

Sodality Mardi Gras Tea

The ladies of St. Raphael Sodality hosted a Tea to celebrate Mardi Gras. There were delicious homemade tea sandwiches and desserts, including two King cakes. A few guests showed up in masks and there were purple, gold, and green decorations galore. We prayed the rosary and played a game to get to know each other better. This was the third annual Mardi Gras Tea and it has become a perennial favorite.

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(L-R) Kathy Driscoll, Paula DeNucci, Martha Corrado, Gerry Chen, Vicki Swaney



(L-R) Louise Cox, Armelle Aguehkouakou, Jan Rathgeber, Norma Saad, France Staudenmann



St. Raphael School News

St. Raphael School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

By Nina Cardillo

St. Raphael School and Nursery School joined Catholic schools across the country to celebrate Catholic Schools week, recognizing the value of Catholic education and honoring all who make it possible. During this week, the children participated in service projects for practical experience and emphasis on serving God by serving others. The annual Coats of Many Colors Drive was held in

partnership with Catholic Charities to collect coats and socks for those in need this winter. The students made sandwiches that were delivered to McKenna's Wagon, a non-profit organization that makes 1,200 sandwiches and several hundred gallons of soup a day to distribute to the homeless of D.C. They also spread God's love through letters—writing notes of appreciation to the soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Hospital, and of encouragement to the less fortunate, tucking them into

the pockets of the items collected for the Coats of Many Colors Drive. Each day of the week remembered in a special way teachers, clergy, parents, and students who believe in and uphold Catholic schooling.

Reading Across America

SRS welcomed Ben Hatke, New York Times bestselling author/illustrator and prestigious Eisner Award winner for Best Publication for

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Upcoming Sodality Events

MARCH – Don't Miss Helen Alvaré on March 20

All members of the Archdiocese are invited to come hear Helen M. Alvaré speak at St. Raphael's on March 20 from 7:00-9:00 pm. Alvaré is an extremely educated and articulate woman with a powerful outreach. She is currently an Associate Professor of Law at George Mason University, and founder of a group called Women Speak for Themselves (WomenSpeakforThemselves.com), whose mission is to counter

the secular press that espouses that all women have the same liberal views. Each woman, and person, has his or her own views, opinions and beliefs, and we will speak for ourselves.

Alvaré worked for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), where she drafted amicus briefs in leading U.S. Supreme Court cases concerning abortion, euthanasia, and the Establishment Clause. She also worked with the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities at the NCCB. She lobbied, testified

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St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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I am a thinker, an athlete, an artist.

SUMMER AT HOLY CROSS

Co-Ed Summer Enrichment *Grades 7-8*
High School Placement Test Prep (HSPT) Course
June 18 - 22

Morning Session:
8:30 am - 12 pm
Afternoon Session:
1 pm - 4:30 pm

Girls Robotics Camp
Grades 6-8
Session 1: June 18 - 22
Session 2: June 25 - 29
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Girls Summer Sports Camps *Grades 4-10*
Basketball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball
Session 1: June 18 - 22 • 9 am - 3 pm
Session 2: June 25 - 29 • 9 am - 3 pm

Co-Ed Summer Stock Performing Arts *Grades 6-11*
June 18 - 29 • 9 am - 3 pm
Classes in: Musical Theatre Dance, Musical Theatre Singing, Improvisation, Filmmaking, Acting

Final Performance: Aladdin Jr.*
Friday, June 29 at 7 pm

Music by Alan Menken • Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice • Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by Jim Luigs • Music Adapted and Arranged by Bryan Louise
Based on the Screenplay by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliot and Terry Rossio

*Disney's Aladdin Jr. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com



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

WWW.ACADEMYOFTHEHOLYCROSS.ORG

For more information

WWW.ACADEMYOFTHEHOLYCROSS.ORG/SUMMER

MoN Eighth Grade

Standing up for the Sanctity of Life and Living Their Faith

There are several events that are special for the eighth-grade students during the school year. Two of these events are the Rally and March for Life and the Eighth-Grade Retreat. The Rally and March for Life is an opportunity for the students to move from sharing answers in the



Above, Mary of Nazareth students show their excitement to be at the Rally and March for Life this year.

At left, Mary of Nazareth's eighth-grade class pictured in front of the United States Capitol while advocating for the sanctity of life.

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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.

classroom to giving witness to their faith in the world in a way they have never experienced before. They join thousands of youth and young adults as they stand in support of the sanctity of life from conception until natural death. The day begins before dawn as they ride a bus to the Verizon Center to hear speakers and celebrate Mass with

popular Christian musicians. After Mass they marched to the Capitol to peacefully protest the current abortion laws and support the right to life for the unborn.

For the eighth-grade retreat the students spent the day in the tranquil setting of St. Mary's Church and Shrine and the pavilion in Barnesville. They prayed and

reflected on the challenges they will face in staying true to their faith as they transition to high school. An activity with a blindfold simulated the need to trust in God and choose friends who share the same values to support them in achieving their goals. Skits provided a silly and fun way to explore Catholic responses to real life situations and tempta-

tions they are likely to encounter. Working with spaghetti and marshmallows helped the students recognize that everyone has unique talents and ideas that are valuable in life. The students shared and prayed about their anxieties and hopes as they begin a new chapter in their lives. The day ended with Mass in the historic Church of St. Mary.

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St. Raphael



St. Raphael School kindergartners squeal with delight while buddy reading with the seventh grade as part of the school's Read Across America celebration. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

ligence capabilities is helping to personalize treatments for cancer patients by comparing patient information against the vast universe of medical knowledge. A general surgeon, event designer, and engineering consultant were some of the other notable professions that were featured with knowledge and enthusiasm. We are grateful to all the parent presenters who shared their time and talent and gave the students a glimpse into their futures!

Living Wax Figures

During the month of February, when we observe Black History Month, SRS second-graders learned about the important contributions and achievements of many African Americans who influenced our nation's history. The class shared their knowledge by bringing to life "wax museum figures" and presenting personal biographies for their characters. Some of the famous African Americans at the museum were a former president, a media mogul, a boxer, civil rights activists, an explorer, and many other notable personalities who helped shape our country.

Bringing Home the Gold

The seventh- and eighth-grade boys' basketball team of St. Raphael's CYO brought home its first golden basketball trophy. They played with heart and skill, winning the tournament championship in a triple overtime finish

against Holy Redeemer with a final score of 45-42. We are proud of the team for their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Congratulations, Angels!

March Madness and More

Visit our website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org for more information about our upcoming events.

March 9 - Middle School Science Fair judges and awards myriad projects.

March 24 - SpringFest promises an evening of fun, food, and fundraising. Sponsorship opportunities are available!

March 28 - Third Grade Arts Tea blends poetry and artwork through the eyes of the third-graders.

April 18 - Girls' Night Out invites everyone for a night of shopping and socialization. Bring a friend!

April 27-28 - School Play presents "Shrek the Musical Jr.!" Save the date!

May 11 - Mother's Day celebrates SRS mothers and our Blessed Mother with a Mass and light luncheon.

May 22 - SRNS Basket Raffle raises funds for the preschool with extravagant baskets that offer pampering for Mom, a week of KOA multisport summer camp, family fun packages, and other valuable prizes!

SODALITY

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before federal congressional committees, addressed university audiences, and appeared on hundreds of television and radio programs on behalf of the U.S. Catholic bishops. **Alvaré** cooperates with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations as a speaker and a delegate to various United Nations conferences concerning women and the family. She is a consultor for the Pontifical Council of the Laity (Vatican City), as well as an ABC news consultant. Her scholarship regularly treats current controversies about marriage, parenting, and the new reproductive technologies.

Prior to joining the George Mason faculty, Professor **Alvaré** was an associate professor at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. She received her law degree from Cornell University School of Law and her master's degree in Systematic Theology from the Catholic University of America.

APRIL - Emmitsburg Pilgrimage

The women of St. Raphael's Sodality will make a pilgrimage to Emmitsburg in April. Please stay tuned for more information.

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NEWS

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Early Readers, to speak to the students during Read Across America week. This annual reading motivation and awareness program commemorates the March 2 birthday of Dr. Seuss by calling for children all over the nation to read. Known for his storytelling and art abilities, and books such as "Little Robot" and "Zita the Spacegirl" series, Hatke advocated the importance of lifelong reading as he entertained the students.

Working in the World

SRS Career Day is a day when students explore various fields and professions through the firsthand accounts of parent presenters, who share both the ups and downs of their particular line of work. Among the wide variety of careers featured this year, the children learned how the love of reading, talking, and learning were helpful for one lawyer, how a medical sales representative teaches emergency room personnel how to use his company's equipment, and how another company's super computer with artificial-intel-