



Parish Times

High School Open House
Pull-Out Section Pages 20-21

OCTOBER 2018

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Mountain of Work

By Chuck Short

Autumn is a delightful time of year, filled with heartwarming and memorable activities. As a father and grandfather, I fondly recall my children's CYO soccer games and now enjoy these beautiful October days cheering for my grandchildren during their CYO games. For decades, CYO and its dedicated volunteer coaches have enabled and taught children to play together in Christian spirit. Thanks to coaches, patient referees, parishes, and especially parents for keeping CYO vibrant.



Chuck Short

The Montgomery County Catholic community lost a great leader last month when Jim Sullivan died. I have often referred to PCR (Potomac Community Resources) as a model parish initiated program for people with disabilities. Jim and his wife Joan were among a small group of Our Lady of Mercy parents of young adults with disabilities who founded PCR three decades ago. While Jim's daughter Patricia passed away just as PCR

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Enjoying the Process

Parenting advice – books, columns, blogs, talk show experts – could we possibly hear anything new about parenting? “Don't feed them that; let them decide when and where they'll eat, play, dress and obey. Get them involved in lots of activities; let them roam the neighborhood; don't let them out of your sight; put them in your bed; give them their own rooms; sleep eight hours; sleep when they feel like it; go to school at age three; delay kindergarten until your child is eight.” All of this advice is guaranteed to provide us with the “end product” that we should all be seeking – the perfectly behaved, brilliant, self-confident, well-adjusted, popular, very attractive, young person who gets into the best high school in the area, and goes on to a top tier college, where he or she will be exceptionally well-prepared for law or medical school.

Sadly, there are so many parenting “experts” out there that parents can't help but feel guilty if they don't grow children who meet the unreachable goals that society has set for



Patricia McGann

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St. Jane de Chantal School faculty

St. Jane de Chantal Faculty Welcomes Student Community Back to School

By Catie Skibo

St. Jane de Chantal School faculty welcomed back hundreds of families to begin the new school year. Mrs. Hamilton was on hand to greet each family

as they made their way through the door to the halls and to their new classrooms. There were new backpacks, fresh haircuts, and many smiles as the students rejoined our Catholic community. The school's theme this year is “Be! Be... amazing. Brave. Inspiring.

Unstoppable. The Difference!» Members of the school community will spend the school year being the best Catholics they can be through service, learning, and practicing their faith.

OPT

Congratulations, Teri Dwyer, Distinguished Principal of the Year!



Archdiocesan Distinguished Principal of the Year Teri Dwyer is joined by her family at the surprise announcement of her award made at St. Raphael School's Morning Prayer. Ms. Dwyer was praised by Secretary for Education Jem Sullivan and Superintendent of Schools Bill Ryan for her outstanding leadership and tireless commitment to Catholic education. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

By Nina Cardillo

At St. Raphael School, Principal Teri Dwyer is known for her strong spiritual leadership and commitment to academ-

ic excellence, her dedication to the students, staff, and community, and her passion for civility and lively Catholic faith evidenced through her actions, words, and works. She

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Don't sit on the sidelines!

Pope Francis says we need to “overcome apathy” and offer “a Christian response to the social and political anxieties” around us. “Good Catholics immerse themselves in politics,” says the Pope. Don't miss your chance to vote, immerse yourself in politics and make a difference!

Maryland's General Election day is fast approaching! Every statewide office-holder in Maryland – including the governor – and most of our Congressional representatives will be chosen vote in the upcoming General Election on November 6.

The deadline to register to vote, or to change your party affiliation, is October

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St. Raphael Sodality

About 70 people came out on a rainy September evening to hear our eloquent Moderator and St Raphael Pastor, Father Michael Salah, speak on the "Beauty of the Mass." Sodality's next formation meeting is scheduled for October 9 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Parishioner Mrs. Gina Witt will give a presentation, "Mary is Our Mother," in the Parish Library. All are invited to attend. Sodality dues are \$25 through Oct. 31 and \$30 after that date. Send your check, payable to St. Raphael Church (note Sodality dues in the memo line) to Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878.



Fall Open House

Sunday, October 21 from 12:30-4:00 pm

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St. Raphael School News

Start-of-School Celebrations

The 2018-19 school year began with an opening Mass celebrated by Fr. Wells and con-celebrated by Fr. Francisco Aguirre, friend and former parochial vicar of St. Raphael's now serving as administrator at St. Catherine Labouré

Excited chatter subdued as the teachers' choir began, and the school, along with all the faithful community, looked forward to the coming year in God's presence and each other's company. Still heavy on our hearts was the loss of Patty Quinn, our beloved fifth-grade teacher who passed away in June, and many of the children, parents, and staff members wore "choose kind" T-shirts designed in her honor.

After Mass, the community gathered for a tree planting and blessing in Ms. Quinn's memory. A beautiful crepe myrtle was generously made possible by Great American Landscapes. The company's founder and owner, Kevin O'Neill, whose family was touched by Ms. Quinn's teaching at SRS, gave a heartwarming tribute to her impact on students' lives. The tree will remain a splendid reminder of Ms. Quinn's life and legacy, blooming year after year in her favorite color, purple.

Opening day celebrations continued as students and parents visited classrooms, reunited with old friends, and met new classmates and teachers. Music, festivities,

and popsicles helped to melt away back-to-school nerves and sweeten the memories.



Stay & Play, St. Raphael Nursery School's new drop-in program, is a hit with toddlers and parents alike. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

Early-Childhood Expansion

St. Raphael Nursery School's latest addition, Stay & Play, could not be off to a better start. The drop-in program that launched last month offers moms, dads, grandparents,

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**St. Raphael Parish
St. Raphael School**

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

**MJ Zafis-Garcia,
OPT Editor**

301-762-2143

www.straphaels.org
www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram:
@SRSRockville

McGANN

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them. There was a time not so long ago, when I was a stay-at-home mom who got together with friends, and we took our children for picnics in the park, field trips to the zoo or just a day of play in the backyard. Because we were spending so much time together, we couldn't help but reveal our parenting flaws and faux pas to our friends, and when we did or said something that was on the "don't do" list in Dr. Spock, we did or said it right in front of everyone! We watched each others' kids when we had appointments or went on short trips. I returned from an overnight trip to a child who said he wanted to live with my best friend forever – she was "so nice"! She was really nice – far more patient than I, and her house was always perfectly ordered and neat. When I reminded him that he would have to make his bed every day if he lived there, he reconsidered and decided to give me another chance. Lucky me.

When her kids spent the day with me, and one of them climbed to the top of my huge red van, I couldn't get him to come down. No matter how much I cajoled, and even when I tried some serious threats, he just grinned at me from the top of the van. He was still there a couple of hours later when his mom returned. Our own children and our friends' children provided a healthy perspective. None of us was the perfect mother, and none of us was expected to be. I'm pretty sure none of us was focused on the "product." We were too involved in the process of parenting. Most of the time it was great fun, but even when it wasn't, we had one another.

When I forgot son #4 at a local park and had to go back and extract him from a lovely family's picnic

blanket, my sister reminded me that he was missing only for a few minutes – and that Mary and Joseph had lost Jesus for several days! As our children got older, we passed each other in the carpool line in the mornings, some of us still in our pj's and slippers, we brought our little ones to CYO soccer practices and games, and fed them McDonalds and pizza afterwards. Our Catholic schools became our communities. We'd hire eighth-grade girls to babysit and we'd go to Crab Feasts at DeChantal and dances at Saint Bernadette's.

Parents today have to work harder to enjoy the level of camaraderie that we experienced twenty years ago. They can find themselves isolated and uncertain if they don't have the opportunities to share the process with their friends and families. They are rushing from work to school to activities to homework, baths, bed, and back again. It's not as much fun. Sometimes it feels like people are judging, so nobody wants to share the stories of the messes and mistakes.

There are still, of course, those incredible moments of tenderness and hilarity that remind parents of the gift that their children are. My hope is that soon the parenting experts will run out of things to say about the "products" parents are raising, and then moms and dads can get back to enjoying the experience – together – laughing and crying together, reminding one another that none of us does this perfectly. I hope that young parents will continue to find a sense of belonging in their Catholic school communities, despite their busy schedules, so that there will be time on the soccer sidelines and at the spaghetti dinners or the pizza bingo nights to connect with one another, and to enjoy the unpredictability and the blessings of parenting children together in a faith community. **OPT**

AUTHOR

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deadly rebel mob in a 3-by-4-foot bathroom for 91 days. During those 91 days of unimaginable suffering, Immaculée found her faith, taught herself English, and most incredibly, committed herself to a life of peace, hope and forgiveness, even for those who had murdered her family. Immaculée's first book, *Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* (Hay House) was released in March of 2006 and quickly became a *New York Times*

bestseller. To date, it has been translated into seventeen languages and has sold over two million copies. Immaculée has gone on to work at the United Nations, receive five honorary doctoral degrees, write six more books about her faith and her life journey, and is the recipient of the Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Reconciliation and Peace.

This event is free and open to the public, and there will be a book signing after the October 10 program. Seating is limited, so those interested must pre-register at bit.ly/oakcrestimmaculee. **OPT**

HOMECOMING

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thanks for our shared connection and friendships at the 5:00 PM mass. Immediately following mass, we will visit and dine under the tents on St. B's field enjoying a scrumptious feast catered by MGM Roast beef.

On Sunday, the school will be open for visitors either considering a new school or walking down

memory lane. After a stroll through our gleaming hallways, we invite you to step back onto the field for the always-glorious St. Bernadette Fall Festival.

Bring your classmates, your families and your friends. There is something for everyone. We want to see you! Please enjoy these pictures from the inaugural Homecoming Weekend in 2017. We look forward to having you join us this year. All are welcome! **OPT**

CHARITY & JUSTICE

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often challenged by justice activities (promoting affordable housing, protecting vulnerable life of the unborn and the elderly, promoting living wages).

The U.S. Catholic Bishops state simply that these are "two different, but complementary, ways that we can walk the path of love, or caritas." Both charity and justice activities are needed. These are called "Two Feet of Love in Action," as taught by Pope Benedict XVI in *God is Love and Charity in Truth*. (Search: USCCB two feet of love in action brochure).

To be faithful to Church teaching, members of the J&A Council are challenged to embrace both justice

and charity activities. We struggle with this just as most everyone else does.

General Elections on November 6. To help you choose candidates at the state and national levels who promote the common good in society and the dignity of life, visit: www.mdcathcon.org/elections. A Catholic voter guide is not available for local elections, but the guide provided by the League of Women Voters may be helpful. Visit: www.lwvmocomd.org/

Catch fire. In his recent 2018 apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and be Glad)*, Pope Francis reflects on the Beatitudes. He challenges us to experience the love of God though those we meet in our daily lives, especially the poor and vulnerable on the margins of society. He asks: "Do you let [Christ's] fire

inflare your heart? Unless you let him warm you more and more with his love and tenderness, you will not catch fire" (*GE*, n. 151).

We see God in the face of the poor. Pope Francis writes that "there is a mystical meaning to be found . . . in a poor person's face" (*Laudato Si*, n. 233). Participation in the J&A Council can help you catch fire. We meet every two months at Holy Redeemer parish, Kensington. Join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 28th at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Redeemer. For more information, call Ann Barbagallo at 301-482-1022. **OPT**

Anthony Bosnick is a member of the J&A Council of Montgomery County and Director of Social Ministry at St. Francis Parish, Derwood.

ST. RAPHAEL

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and caregivers the opportunity to bring their toddlers to campus. On Monday and Thursday mornings, little ones enjoy music, art, stories, and playtime, while the adults connect, trade parenting tips, and simply share with each other in our warm Catholic setting. We are so excited to be hosting this program and look forward to welcoming more new families to our community.

Time-honored Traditions

At press time, the 10th annual St. Raphael Golf Classic was scheduled to be held at Lakewood Country Club Sept. 24 in memory of Fr. Bill Finch, whose dream of St. Raphael School became the reality that we gratefully and joyfully celebrate every day. Likewise, Grandparent's Day—a lovely morning that bridges generations as we honor extended family at SRS—was slated to be hosted on Sept. 28. We will be sure to report on both events in the next

issue of Our Parish Times.

Save the Dates

Oct. 15: SRS Open House for grades K-8 welcomes interested parents to a presentation and tour of the facilities 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Oct. 20: Angels on the Run 5K invites everyone to running races for all ages and a lively school celebration.

Visit our school website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org for details about these events and more. **OPT**

CONVERSATION

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Church go exclusively to support St. Jane de Chantal's church and school. However, Father Giese also observed that the portion of the collection that goes to the Archdiocese supports such valuable work as child protection, promoting vocations, evangelization, and providing resources for Catholic schools among other things.

Fr. Giese answered every single question presented, easing the fears and dissatisfaction of all parish-

ioners. He encouraged everybody to write to the Apostolic Nuncio, the President of the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops and to the Archbishop of Washington (providing the postal and email addresses) to express concerns and to suggest ways to improve transparency and accountability. He concluded that child protection is everyone's responsibility, and all have to cooperate to ensure that all the Parish's children are safe and protected. His final words of wisdom were about the importance in being informed and alert, in recommitting ourselves to Jesus Christ and in supporting

our priests.

Everyone was very impressed with Fr. Giese and his courage, honesty and transparency. After the presentation, the parishioners thanked him with a long, standing ovation. The service concluded with prayers, spiritual readings and songs. Everybody left the presentation that evening feeling comforted and reassured of the great job the spiritual leaders at St. Jane de Chantal were doing. One thing was very clear, the priests at St. Jane de Chantal Church have the full support of all its parishioners. **OPT**

SPEECH CLASS

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Good Counsel High School for over 25 years, for helping him become a better teacher.

A devoted Catholic, Mr. Higgins is a role model for his students, his fellow teachers, parents, and the whole SJE community. At age 78, nothing is slowing him down. He walks

six miles a day, takes yoga classes, serves as Chairman for the Merit Badge of public speaking for the Boy Scouts, and teaches Labor and Employment and Local Government at The Catholic University of America Law School in the evenings (since 1982). With all of this on his plate, he still finds time for some *pro bono* work teaching our speech class at St. John the Evangelist School.

Mr. Higgins has 3 children and 11

grandchildren (7 of whom attended St. John the Evangelist School). In addition to being one of the smartest middle-school teachers around, he is one of the most kind and humble men you could meet. When asked what he feels was his greatest achievement in life, without hesitation he answers, marrying his wife.

We are truly blessed to have Mr. Higgins as part of our SJE family. **OPT**

JOURNEY

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Original Cemetery.

Before leaving the grounds, our students also learned that Elizabeth Seton was received into the Catholic Church in 1805. One year later she received the sacrament of Confirmation from the Bishop of Baltimore, Reverend John Carroll, the only Catholic Bishop in the nation at the time. This is very fitting

for our candidates to know, as Rev. John Carroll was the first Pastor of our parish in Silver Spring. He used to say Mass in his mother's house, and now a replica of the Carroll Chapel stands on the property next to the historic St. John the Evangelist Church.

The second half of our day was spent at the National Shrine Grotto, one of the oldest American replicas of the Lourdes Shrine in France. The students all had time to pray and light candles for special inten-

tions at the grotto. They saw the special stone from right near the miraculous spring where the Blessed Mother told St. Bernadette to dig and receive water. This stone was excavated from the Grotto at Lourdes, brought to Emmitsburg, and installed at the Grotto cave. It is said that we are now spiritually connected to the Lourdes Grotto in France. Before leaving the grounds, our group gathered near the Grotto to pray the rosary. We had a wonderful day. **OPT**

Christ The King Literacy Project

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

Christ the King's Office of Religious Education has been provided a healthy Catholic Charities of Washington DC grant in order to enable those unable to read and write in their language of origin to be equipped to do so. It is targeted for those whose first language is Spanish. Included in this opportunity is the invitation to those who also may just need to improve and fortify their current abilities, whatever level, in writing and reading.

Anyone interested in registering should contact the Director of Religious Education at Christ the King, Mrs. Isidra Molina.

OPT

Canonization of Blessed Oscar Romero to be Televised at Christ the King

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

Christ the King is the home parish of many who originally came, or descend from those who came, from El Salvador. The Salvadoran community here will celebrate the Solemnity of their beloved martyred Archbishop, Oscar Romero. Archbishop Romero will be canonized on October 14 in Rome, along with Pope Paul VI. The ceremony from Rome will be televised in the Colonial Room.

The Christ the King community will celebrate this event most especially at the 12:30pm Mass Sunday October 14 in the Church. Throughout the day, after each Mass, in the Colonial Room, there will be a baked goods sale from the kitchens of all parishioners regardless of origins, as well as the sale of food typical of El Salvador. After this 12:30pm Mass, which is said in Spanish, Salvadoran Folk music and dance will be highlighted. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy.

OPT

PRINCIPAL

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is also known for her enthusiastic school spirit, family devotion, and dependence on God. And now, we are proud for everyone to know Mrs. Dwyer as the Archdiocese of Washington 2018 Distinguished Principal of the Year!

To Mrs. Dwyer's surprise and the delight of all present – SRS students, staff, clergy, and several close family members—the announcement was made Sept. 10 at Morning Prayer, where the school gathers at the start of every day. William Ryan, the superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Washington, and Jem Sullivan, the archdiocesan secretary for education, presented the award to Mrs. Dwyer who, amid a standing ovation, received it with humility and joy. In no time at all, flower deliveries began, and social media posts started flowing with accolades about Mrs. Dwyer, who, in her always humble fashion, was quick to give credit to her staff for the accomplishment.

Mrs. Dwyer has led as principal since the school's founding in 2006 and, along with

St. Raphael's late pastor, Fr. Bill Finch, was integral to the establishment of the school. She is instrumental in cultivating a Christ-centered, forward-thinking academic environment, and she sets the tone for the warm and welcoming environment for which the school is known. Mrs. Dwyer's service at St. Raphael's goes back to 1990, when she became director of St. Raphael Nursery School, which she still heads. At that time, her daughter Meghan entered into the 3's program, and the family ties continue as Meghan's daughter now attends SRNS.

Mrs. Dwyer truly embodies the spirit, gifts, and skills of a distinguished principal, and we at St. Raphael's are grateful for her ardent leadership that embraces faith and tradition and empowers student success.

During the same Morning Prayer, the SRS Student Council was installed and received a special blessing from our pastor, Fr. Michael Salah, and parochial vicar, Fr. David Wells. This year's council members are Maggie Rose (president), Timmy O'Connor (vice president), Tobi Somefun (treasurer), and Addie Wildermuth (secretary). Class representatives include Isaac Baum, Bella Potakey, Joseph Rascher, and Mary Washko.

OPT

ANNIVERSARY

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with what they need to reach their full potential

- The school's emergence as a local and national leader
- The achievements of stellar students, alumni and faculty/staff

This milestone year will offer Our Lady of Good Counsel an opportunity to:

- Celebrate the school's many accomplishments over the past 60 years including its impressive growth that has positively impacted the community
- Begin to collectively envision the next 60 years towards the future
- Honor our founders and supporters, our partners and community members who shaped the school's history



Our Lady of Good Counsel High School alumni clergy, Rev. Kevin Fields '04.

- Build and enhance our base of support include: alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends and create an enduring connection to Good Counsel for our current students

OPT

A Pre-Hallowe'en Dinner Dance

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

On Saturday October 20, Christ the King will host a fundraiser dinner dance sponsored by The Lord Is My Shepherd Prayer Group in its Msgr John J Dressel Colonial Room. The \$20 admission fee for the 6:30pm-midnight event will be a 100% donation to the parish coffers.

Dinner will be prepared and contributed by the families comprising the prayer group. Music will be provided by DJ Nik

Nok (otherwise known as Nicky Anastacio). The Hallowe'en theme encourages all to come in costume!

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses between now and the date of the dance (to better prepare for the dinner number of attendees); but walk-ins will not be turned away from the door. Several members of the prayer group will provide information, as listed on the flyer.

OPT

On the Feast of St Francis of Assisi

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

Christ the King will again this year have a blessing of the animals on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, Thursday October 4. After the 9:15am daily Mass Fr. Steve Carter will confer the Blessing in the Religious Education Building. At 6:30pm there will be a Blessing of animals in the vestibule of the Church in Spanish.

At 10am Christ the King will spiritu-

ally join the two parishes in the Archdiocese leading the participation in the Adoration for the healing in the Church. St Andrew the Apostle in Wheaton and Sacred Heart in La Plata will have 24-hour Adoration. Christ the King will have theirs from 10am until 8pm on Thursday and again on Friday Oct. 5 in the Church. This is for the Intention of prayer for those priests in the Archdiocese needing healing and forgiveness as well as for the sins and failures of the Church.

OPT

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

Christ the King
2301 Colston Drive
Silver Spring, MD
301-495-2306
**Fr. Stephen Carter, OFM, Cap.,
Parochial Administrator**
**Katie Holland,
OPT Editor**
kh7@georgetown.edu

Pre Halloween
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October 20, 2018 (Saturday)
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For more info please call:
Josie Lecap (202) 910-7514
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Linda Basemot (240) 688-3382
Froilan Manensala (202) 379-5044

Music by: DJ Nik Nok (Nicky Anastacio)