew Apgood

Georgetown Preparatory School
"It is good to have a journey toward the end, but it is the journey that matters, in the end."
 - Ernest Hemingway



Richard Apgood

Georgetown Preparatory School
"Keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, your curiosity will lead you down the path of success."
 - Walt Disney



Martin Balleste

St. John's College High School
"I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."
 - Michael Jordan



Nathan Chan-Degroot

St. John's College High School
"The only person you are destined to become, is the person you decide to be."
 - Ralph Waldo Emerson



Pablo Chinchilla

The Heights School
Believe you can do something and you are halfway there ...



Andre Clevy

Georgetown Preparatory School
"If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride - and never quit, you'll be a winner. The price of victory is high but so are the rewards."
 - Bear Bryant



Ava Cristillo

Our Lady of Good Counsel
"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory."
 - Dr. Seuss



Christopher Fernandes

The Avalon School
The only time you run out of chances is when you stop trying.



Lucia Foley

The Academy of the Holy Cross
"If you're scared of doing something, do it scared"



Liana Gesesse

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."
 - Dr. Seuss



Ella Hamilton

Northwood High School
"Success doesn't rush. The greatest reward is the journey."
 - Oscar Wilde



Michaela Harmon

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
"Imagine who you could be, and aim single mindedly at that person."
 - Jordan B Peterson



Jayson Lee

DeMatha Catholic High School
Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the People who prepare for it today!



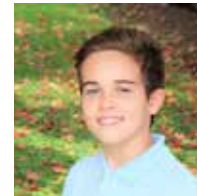
Milo Long

Georgetown Preparatory School
"It is a rough road that leads to the heights of greatness."
 - Seneca



Judah Malkus

Walt Whitman High School
When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.



Juan Pablo Manzanera

Georgetown Preparatory School
"This is the beginning of a long journey."
 - Juan Pablo Manzanera



Beltrán Mata Esteban

Georgetown Preparatory School
"He who reads a lot and walks a lot, sees a lot and knows a lot."
 - Don Quixote



Camille McCloud

The Lab School
"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."
 - Mahatma Gandhi



Emily Myers

The Academy of the Holy Cross
"My family's the most important thing in my life."
 - Joe Namath



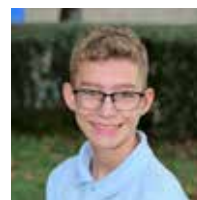
Dakota Nemitz

The Heights School
"Act as if what you do makes a difference. IT DOES"
 - William James



Sydney Nemitz

Connelly School of the Holy Child
"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."
 - Albert Einstein



Kenneth O'Quinn

Our Lady of Good Counsel
If you're afraid to fail, then you're probably going to fail.



Greta Rank Vidaurri

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
"I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship."
 - Louisa May Alcott



Jibreel Reynolds

DeMatha Catholic High School
"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived; it is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."
 - Nelson Mandela



Ethan Shaw

Georgetown Preparatory School
"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."
 - Malcolm X



Adriana Timms

Walt Whitman High School
"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito in the room."
 - Dalai Lama



Aamir Uthman

Gonzaga College High School
All throughout your life, you will always make mistakes but try not to dwell on them. The only thing that matters is how you improve on them and move forward.



Angela Walsh

Oakcrest School
"In a big family the first child is kind of like the first pancake. If it's not perfect that's okay, there are a lot more coming along."
 - Antonin Scalia





Such great courage, determination, and talent was displayed during the SRS production of Frozen Jr. - Congratulations to the Cast, Production Staff, Technical Crew, and to all the proud parents and fans!



CBN-MC Scholarship Breakfast

Congratulations to our St. Raphael students for receiving this scholarship award! Pictured: Tim May, Emma Nagel, Sophia Ott, Fr. Salah. Not pictured: Santi Bernstein, and honorable mention Damien Quesnel and Carmen Aguila

St. Raphael celebrates Easter, Community Helpers Day and So Much More

By Gabriela Herrera Gugu

The St. Raphael community celebrated Holy Week and Easter crossing all grades. Our first graders watched baby chicks hatching, and our second graders drew the Stations of the Cross, while the third graders held their traditional Art Tea event where they shared and read a poem aloud. Many classes enjoyed Easter egg hunts and class parties.

This year The SRS Performing Arts Department presented the musical, Frozen Jr. The school musical gave two performances to sold-out crowds and standing ovations. The show was outstanding with colorful set design and music

that was on point. Nursery school children also participated by dressing up and singing along.

In celebration of Community Helpers Week, the St. Raphael Nursery School hosted Truck Day. The event was a huge hit for students of all ages and grades. The horse and school bus were the most popular, and of course the ice cream truck serving up treats!

In addition to Truck Day, and as part of Community Helpers Day, students dressed up and talked about their community helper role. We also received a special visit from Officer O'Brien, father to students in both the nursery school and the big school.

As we near the end of the school year, our 8th graders begin to prepare for their Confirmation, graduation dinner and ceremony. Sweatshirt day highlighted 8th graders chosen high schools which showed their excitement and pride. Three of our students received scholarships from the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County essay scholarship contest with another two receiving honorable mention.

This time of the year is always bittersweet at SRS as we say goodbye to our 8th grade class. We wish all our students the energy and resilience needed to finish the year strong and enjoy their well-earned summer break.

OPT

Community Helpers

Wow! What a fantastic visit from one of our favorite Montgomery County Police Officers— John O'Brien— in honor of Community Helpers week at St. Raphael!



HONK, HONK!

The parking lot at St. Raphael got a little loud with the students having fun testing the horns on Truck Day! Truck Day is an annual tradition that all students look forward to every spring.

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

Lexi McClure,
OPT Editor

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www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:
@SRSRockville

CONTEST

Con't from page 40

MAYALUGA (excerpt)

By Hannah O'Neill

I dragged myself, coughing and gasping for air, onto a small, sandy island. Where was I? I looked around. The sky was blue, the sun was shining, and water swept over my toes with every passing wave. Birds were chirping and a slight breeze filled the air. I tried to stand but winced in pain when I noticed a gash on my upper right leg. I must have cut it while drifting in the water. Then I remembered everything. The thoughts of my leg were replaced with questions like What day is it? Where's my boat? How am I alive?

A few memories slowly returned.

The first was how I had ended up in the water. I was on my sailboat searching for an uncharted island when a surprise storm broke out around me and whipped my boat from side to side. Eventually it flipped, leaving me stranded in the water. I'd hit my head and given up any hope of surviving, letting the water take me down.

I thought about why I had been on that boat in the first place. For as long as I could remember, my uncle and I had explored the world from the decks of the Mayaluga. My uncle had bought it before I was born somewhere in South Africa. That's where he named it. Mayaluga is Swazi for "one who crosses the horizon." My parents had disappeared when I was three and my uncle raised me. We had been searching for my parents ever since.

OPT

READ

Con't from page 40

who read not only feel more accomplished, but also have an increased vocabulary. With an increased vocabulary you will not only write with more diversity in your words, but also speak more eloquently overall. This means that when you read you can help yourself to do well in other aspects of school and life in general.

It is important to learn more about people of different races, ethnicities, and beliefs. When reading, especially fantasy books, readers encounter different types of people, both real

and fictional. So then when encountering someone different in the real world, readers are statistically more likely to be kind and respectful. So by reading, you are making yourself more open to different cultures and learning to accept people of all different backgrounds.

Overall reading has so many benefits that are too good to pass up on. With its many benefits including an improved mood, and expanded vocabulary and a wider worldview, I implore you to read more books. They can enrich your life in many ways. There is always a book out there just for you, all you have to do is to go read it.

OPT

Holy Redeemer



Above, Holy Redeemer students pose outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception after participating in an archdiocesan wide event to learn more about religious vocations.



At left, some of Holy Redeemer's youngest artists learn to use tissue paper to make beautiful masterpieces.

Congratulations Class of 2022!



Carmen Aguila
Holy Cross
Reagan Alexander
Holy Cross
Santiago Bernstein
St. John's College HS
Robert Brand
Good Counsel
Nafisa Chaudhry
International
John Coene
Georgetown Prep
Victoria Colaanni
Holy Cross
Grant Dudley
Good Counsel
Samuel Gregory
St. John's College HS
Blake Marshall
Winston Churchill
Sienna Marshman
Holy Cross
Emma Nagel
Holy Child

Sophia Ott
Holy Cross
Andrew Partridge
Georgetown Prep
Rene Pineda
Georgetown Prep
Harrison Potakey
Good Counsel
Damien Quesnel
Heights
Amanda Ramos
Oakcrest
Allison Risch
Holy Cross
Michael Rose
Georgetown Prep
Robert Sicora
Heights
Annalea Vigilante
Stone Ridge
Matilda Wildermuth
Georgetown Visitation
Caitlyn Williams
Holy Cross



ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL
1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854

www.straphaelschoolmd.org



A 2019 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

St. Jude Regional Catholic School Happenings



International Day 2022

By Katharine Balog

Something that has always made St. Jude Regional Catholic School special is the fact that we educate students from all over the world. As a celebration of our cultures and diversity, each year we host International Day. Each class studies a country throughout the school year, and students do history lessons, art projects, read stories, and learn music and dances from their class country. Aside from the classroom studies, parents from the St. Jude community prepare booths from their native countries.

On International Day, we set up booths in the parish's Thaddeus room from the various countries, giving the parents and students the chance to travel the world. This year, we had representation from the following countries: Guatemala, Ukraine, Scotland, USA, Mexico, India, Italy, Ireland, Philippines, South Korea, China, Ethiopia, Peru, Egypt, Portugal, El Salvador, Trinidad, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Bolivia, Uruguay, Colombia, Paraguay, and Bulgaria. The event started with singing and dance performances from each class, led by our amazing music teacher, Mrs. White. After the beautiful performances, students and parents then visit the various booths, which display information about each country, artwork, and artifacts. As always, the parents made delicious food that represented the cuisine from the different nations.

The St. Jude community had a wonderful time sharing their cultures and stories of their native countries. After the past two years, it was great to finally have a big community event. Our school and parish community are so lucky to be part of such diversity. We look forward to doing this again next year! Photos by Abby Sullivan

OPT



Above left, families representing the Dominican Republic



Above, Pre-K table representing Ukraine

At right, International Day 2022 celebration at St. Jude Regional Catholic School.



Above right, St. Jude Upper school girls representing Ethiopia



Above, Rev. Paul D. Lee, STD, Pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude, representing South Korea along with a young participant.

Faith Formation at the Shrine of St. Jude



The Shrine of St. Jude welcomed Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, who confirmed 90 young people at the Shrine of St. Jude on April 2. Photo by Tom Roach



Twenty-six people joined the community of St. Jude at the Easter vigil on April 16: six people were baptized/confirmed/and received First Eucharist; eleven adults were confirmed and received First Eucharist; seven were confirmed; and two received First Communion. Welcome, all! Photo by Will Campbell



Sixty students between the ages of 7 and 16, some from the Shrine of St. Jude Faith Formation Program and some from St. Jude Regional Catholic School, received their First Communion at two different Masses on Saturday, April 30. Welcome to the Lord's Table! Photo by Tom Roach



Moana Jr. Performed at SJRCS

On March 25 and 26, the St. Jude Regional Catholic School Drama Club performed Disney's *Moana Jr.*, selling out both nights to very enthusiastic crowds. Kelly Branaman, Archdiocese of Washington Superintendent for Catholic Schools, was a special guest in attendance on Saturday night. Drama club students in grades six-eight worked very hard as cast and crew members to put on a fantastic show (due to Covid-19, St. Jude students were not able to perform a musical in 2020 or 2021).

It was wonderful to see the

entire school community come together for these incredible performances – "Broadway quality," according to many parents and grandparents. The students had so much fun and learned a lot throughout the rehearsal and production process. They can't wait for next year's performance! Special shout out to Director Karen Murphy, Asst. Director Becky Sella, and Music Director Amy White.

OPT



St. Jude Regional Catholic School students on stage in their production of "Moana Jr." Photos by Abby Sullivan

St. Stephen's Food Pantry at the Shrine of St. Jude

Donations and Volunteers Needed

By Mike Goss, Pantry Director

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

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

In addition, monetary donations can be given through "Faith Direct" or you can click on the Donate button on the Shrine of St. Jude webpage at www.shrinestjude.org (search for St. Stephen's Pantry) where you can make a one-time gift. We will also accept cash and check donations as well as gift cards to grocery stores. Follow us at www.facebook.com/StStephenfoodpantry.

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

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

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

St. Jude Regional Catholic School

Jeanne Donatelli, Principal
301-946-7888

Maureen Martin, OPT Editor
MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

Congratulations to the Class of 2022



STJUDE
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Mrs. Jeanne Donatelli, Principal

Father Paul Lee, Pastor

We are . . . St. Jude!



Halle Adorian
Undecided



Yvemaël Alexis
Rockville High School



Nicoletta Argyros
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Constantine Asso
Georgetown Preparatory High School



Erin Atkins
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Vanessa Condori
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Caroline Cooke
Rockville High School



Lucy Creel
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Vincent Dinh
The Heights School



Lina Garcia
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Samuel Goertner
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School



Lucas Liotta
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School



Kaylee Liriano
Richard Montgomery High School



Lillian Lora
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Meghan Maurano
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School



Haset Melaku
St. John's College High School



Eliot Mendes
Wheaton High School



Nathan Negash
St. John's College High School



Christopher Pierre
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School



Safira Pierre
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School



Annie Pierson
St. John's College High School



Diego Ramirez
St. John's College High School



Rachael Ramos
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Samuel Seleshi
Our Lady of Good Counsel High School



Olivia Solano
Rockville High School



Enzo Sosa
The Heights School

www.StJudeRockville.org • MainOffice@StJudeRockville.org

Candle Mass Ceremony: Passing on the Light

The traditional Candle Mass, which honors the graduating class each year, was held on Wednesday, May 4. It honors the eighth-grade students and gives them an opportunity to pass on their leadership to the current next generation. The middle-school teachers also bestow words of wisdom and encouragement to the soon to be graduates as they prepare to move on to high school.

Mrs. Penny celebrated this impressive group by saying, "We love them, we will miss them, and we will always be here for them because — we are St. Elizabeth School."

The advice and memories ranged from serious to silly and included quotes, like "Stay gold Class of 2022, stay gold." Once teacher chose to quote Scripture, citing Luke 12:48 and reminding students that, for "Everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, more will be



At right, Eighth-grade students pass their candles on to seventh-grade students.

Above, the Class of 2022 lines up around the altar to listen to words of advice and memories from their teachers.



asked." One teacher summarized her experience of the Class of 2022 by saying, "Your humor, shenanigans, and kindness have made a

wonderful difference in our lives." Students were left with a provocation, a reminder that by leaving St. Elizabeth's, their stories are only

just beginning. Celebrating this moment, the were asked, "What is it that you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" We can't

wait to see what becomes of the St. E's Class of 2022!

OPT



A mother and daughter pose in their fancy hats as they enjoy some cookies and sweets together.

Mother's Day Tea

Mother's Day wouldn't be complete without our annual Mother's Day tea! St. Elizabeth principal, Mrs. Penny, and our HSA welcomed all mothers of kindergarten and first-grade students to a tickled pink tea. The program included sweet treats, photo-opportunities for students with their mothers, the presentation of wonderful flower artwork, and a musical performance. St. E's students are grateful for the chance to celebrate and honor their mothers as part of this special event.

OPT



Principal Mrs. Penny wears pink to celebrate the annual Mother's Day Tea theme.

Petting Zoo

At right, St. E's students got hands on experience with a visit from the petting zoo. Students were able to pet and interact with all sorts of different animals.

Below, students reach together to pet a visiting pot-bellied pig.



Easter Vigil

Eleven members of the St. Elizabeth's community were welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil, which began outside with the lighting of the Paschal candle.



St. Elizabeth Parish
917 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD
Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent
Pastor
301-881-1380

St. Elizabeth School Principal
Mary Penny
301-881-1824
Heather Kerr
OPT Editor
301-881-1380



Madeleine Albina

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart



Lyla Anschutz

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart



Anahita Azmoudeh

Walter Johnson High School



Caroline Bannen

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart



Christopher Beavers

St. John's College High School



Christian Belzares

South Lakes High School



Tanner Cornet

Thomas S. Wooten High School



Caitlyn Couch

St. John's College High School



Rafael Cracel

Gaithersburg High School



Bailie Decastro

Richard Montgomery High School



Daniella Dinges

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart



Joseph Doherty

Georgetown Preparatory School



Mateo Egan

Gonzaga College High School



Cecilia Enos

St. John's College High School



Addison Esler

American Heritage School



Christian Esler

American Heritage School



Avery Fisher

Academy of the Holy Cross



St. Elizabeth Catholic School

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022

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Monsignor J. Wilfrid Parent *Pastor*



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Colin Frownfelter

Gonzaga College High School



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Academy of the Holy Cross



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Michelle Kersey

Elizabeth Seton Catholic High School



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Raquel Mena Osorio

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William Murphy

Walter Johnson High School



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Our Lady of Good Counsel High School



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Gonzaga College High School



Emma Vargas

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart



Nikhil Whig

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School



Cody White

St. John's College High School

May Crowning

Mary of Nazareth welcomed Cardinal Gregory to our school to preside over our May Crowning Mass. Grades Two through Eight were in attendance for Mass. His Eminence took the time to visit kindergarten and first grade back in the main building.

OPT

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

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

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



Above left, Mary is crowned
by the Eighth grade

Above right, students brought
in flowers to honor Mary



At left, Cardinal Gregory gives
a thumbs up to students after
Mass

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Good Counsel



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Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Daphney Budd
St. John's
College HS



Isabella Caban
Thomas
Wootton HS



Christian Campuzano
St. John's
College HS



Emma Chettupuzha
Poolesville HS



Blake Danley
Bishop
England HS



Bradley Dogbeh-Agbo
Urbana HS



Briana Dogbeh-Agbo
Urbana HS



Kathryn Dundee
Academy of
the Holy Cross



Luke Elshway
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Jack Essig
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Saina Fernando
Academy of
the Holy Cross



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Valley HS



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Holy Cross



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Orchard HS



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Visitation



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Poolesville HS



Katelyn Patti
Academy of the
Holy Cross



Quinlan Pauline
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Ava Plummer
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Mya Plummer
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Cole Reposa
Georgetown
Preparatory School



Caroline Riddle
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Jake Rimorin
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Sara Robledo
St. John's
College HS



Ethan Rodriguez
Georgetown
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Reed Rutland
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Good Counsel



Lorenzo Salazar
Poolesville HS
Global Ecology



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Catholic Prep



Dino Scoletti
DeMatha
Catholic HS



Lucia Sissi
Clarksburg HS



Kristie Soewandi
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Max Tran
Clarksburg HS



Khai Truong
St. John's
Catholic Prep



Celia Watkins
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Dylan Webster
Richard
Montgomery HS



Olivia Wight
Poolesville HS



Congratulations
CLASS OF 2022



Delicious soup is served at The Lord's Table by OLVP Volunteers

OLVP's Social Concerns Increases Support to Broader Community

By Liesel Flaig

The pandemic resulted in many changes to the active Social Concerns Committee at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish. While community needs grew, safety of all resulted in revising food and clothing donation formats as well as conditions for safe distribution. The Committee has been up to the challenge. During Covid, they committed to an increased monthly collection and drop off of most needed items to the Food Pantry at St. Martin's Catholic Church in Gaithersburg. OLVP volunteers

provide open trunks to safely collect the donated nonperishable items then directly drop off the items at the pantry.

The Social Concerns Committee continued to be in contact with The Lord's Table Soup Kitchen which was closed temporarily at the height of the pandemic. Providentially the Soup Kitchen re-opened in mid-October 2021 relocated to the **Epworth United Methodist Church**. Volunteers cook and serve a nutritious hot meal for the homeless, hungry, and needy people in the Rockville and Upper

Continued on page 59



OLVP's Newly Installed Sodality. Diane DaCosta, Jean Noah, Rosie Waugh, Teresita Estoque-Myint, Kathy Palcher, Joyce Kral. (Front row) Meredith Williams, Pat Dolan. Not Shown: Erin Clegg and Teresa Sanwo

Sodality Installs Ten New Members

By Diana Hurley

Our Lady of the Visitation Women's Sodality installed ten women into their parish chapter on March 25. Each year on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, Sodality members who are ready to dedicate their lives to Jesus through Mary are formally installed during mass. New

Sodality members receive a copy of "The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary" to help them deepen their personal prayer practice. Following the mass, a welcome reception was held at the Rectory. The Sodality follows women throughout their faith and life journey. The group provides spiritual support with prayer partners, weekly rosary recitation as well as attending group retreats. Sodality members live charitably by supporting parish activities such as the annual Christmas tree fundraiser, and monthly food delivery to Catholic Charities' Dorothy Day Homeless Shelter. Friendships and fellowship are built with monthly lunch bunches and wine and cheese socials. The Our Lady of the Visitation Women's Sodality was started in March, 2004. Installation is not required for participation in any of the Sodality events. **OPT**

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Eighth Graders Are Ready to Be Sent on Mission

By Christa Dommers

The eighth-grade Faith Formation students have spent two years increasing their knowledge of their Catholic faith with the Chosen program by Ascension Press in preparation for Confirmation. Students learned about God's saving plan for all and His desire for a personal relationship with each person. Then the students took a deep dive through the Sacraments. Students shared pictures or other items from their Baptism. For Reconciliation, the eighth-grade students wrote letters of encouragement to the second-grade students as they were preparing to make their first Reconciliation and Fr. Greg Shaffer heard confessions from all the middle school students. For the Sacrament of Matrimony, students shared pictures from parents or grandparents or other stories from those

that they interviewed. While studying Holy Orders, in addition to a visit from Fr. Greg who shared his journey to the priesthood with students, students also wrote letters to seminarians at St. John Paul II Seminary. Students spent time studying the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Fruits of the Holy Spirit and the cardinal and theological virtues. Additionally, they have also learned various types of prayer and practiced Lectio Divina, the Rosary and the intercessory prayers through the Communion of Saints. Finally, those in Faith Formation prepared for a full day retreat led by eighth-grade Catechists, Fr. Greg, Deacon Ted Dmuchowski, and Julia Jordan, the Youth Group Leader at OLVP.

The eighth-grade Faith Formation, together with Confirmants from Mary of Nazareth School and two Confirmants from St. Elizabeth's

spent April 2 on retreat at the beautiful campus of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish as a final preparation for their Confirmation. The day started with Mass, then progressed with ice breakers, small group discussions and learning more about the Corporal Works of Mercy. Deacon Ted helped the Confirmants learn more about the extent of Jesus's love for them, even dying for their sins. Students "nailed their sins" to the cross in a symbolic hands-on activity. After time for some lunch, relaxation, and sports, Fr. Greg showed a video and spoke to the Confirmants about discipleship. Fr. Greg made time for adoration in the Church and all prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Students presented facts about a saint of their choice. Julia led a session on committing to Jesus. The Confirmants ended the day with a Commitment Prayer where they received a special cross. **OPT**



Eighth graders at their final retreat before Confirmation



Lenten Challenge for Operation Rice Bowl

By Diana Hurley

During Lent this year, the Faith Formation classes were given a challenge. If the classes could collect \$500 for the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) through their Rice Bowls Program, the highest donor would be able to serve Father Greg a pie in the face. Through the CRS Rice Bowl program, students learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, each one of them have the power to make the world a better place.

Students in all grade levels took on the challenge with enthusi-



Winner Kindergartener Mackenzie Houle "serves" Father Greg Shaffer pie.

asm. Erin Clegg, Faith Formation Coordinator, stated "I am thrilled to

announce that our Faith Formation program raised over \$1000 to benefit the Catholic Relief Services through their Rice Bowls". During Faith Formation classes on May 26, students gathered to watch the fun result of the Challenge. To whoops of laughter, Father Greg took a pie to the face by Kindergartener, Mackenzie Houle. She won the honor as the highest individual donor. The first-grade class also earned a movie and snack during an upcoming session, winning as the class with the highest total donation.

Thanks went out to all who participated and made the endeavor such a success. **OPT**

Knights of Columbus Sponsor St. Joseph Altar



St. Joseph Altar Committee

By Mary Kinler

The Horace B. McKenna SJ Knights of Columbus Council at Mother Seton Parish sponsored the second annual parish St. Joseph Altar in conjunction with the Parish Lenten Food Drive on March 19-20, 2022. The opening started with a traditional “Tupa Tupa” (Knock Knock) in which children dressed as members of the Holy Family, angels, & Saints re-enacted the flight into Egypt, seeking food on their journey. Our pastor, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, blessed the altar, and the Holy Family & Saints were then fed. Thank you to the many volunteers who in addition to the Knights made this possible, including the St. Joseph Altar Committee, members of the Sodality of Our Lady, Social Concerns volunteers, Confirmation candidates, RCIA

candidates, the Flower Ladies, and many others.

The St. Joseph Altar comes from a Sicilian tradition started several hundred years ago in which there was a drought leading to a famine, and the people prayed to St. Joseph for help. Once it rained, and the drought & famine ended, people celebrated

by erecting altars or tables full of food in thanksgiving to St. Joseph. This tradition continues in many parts of the world and especially in New Orleans. The tradition is that everyone who comes to the altar should be fed and not leave hungry. Thank you, St. Joseph!

OPT



Volunteers handing out St Joseph's medals and other gifts to attendees

Divine Mercy Sunday – April 24, 2022

By Dorrette Paulin

In her Diary, St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her that it was His desire that we celebrate the Feast of Mercy: “It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy” (*Diary of St. Faustina*, 699). So, in keeping with His desire, Mother Seton parishioners assembled in the church to celebrate the Feast Day with adoration, confession, the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet by our parish youth choir, and Solemn Benediction. Parishioners then lined up to be blessed with the Relic of St. Faustina.

Continued on page 59



Divine Mercy Prayer Group



Handing out copies of St. Faustina's Diary and Fr. Chris Alar's book *Understanding Divine Mercy*.



Volunteers, and organizers, Marianne Upton, and Frannie Shroyer

Mother Seton's Lenten Food Drive

By Frannie Shroyer

This year, Mother Seton's Annual Catholic Charities Food Drive teamed up with the Knights of Columbus' Saint Joseph's Table for a very successful collection to replenish nearly the bare shelves of Germantown Helps!!! Our parishioners once

again came through and not only donated an incredible amount of non-perishable food items including, cereal, canned vegetables, tuna, Mac and cheese, and peanut butter, but also \$1200 in Giant Food gift cards for needed perishable items. We are blessed to have such a generous parish!!!

OPT



MSP RCIA class, along with RCIA teacher Deacon Raúl Calvo

RCIA at Mother Seton Parish

By Deacon Raúl Calvo

Sunday, March 6, 2022 marked a special day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., when this year's Mother Seton Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) class, along with RCIA teacher, Deacon Raúl and sponsors, Randy, Bob and Greg attended the Rite of Election

and Call to Continuing Conversion. They were joined by 830 others in the Archdiocese of Washington to publicly profess their desire to become Catholic and to be blessed by Archbishop Wilton Gregory. Mother Seton had 11 candidates and 4 catechumens in this year's RCIA, who received their sacraments at the Easter Vigil on March 16, 2022.

OPT



May Crowning and Procession

This year's May Crowning and Procession in honor of Our Blessed Mother took place on Sunday, May 8 after the 10:45 am Mass. After Mass, the congregation proceeded to the statue in the courtyard for the crowning. 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 Crowning.

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Mother's Day

Mother's Day is special at Christ the King Parish. Numerous white candles flickered in the front of the church. Each candle was lit by family members in honor of their mothers and grandmothers.

At the end of every Mass, Fr. Steve asked the mothers to come to the front of the church. Each mom was given a rose. Then

Fr. Steve said a prayer for all mothers. A special blessing for all the mothers followed. Also, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was moved to the center of the church this week. She is arrayed in splendor surrounded by flowers. Mary, the mother of our Church is adorned with a beautiful crown for the month of May.

OPT



The Easter Bunny and helpers

Easter Celebration at Christ the King

Easter Sunday was a joyous celebration at Christ the King Parish. Large crowds came to the Masses to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Father Steve reminded us we need to celebrate this wonderful day in our faith. Sometimes with all of the terrible news from the world, we need to step back and celebrate. Easter is the greatest feast we celebrate in the Catholic Church. Alleluia! Alleluia! He is risen!

On Holy Saturday, a number of people became new members of Christ the King. On Easter Sunday, a newborn baby was



Easter at Christ the King

baptized into our community. What a wonderful reminder of how we 'celebrate' - adding new parishioners to Christ the King Church. Father Steve reminded all the children that the Easter bunny came to visit for the annual Easter Egg hunt.

OPT

At right, candles lit by families in honor of mothers

Below, Blessed Virgin Mary honored this month



Christ the King

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

Fr. Stephen J. Carter,
Pastor

Paul Lamoreaux,
OPT Editor

Holy Child Appoints New Head of Upper School and Dean of Academics

Connelly School of the Holy Child Appoints Julie Burke Connelly as New Head Of Upper School And Dr. Andrea Castelluccio As Dean Of Academics

Connelly School of the Holy Child announced the appointment of Julie Burke Connelly as the new Head of Upper School and Dr. Andrea Castelluccio as the Dean of Academics on May 12.

Mrs. Connelly joined Holy Child in 2014 as the Dean of Students. A native Washingtonian, Mrs. Connelly attended Archdiocese of Washington Schools until she matriculated to Washington

College where she received her undergrad degree. She obtained her master's degree in Educational Leadership and Administration at George Washington University. She began her career in education at the Washington Jesuit Academy and joined Holy Child eight years ago as the Dean of Students.

This past year she joined the Development team as the Associate Director of Development where she was able to gain valuable experience on the business side of the school. As the new Head

of Upper School, she will over-



Julie Burke Connelly

see the day-to-day operations of academic, athletic, advisory and art programs.

Mrs. Connelly was re-introduced to the student body in her new role and commented,



Dr. Andrea Castelluccio

"Throughout my time here I have been blessed to work with so many amazing faculty and staff members who share my passion for furthering Cornelia Connelly's mission for her schools. It is my

absolute joy to be a part of this amazing community and am honored to take on this new role and to continue to serve the members of this community with great faith."

Head of School, Dr. Shannon Gomez, remarked "I am grateful to Julie for her eight years of service to the school, her vision for our future, and her compassionate and dedicated leadership. We are confident that she is very well suited to lead our Upper School."

Dr. Andrea Castelluccio was announced as the new Dean of Academics. In this role Dr. Castelluccio will lead the overall vision for academics, curriculum, and instruction at Holy Child.

Dr. Castelluccio has been with Holy Child for three years serving as a World Languages Instructor. She has served since 2014 as Vice Principal of Escuela Argentina, which holds Spanish immersion classes on the Holy Child campus every Saturday morning.

"I am grateful to have this

opportunity to serve the Holy Child community in this new capacity. I look forward to making an impact on each of our students, so they develop a love of learning and become lifelong learners. I am excited to collaborate with my talented colleagues and inspire them to support a diverse and creative academic program that challenges students to achieve their fullest potential," commented Dr. Castelluccio.

"Dr. Castelluccio brings a breadth of experience in academics and leadership. She will work alongside Mrs. Connelly and our Dean of Students, Mrs. Jackie McCarthy, to expand

Holy Child's dynamic and challenging curriculum focused on the development of the whole child and ensure that we continue to meet the wants of the age as Cornelia Connelly called us all to do," stated Dr. Gomez.

OPT

St. Michael's Marriage Ministry

By John Webster

The Marriage Ministry of St. Michael the Archangel Parish continues to offer multiple programs to support Catholic marriage and family life. In early April, the ministry completed its first Marriage Preparation Class of 2022. Offered in partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Family Life, these classes use the Transformed in Love (www.transformedinlove.com) program to help prepare engaged couples to receive the Sacrament of Matrimony. The ministry helped prepare twenty-two engaged couples for marriage in

this most recent class. For the first time, the class included a panel discussion on parenting and raising children in the Catholic faith. This panel was well received by the engaged couples, who offered many questions for discussion.

In addition to marriage preparation, the ministry offers monthly online Gospel reflections for married and engaged couples and an online book discussion group. The book currently under discussion is *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas. For more information, please email the Marriage Ministry on smacc.marriage@gmail.com.

OPT



Pictured at one of the sales events after Mass: Prefect Ingrid Denis, Mary Ann Robertson, Jacqueline Mendoza and Debra Rodney

St. Michael's Sodality – Fundraiser for Humanitarian Efforts in Ukraine

By Mary Ann Robertson

For two weekends in March, members of the Sodality of St. Michael the Archangel raised money for humanitarian efforts in Ukraine by selling jewelry after Masses. Advertised

within the parish as “Jewelry for Ukraine,” most of the jewelry was created by a parishioner who originally came from Poland. Thanks to a combination of sales and donations, the event raised \$3,069.35. The money was sent to three organizations: Catholic

Relief Services/Ukraine, the Knights of Columbus Charities—Ukraine Solidarity Fund, and the World Central Kitchen. We are so proud of our Sodality sisters who participated in these efforts and of our very generous parishioners.

OPT

VIA CRUCIS

Con't from page 1

made their presentation outside of the Church to the over 500 parishioners waiting to process and meditate on the 14 Stations of the Cross as a sign of hope, love, forgiveness, and ultimate sacrifice. As the procession continued, pedestrians and employees of nearby businesses lined the sidewalk, observing the stations and filming on their phones. Following

the Via Crucis, parishioners gathered for the liturgy of the veneration of the Cross.

The return of the Via Crucis was an opportunity for families and their children and the whole community to come together in faith to be the Church called upon by Pope Francis – “protagonists of an outgoing Church, under the impulse of the Holy Spirit” that evangelizes and cares for those who are in the peripheries, reminding them of the love of Jesus Christ.

OPT

DIVINE MERCY

Con't from page 57

To prepare for the Feast Day celebration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer group gathered daily to pray the 9-Day Novena and recite the Chaplet as we normally do on Mondays and Fridays. To encourage parishioners to pray the Novena and Chaplet, we distributed prayer pamphlets, arranged for pulpit announcements, and advertised the event in the parish bulletin. As a

result, the celebration was very well attended, and it was indeed prayerful and joyful. Parishioners were blessed with a relic of St. Faustina, and everyone left with copies of her Diary and Fr. Chris Alar's book “Understanding Divine Mercy”.

Mother Seton's Divine Mercy Prayer Group will continue to pray the Chaplet in the church every Monday and Friday at 3:00 pm (the Hour of Mercy) and encourage others to join us to pray for God's love and mercy. Jesus, I trust in You.

OPT

SUPPORT

Con't from page 56

Montgomery County areas. This past March, eight OLVP volunteers cooked and served meals to about thirty guests at The Lord's Table. Coordinator Mike McAllister stated, “We were particularly excited that Father Greg joined us and pitched in to help serve meals and chat with the guests.” OLVP continues to volunteer on our assigned dates and has added ad hoc support when other teams need back up.

Commitment to the poor is at the very root of our Catholic Social Teaching. Therefore, support of the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day Homeless Shelter has been recently added to the Social Concerns Committee's outreach. Four times a

year, personal health and care items are provided for new residents. These welcome bags are customized for the individual recipient.

Continuing our longtime tradition, OLVP “adopted” four families for the 2021-2022 school year. Three times during the year (October, December & April) new toys, clothing and household items are provided to these families in need. The families are identified by the Linkages to Learning program whose mission is to improve the well-being of Montgomery County's children and families through a collaborative delivery of comprehensive school-based services that support success at home, in school and in the community.

The Social Concerns committee meets regularly and welcomes new ideas and programs.

OPT



St. Michael's 2022 Sacraments of Initiation class at the Easter Vigil Mass.

A Beautiful Easter Vigil Celebration at St. Michael's

by Nicole Calaro

St. Michael the Archangel parish celebrated Easter Vigil with pews filled with individuals who have spent the last ten months preparing for their Sacraments of Initiation. They were accompanied by their sponsors who have walked with them during their journey, their catechists who have been teaching them about Prayer, the Creed, Sacraments, and Christian Morality, their family who

have supported them, and parishioners who have been praying for them. That evening, our pastor, Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino baptized 14 people, received five into full communion of the Catholic Church, confirmed 40, and gave 41 people their First Communion. We are truly blessed to fulfill the Church's mission to make disciples of all people and welcome all our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

OPT

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It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times

Entering a Community of Faith

The grace of Easter always abounds. But this year, St. Paul's had a little sacramental blizzard, welcoming six young people into the Catholic Church, with three people receiving Baptism, five receiving Confirmation, and all six receiving First Communion.

Jacob and Jonathan Bautista received Baptism, Confirmation, First Communion. Kimberley Papagjika was already baptized; she made a profession of faith and was received into the Catholic Church, then she received Confirmation and her first Holy Communion. Three teens – Olivia Biava, Carter Biava, and Samantha Homick – were baptized Catholic and had received communion; they received the sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

The parish RCIA program (that's "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults") provided some of the preparation for the Easter celebrations. This year was especially rich, with twists and complexities. The program at St. Paul's is run by Deacon Don Mays, but he had an injury in January, and lay people were left with the job.

"It was a wild ride this year," remarks Matt Swaim, one of the



Shirley and Jacob Bautista, with their sons Jacob and Jonny, after the Easter Vigil. "We are blessed that we get to be part of such a great community, especially having Mrs. Donoghue as our catechist, and now the Godmother of both our boys. They felt the love she has for God."

laymen assisting. "There were a number of people in the program with unique situations. Class sessions often had more 'completed' Catholics than people entering. RCIA offered adult faith formation for many faithful believing Catholics. That mixture was great for people coming into the Church at Easter. There are always opportunities for growth; it doesn't end when you are received into the Church. Baptism and Confirmation are big steps, but they are steps along a lifelong journey. It was great for people to see that model."

The Biava teens were confirmed, but their parents were also involved in sacramental preparation. Dad was Catholic, but Mom was not, and she was preparing to join the Church later this year. They were married previously, but it was a civil marriage, not sacramental; they were preparing for another wedding, two weeks after Easter – not with gowns and veils and all that, but with the Church's blessing.

Samantha Homick was in RCIA to prepare for Confirmation, but her older sister and brother-in-law were also, asking questions. They were Catholics already, but they caught fire, and have been excited about

life as a married couple in Church. They came to support Samantha, but they were but soaking it in too; and their excitement added to Samantha's experience.

One participant has been in the parish for decades, and raised her children here, as active and involved Catholics. But there she was, asking good questions, deepening her faith. The RCIA process offers that opportunity, has that flexibility.

The class included a woman who spent years in New Age experiences and experiments. She had received all the sacraments, but then left the Church for decades, and now she is finding her way back. RCIA was not designed with her in mind, but it worked well, and she has been excited about uncovering or recovering the joys and mysteries of life with Christ. The RCIA program offered classic adult formation, as well as sacramental preparation.

Reception into the Church is not just about someone making an individual act of faith. Always and everywhere, it's about joining a family. This year, some of the complexities of community life were more visible than usual.

OPT

Vocations to Religious Life from St. Paul's

By John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe

I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us –
don't tell!
They'd banish – you know!

How dreary to be somebody!
How public like a frog
To tell one's name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

Emily Dickinson had it right: there's a lot of beauty and inspiration all around us all the time, but not always splayed out like peacocks.

There was a flurry of questions when a visiting priest introduced himself, saying that he had roots in Damascus. A vocation from our parish? How did we overlook that? Is he from here? "Yeah, his father was a doctor in Damascus," said one. "No, his brother was the doctor," said another. In fact, his father and his brother were doctors. And another brother. And a third, and

fourth, and a fifth. And then there was a naval officer. His parents, immigrants from Philippines in 1960, raised five doctors and a priest and a naval officer. His mom didn't brag; she just raised a distinguished family!

Fr. Richard Gancayco grew up in Bethesda when his father had a medical practice in Damascus. His mother went to Mass here for years. He was ordained in 1992, with Fr. Pierce. He has served all over the archdiocese, at St. Mary in Landover Hills, as a military chaplain (Navy), as pastor of St. Martin's, and elsewhere. Now he's living a contemplative life, aiming for quiet, and helping overworked pastors.

Including Fr. Gancayco, St. Paul Church has seven men and women offering their lives to the Lord in religious life. That's two priests, a member of Madonna House, two Dominican Sisters (still discerning), one member of a contemplative community (still discerning), and one seminarian.

The second priest is Fr. Ismael (Mel) Ayala. He was a musician at St. Paul for almost 20 years, before he was ordained in 2010. He served at St. Peter in Olney, then as pastor at St. Nicholas in Laurel and St. Andrew Apostle in Silver Spring. He was Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese from 2013-2017. When he was a seminarian, he was a highly visible assistant when Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass at Nationals Park in 2008. He assisted when Pope Francis celebrated the Canonization

Mass of Saint Junípero Serra in 2015. Since September 2021, he's been the Associate Rector and Director of Liturgy at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

A quick note: About one percent of Americans, and of Marylanders, are Filipino; but both of the priests associated with St. Paul are Filipino. Our world is changing, inexorably and joyfully.

Charlie Cavanaugh is a member of the Madonna House lay apostolate, offering hospitality to the poor. The community was founded by Catherine de Hueck Doherty, a Russian baroness, who helped bring the spirituality of the Orthodox world to the West, especially providing hermitages – or "poustinia" – for people seeking a quiet place to pray. Charlie is stationed in western Canada, in Regina, running a soup kitchen for the poor, including many First Nation people.

Polly Howard (Novice Frances Pauline) has received the habit of the All Saints Sisters of the Poor in Catonsville, Maryland.

Two young women from the parish joined the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville – Sister Marie Trinity Dagher, OP, and Sister Laura Immaculata Clarke, OP. Both are still discerning their vocations.

There is one young man from the parish, Christopher Meyers, at the St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington. This seminary is a house of formation to prepare college age students and young adults for entry into a major seminary.

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Living Stations Inspire the Parish

For some years, one of the most moving events in parish life has been the Living Stations – the stations of the cross presented as a series of tableaux by young people. About 50 people participate, in various roles, and their families come: that brings in a lot of people before we get to the prayerful observers.

The stations are standard, traditional; the script is not. It is a series of powerful meditations written by a great but long-suffering parishioner, Diane Kanne. She has been bed-ridden for years, which is itself a station of the cross, since she is an extraordinarily warm and outgoing person, with a tender love for the crazy struggling teens.

The narrators were Janerson Apolonio and Rosie Kuszewski. They were gripping – crystal clear with flawless timing and tone.

Peggy Hall has been organiz-



Brandon Salamanca presents a dignified Jesus, without exaggerated emotion. The centurion and soldiers are Evan McFarland, Dominic Flynn, and Ryan Di Marzio. Photo by Colleen Rewega.

ing the event for several years, recruiting and coordinating the cast, the costumes and set – all the elements of a good show. But everyone involved was intent on far more than a "show." Each year, the Stations of the Cross throughout Lent – and especially the Living Stations on Good Friday – are times of prayer.

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9250E Damascus Road
Damascus, Md.

Msgr. Edward Filardi
Pastor
301-253-2027

John Cavanaugh-O'Keefe
OPT Editor
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Confirmation at St. Mary's

Newly Confirmed are all smiles as they gather with Bishop Jerome Feudjio after Mass.

Joys of Spring and new Sacraments

The youth of St. Mary's have been on a journey of faith, prayer, exploration, and study in preparation for Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio officiated the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation on a beautiful spring evening. 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

May 4. The children are provided with a large Miraculous Medal on a blue ribbon from the Parish. The children are dedicated to the Blessed Mother and are asked to wear their medal each time they attend mass during the month of May.

A May Crowning is held after all masses the same weekend. The First Communicants attending at each mass lead the congregation in procession and crown the Blessed Mother.

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First Communion at St. Mary's

At right, Fr. Kevin blesses and presents each child with their own Youth Bible at the closing of their Holy Communion Retreat.



At left, Father Kevin presents a joyful group of First Holy Communion students to the congregation. St. Patrick's Celebration at St. Mary's



May Crowning

Cecilia VanCise, crowns Our Lady of Fatima.

More St. Mary - Barnesville News on Page 63

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Barnesville, MD 20838
Rev. Kevin O'Reilly, Pastor
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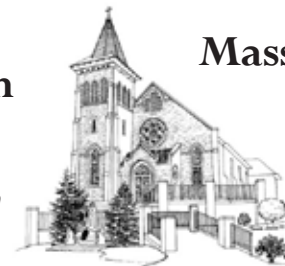
Easter at St. Mary's

Above, Father Kevin welcomes RCIA Candidate Zach Miller into the faith community at the Easter Vigil.

At right, Zach Miller confirmed in the Faith at the Easter Vigil.



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



Mass Schedule

Saturday
July 30
4:00 pm



Saturday, July 30 – \$20

147th Annual Chicken Dinner
Noon - 6 pm (or until sold out)

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Holy Saturday

Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych presides at the Easter Vigil services on Holy Saturday. With him is Krzysztof Psurek and the altar servers.



The Resurrection Easter Mass

Pastor Fr. Frydrych is carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the procession.



Remembrance Holy Mass

Some of the attendees at the Mass for the victims of Katyn and the tragedy in Smolensk. It was commemorated on Divine Mercy Sunday. Some of those in attendance: Victoria Gorska-Rabuck, Konsul Edyta Holdynska from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, SK Stefan Witczak, OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, SK Bob Dowlut, Polish Scouting-ZHP Bozenna Buda, Veteran Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Mr. Mikolajczyk, SK Richard Okreglak, SK David Birely.

Our Lady Queen of Poland

9700 Rosensteel Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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

Bozenna Buda,
OPT Editor
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Polish Saturday School



Above, Polish School students and parents with Principal Chlebowska display their hand-crafted Polish palms in preparation for Palm Sunday.

At right, Polish Supplementary School students welcome spring with a traditional ritual.



Feast of Our Lady Queen of Poland

Feast day of our parish patroness and celebration of Polish Constitution May 3 at Mass requested by Polish American Congress-Washington DC Area Division. Jennifer, Shon, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, SK Richard Okreglak, SK David Birely, SK Jacek Marczynski, PSO-ZHP Bozenna Buda, Embassy of the Republic of Poland COL Pawel Marzeda & LTC Karol Budniak, OLQP Pastor Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, altar server Sebastian, Kof C Council 16634 GK Franklin Morton, SK Bob Dowlut, Jola Noska, Helenka.

OLQP Wednesday Night Dinner



The OLQP Wednesday Night Dinner group: SK David Birely, Joanna Roberts, Bozenna Buda, Sr. Faustia, SK Stefan Witczak, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Elizabeth Speidel. In addition, several parishioners donated home-made baked goods for the delicious desserts which were enjoyed by all.



SK David Birely with Sr. Gaudia, who gave the talk on Divine Mercy at the Catholic Student Center Chapel at the Univ of Maryland after our Polish Dinner on April 20.



OLQP Wednesday Night Dinner servers: Maggie (Gosia), Tatiana Psurek, SK Stefan Witczak, Bozenna Buda, and UMD students.

Beijing Orders Arrest of 90-Year-Old Cardinal

On Wednesday, May 11, Cardinal Joseph Zen, bishop emeritus of Hong Kong and a champion of democracy, was charged with “colluding with foreign forces.” Upon the news of the arrest of Cardinal Zen, Bishop David J. chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace, called for prayer and the pursuit of justice.

Bishop Malloy’s full statement follows:

“The alarming news of the May 11 arrest in Hong Kong of Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun due to his past role in administering a humanitarian fund for protestors indicates the downward trend in respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights in Hong Kong. This steadfast pastor



Cardinal Joseph Zen

and strong supporter of democracy and justice was arrested along with other trustees of a fund that paid for legal and medical expenses of pro-democracy protestors, a fund that was disbanded in the fall of 2021. Because of Cardinal Zen’s support

for these protestors, he is being accused of ‘collusion with foreign forces.’ Under the national security law imposed in June 2020, ‘secession, subversion and collusion with foreign forces’ is a crime punishable with sentences of up to life imprisonment. Thus, although Cardinal Zen has been released on bail, his situation remains precarious.

“The Vatican’s press office said Wednesday, ‘The Holy See has learned with concern the news of Cardinal Zen’s arrest and is following the evolution of the situation with extreme attention.’ I join with the Holy See in expressing concern for the fate of Cardinal Zen and others who share his current predicament. I invite all those of good will to pray for their safety and that justice may prevail.”

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Archbishop Lori Responds to Senate Vote on Extreme Abortion on Demand Bill

On May 11, the U.S. Senate failed to advance the Women’s Health Protection Act, S. 4132. This bill would have imposed abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute and would have eliminated pro-life laws at every level of government -- including parental notification for minor girls, informed consent, and health or safety protections specific to abortion facilities. S. 4132 also would have compelled all Americans to support abortions here and abroad with their tax dollars and would have also likely forced health care providers and professionals to perform, assist in, and/or refer for abortion against their deeply-held beliefs, as well as forced employers and insurers to cover or pay for abortion.

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, chairman of the Committee for Religious Liberty, issued the following statement:

“The ‘Women’s Health Protection Act’ (S. 4132) is an utterly unjust and extreme measure that would impose abortion on demand nationwide at any stage of pregnancy through federal statute. We are relieved that the Senate vote to advance this bill failed for the second time in less than three months. This bill insists that elective abortion, including late-term elective abortion, is a ‘human right’ and ‘women’s health care’ -- something that should be promoted, funded, and celebrated. S. 4132 is far more extreme than Roe v. Wade. It would invalidate widely supported laws that protect women and unborn children from an unscrupulous abortion

industry, would force all Americans to support abortion here and abroad with their tax dollars, and seeks to force religious hospitals and health care professionals to perform abortions against their beliefs.

“More than 60 million unborn children have already lost their lives to abortion, and countless women suffer from the physical and emotional trauma of abortion. This radical bill would add millions more to that tragic toll. As a nation built on the recognition that every human being is endowed by its Creator with the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, we implore Congress to stop pushing abortion as a solution to the needs of women and young girls, and instead embrace public policy that fully respects and facilitates these rights and the needs of both mother and child.”

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St. Mary - Barnesville

St. Patrick's Day



Above, parishioners Spencer Goldberg and Lucy Walton (second from left) joined fellow Irish Dancers to entertain guests with their amazing talent!

At right, Pastor Kevin welcomes Msg. MacFarlane to celebrate with the St. Mary's Family for St. Patrick's Day.



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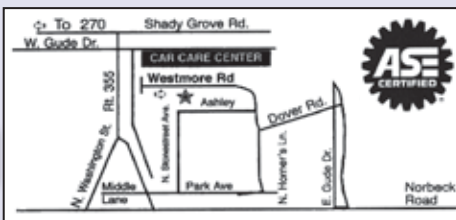


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