



Photo by Molly O'Leary

St. Raphael's Sodality Tea Coordinators Mihuryl Fernandez, Jan Rathgeber and Kathy Patterson take time from their preparations to share a welcoming smile.

St. Raphael's Sodality Tea A Noteworthy Success

St. Raphael's Sodality held their fourth annual Tea on February 12. The theme this year was music and it was a 'noteworthy' success. The ladies dined on savory treats such as homemade stuffed mini sweet pepper halves, Darjeeling poached chicken salad, and chocolate pancetta with smoked ham. We feasted on sweets of Paris tea cakes, jasmine green tea shortbread cookies, and snickerdoodle apple pie cups. The brown sugar cream cheese and chocolate chai

scones were delicious. We prayed the rosary and then sang popular songs; Abba's "Dancing Queen" was a rousing hit! (It was VERY difficult for some of us to stay in our seats.)

The sodalists have a busy Lenten season prepared. As in the past, Sodality will pray the Stations of the Cross, Mary's Way each Friday during Lent following the 9:00am Mass. All are welcome to attend. The group prepared and served dinner for the women at the Interfaith Works Women's Center and will join St. Raphael's Adult Club for a Lenten day of prayer and retreat at St. Anthony's Monastery in Ellicott City on March 14.

Our soon to be deacon, Richard Meyer, will share the story of his conversion from Judaism to Catholicism on April 9 at 7:00 pm in our Parish Library.

To join St. Raphael's Sodality, please send \$30 dues payable to St. Raphael's Church (note Sodality dues in the memo line) to Mrs. Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

OPT

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

Principal Teri Dwyer, Winner of the NCEA Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award!

By Nina Cardillo

Each year, the National Catholic Educational Association honors excellence and distinguished service in

Catholic school education. This year, St. Raphael School Principal Teri Dwyer was named the recipient of the NCEA Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award for outstanding efforts, contributions, and achieve-

ments on behalf of Catholic education.

As founding principal since 2006 and director of St. Raphael

Continued on page 38



Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

At the Catholic Schools Week Mass, students, faculty and alumni join Teri Dwyer in celebrating her prestigious Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award from the National Catholic Educational Association—her second major honor this academic year.

Reading Across America with Kitson Jazynka

In commemoration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for children nationwide to read. During this week, SRS was pleased to host Kitson Jazynka—a Washington, D.C., local, freelance writer and children's book author—to speak with the students and inspire writing and lifelong reading. Jazynka is known for her non-fiction children's books about animals and influential people written for the National Geographic Society

and for her articles for National Geographic Kids, American Girl, and Young Rider magazines. She also contributes to The Washington Post's KidsPost and to The New York Times for Kids, and she has written novels for the Boys Camp Books series. Her time with the students reflected her great love for animals and included a roundtable discussion with some of our middle-school students.

OPT



Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School



Above, Author Kitson Jazynka gets a surprise hug while distributing bookmarks after her presentation at St. Raphael School in honor of Read Across America Week.

At top, students are mesmerized by author Kitson Jazynka as she tells real-life stories about the animals she writes about.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

As Catholic schools around the nation celebrated Catholic Schools Week, special days of appreciation honored the teachers, clergy, parents, and students of SRS and SRNS. The students brought to life this year's theme—Be My Witness—by preparing sandwiches for area homeless shelters and assembling breakfast bags for Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program. The special activities held during the week recognized the value of Catholic education and all who make it possible.

OPT

More St. Raphael News on Page 30

When your home needs improvement

I CAN HELP.

I am Dan Gannon, and my company is

**Gannon
Construction &
Improvements, Inc.**



- Like you, I own a home and know that something always needs to be done.
- I own a company that values its clients.
- We have been helping your neighbors with their needs and would like to help you with yours.
- We take care of windows, roofing, siding, kitchens, and other projects.
- You are invited to look at our jobs in your neighborhood.
- Hope to hear from you.

Call me at 301-455-8626 for a FREE estimate
Gannon Construction & Improvements, Inc.

Licensed, bonded and insured by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC#66333).

All labor is guaranteed for a minimum of one year and in most cases two to five years.

541 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850

St. Martin's Young Adult Attends World Youth Day

By Emily Moldiz

For a busy college student like Josh Bastian, World Youth Day was not in the budget and having the time to fundraise was not realistic. But thanks to a group from the Neocatechumenal Way, Bastian was given a ticket to the 34th World Youth Day in Panama.

"God was really calling me on this trip," said Bastian who is a young adult parishioner at St. Martin of Tours.

January 24- 30, Bastian traveled with a group of young men from different parishes along with Father Jonathan Vanegas also from St. Martins. Besides Father Jonathan, Bastian said he did not know anyone. That quickly changed as the group spent six days together on this pilgrimage to Panama.

"The whole country was so welcoming to us," said Bastian, "They were waiting for us."

The theme for World Youth Day, 2019 was, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38). Bastian said the whole theme was a vocational theme. It was about saying yes to God and discerning His will. On the first day of the trip Bastian said he listened to several teens and young



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

Josh Bastian and his travelling companions at World Youth Day in Panama.

adults share their testimonies and their "yes" to God.

The second day was the pilgrimage to the Vigil Site where they would have the Evening Vigil with the Holy Father. Bastian remembered the walk being extremely hot.

"The people in the houses along the way were waving to you and spraying water on you," said Bastian.

That whole afternoon there was music, dancing, prayer and opportunities to receive reconciliation. One of the most memorable moments for Bastian was adoration. In honor of the theme, the monstrance was shaped like the

Blessed Mother presenting the Eucharist to the world.

One thing that Bastian did not expect on the trip was the sleepless nights on the field.

"We slept straight up on the ground. Luckily someone had a tarp," said Bastian. "And there were so many spiders."

Sunday morning the pilgrims celebrated the Papal Mass with the Holy Father, which ended the 2019 World Youth Day. Seeing all the people from all over the world made Bastian feel a part of a bigger family. He said he was proud to be Catholic.

"Everyone is here out of love and unity," said Bastian.

OPT



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

St. Martin's students and teachers enjoy treats on Valentine's Day, above.



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

A seventh grader portrays Sojourner Truth during a wax museum presentation in celebration of Black History Month.



Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

Father David Wells reads a story to third-grade class during the school's celebration of Dr. Seuss.

March for Life Youth Rally

By Sunkarie Sumura, Eighth Grader

I participated in the March for Life Youth Rally this year on January 18, 2019 with my eighth-grade class. This was my first year participating and I hope to attend more because I loved it. It was really an eye-opening experience and I felt like I was part of this huge welcoming family that stood up for what is right.

Attending the Youth Rally, I now have a better understanding of what

abortion is. Some people may commit abortion because they feel like they aren't ready for a child yet and some people may feel scared or pressured to do it. In my opinion, a child is a blessing and a gift from God, and no matter what stage it is in, it is a human life, and everybody should respect that. I also learned that some people who have committed abortion feel guilty about it and regret their decisions. As Catholics, we should not judge them but comfort them when they need it because God would do the same for us.

My favorite part of the service was when a couple shared an amazing story about their family. They were interesting to listen to and shared that they went through a very rough time with their child. Their child was born early and was very sick for a long time and the doctors were not sure the baby would survive. It was inspiring and uplifting to see how their faith carried them through and how they never lost hope. I also liked when an amazing school choir sang for a huge crowd, their voices were really empowering and angelic.

OPT

Making a Difference in the World

This year's Career Day welcomed a talented cast of SRS parent volunteers who presented their working world experiences to grades 4-8.

The students glimpsed into the days of an IT project manager who helps bring about advances in drug treatments with the help of information technologies and of a pediatric anesthesiologist who demonstrated that some of his patients are no bigger than the palms of his hands. They learned what it is like to be a dentist working in family practice and to be the head of government affairs for a large corporation.

Seeing many students wearing St. Raphael School "choose kind" T-shirts, a firefighter shared that he decides to live by this motto every day. While the jobs and industries represented at Career Day were diverse, one quality that all the professionals had in common was their desire to help others. SRS was fortunate to have the parents share their passions with our students, who saw how helping others through various career paths can make a difference in the world.

OPT

St. Raphael

Seeking SRNS Alumni for a Golden Celebration

Plans are well underway to mark the 50th anniversary of St. Raphael Nursery School with a special celebration set for the evening of June 1. Founded in 1969, SRNS has touched thousands of families, and the planning committee is eager to hear from those who attended or worked at SRNS, as well as parents of alumni. Organizers would appreciate help in spreading the word that SRNS is collecting photos, stories, and memorabilia from the past 50 years. Details can be found on the anniversary webpage at www.bit.ly/SRNS50years.

OPT



Did you attend St. Raphael Nursery School? The planning committee is seeking gems like this image for the SRNS 50th anniversary celebration.

Marching Forward

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

- March 16: SpringFest community fellowship, fundraiser and fourth annual cornhole tournament. Don't miss online auctioning March 11-20!
- March 22: Middle School Science Fair
- April 5-6: School Musical "Seussical!"
- April 17: Third Grade Artists Tea presents original poetry and artwork.
- April 10: Girls' Night Out invites everyone for a night of shopping and socialization. Bring a friend!

OPT

St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. David Wells,
Parish Administrator
301-990-3203

St. Martin School
Stephen Lamont, Principal
301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey,
Parish Editor
240-477-8706
www.smsmd.org

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners, Friends and Guests!

Easter is a time of hope. It is a time of rebirth of our faith in Christ and in our neighbor. As we experience the joy of Easter, my wish for us is that the radiant truth of the resurrection brightens the dimness of everyday life and fill us with peace and an abundance of grace from the Risen Christ.

May you have a Blessed Easter!
Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., PASTOR



OLQP volunteers in the Catholic Student Center kitchen at the University of Maryland preparing to serve the Wednesday Night Dinner for the Catholic Terps on January 30: Bozenna Buda, Katie (Kasia) Roberts, Joanna Roberts, student helper, Andy Michaels, Renata Zeleznik, Tomasz Kolodziej, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak.

*Feeding the Hungry***OLQP Parishioners Serve Polish Dinner to Catholic Terps**

By Bozenna Buda, ED

One of the Corporal Works of Mercy is to “feed the hungry.” So, once again, on January 30th, volunteers from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring sponsored and served the Wednesday Night Dinner for the Catholic Terps at the Catholic Student Center (CSC) at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The Wednesday night dinners at the CSC are recurring events during the Fall and Spring semesters. They are sponsored by local parishes and groups to feed the university students, most of whom also attend

the Holy Mass which precedes the dinner. The group from OLQP prepared and served a Polish dinner to more than 200 people that day. On the menu was Bigos (hunter’s stew), Pierogi (dumplings), vegetables, bread, and assorted delicious home-made desserts. During dinner, the students also viewed a documentary film about St. John Paul II.

Many parishioners from OLQP contributed to the success of the dinner. We thank the OLQP Rosary Society, the St. Maksymilian Kolbe Council of the Knights of Columbus, and OLQP Pastor, Fr. Jerzy Frydrych, for his encouragement and support. Many individuals helped, including Joanna Roberts, Renata Zeleznik, Andy Michaels, Adam Hawiger, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Tatiana Psurek, Urszula Kolodziej, Anastazja Kolodziej, Elizabeth Speidel, Tomasz Kolodziej, Katie (Kasia) Roberts, Ela Marciniak, Janina Mols, Edyta Szemiak, Bozenna Buda, Richard Okreglak, Dr. Maciej Poltorak, Terrell Roberts, and Bradley Ortins. We thank everyone for their hard work and prayers!

OPT

Highlights of Lenten and Easter Season at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St Maksymilian Kolbe Parish

EVERY SUNDAY IN LENT at 11:40 AM

-Lamentations “Gorzkie Zale” Devotions

EVERY FRIDAY at 7:30 PM - Stations of the Cross, in Polish
Parish Lenten Retreat from April 5-8

HOLY THURSDAY, April 18 at 7:30 PM - Mass of the Lord’s Supper

HOLY SATURDAY, April 20:

- Traditional Polish Blessing of Food at 10:00AM, 10:30AM, 11:00AM, 11:30AM, 12:00PM, and 12:30PM
- Easter Polish Food Bazaar 10:00AM – 1:30PM
- Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY, April 21 at 10:00 AM

Resurrection Mass in Polish & 12:00 Noon Easter

Mass in Polish

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, April 28, Special Program

- 10:00 AM – Holy Mass
- 11:30 AM – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 12:00 Noon – Holy Mass and veneration of the Relics of St. Faustina and of St. John Paul II
- 1:30 PM – Parish Easter Swieconka Dinner * (see information below)
- 3:00 PM – Hour of Mercy - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

*All Parishioners and Friends are invited. *For reservations & tickets contact Izabela Macander: 301-770-7086 (until April 21).

Divine Mercy: “Jesus, I trust in You”

On Sunday, March 3, Sister Donata visited our parish and spoke about Divine Mercy. Sr. Donata is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, the same order to which belonged Saint Sister Faustina Kowalska, to whom was entrusted the message of Divine Mercy. The charism of the Congregation is to “cooperate with the Mercy of God (the Divine Mercy) in the work of rescuing lost souls.” Pope St. John Paul II was instrumental in bringing to the world the message of Divine Mercy as revealed to St. Faustina.

Sr. Donata spoke about Divine Mercy Sunday, which is the first Sunday following Easter. This year, it will occur on April 28. The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday and concludes on Divine Mercy Sunday. A special program is planned at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring for that Sunday. There will



Veneration of the relic of St. Faustina at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring on March 3, 2019. Sister Donata, who spoke about Divine Mercy, with Polish Scouting Organization (ZHP) scouts Artyom and Daniel and OLQP parishioners.

be veneration of the relics of St. Faustina and of St. John Paul II at the 12 Noon Mass, followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,

and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Sr. Donata will join us on that day for the Hour of Mercy.

OPT

CUP OF JOE

Con't from page 6

Grade, students in Grades Two through Seven worked together in Lewis Hall at various stations to assemble the packaged meals. “The Cup of Joe morning has become a tradition at Holy Cross. It is always a happy morning. Working together as a school community and knowing that we are contributing to such a crucial effort brings everyone a sense of fulfillment,” said principal, Mrs. Kane. “We teach our students to live our faith by actively serving others,” she continued. “It is through our service that we share Jesus’ love with the world.”

In addition to schoolwide service projects through the year, each grade also participates in at least one class service project. For more information about the Cup of Joe program and how you might be able to help, please visit the website for Catholic Charities of Washington, D.C.

OPT

DWYER

Con't from page 12

Nursery School since 1990, Dwyer has touched and enriched the lives of countless students and families in our community. Her numerous accomplishments are evidenced by the establishment of the school and success of its students and—along with her indefatigable commitment to Catholic education, strong faith, and leadership qualities—also led to her being recognized as the Archdiocese of Washington’s Distinguished Principal of the Year this past September.

Chosen from more than 150,000 teachers, administrators, and dioc-

esan leaders from across the country, Dwyer was among 27 winners of the NCEA award. The news was announced at the Catholic Schools Week Mass by Chris Buchleitner, an assistant superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Washington, and Tom Burnford, president and CEO of NCEA, and joyfully shared with the many faculty, students, parents, and alumni who were there. Congratulations, Teri Dwyer, on winning the NCEA Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award to be formally presented at the NCEA 2019 convention in Chicago on April 23 before 9,000 Catholic school educators—the world’s largest gathering of Catholic school teachers!

OPT

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

TAKE A STAND FOR LIFE

See page 2 for details.

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times