



St. Raphael School's Angels on the Run promotes fitness, friendship, and fun. Photo by Tom Carrington

## Angels Going the Distance

**O**n a crisp October morning, about 300 St. Raphael School and Nursery School Angels, their families, and supporting community, gathered beneath a monumental green and white arch for the start of Angels on the Run. A heartfelt rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner," sung by seventh-grader Tatum Francois, kicked off the races,

which included a cherub dash, a 1-mile run, and a 5K.

Under the leadership and energy of event co-chairs Allen Francois and Roger Pardo, myriad participants, volunteers, and sponsors contributed to the success of the event and raised funds for our school. The striking inflatable arch, purchased through a grant from Capital One, could not

be missed and added to the excitement of the morning. Through a program in which the bank offers grants to charities important to its employees, SRS was awarded funding that went toward the arch as well as a portion of new chairs for our Music Room. Thank you to Capital One and Sabrina Colaianni, SRS parent and bank employee!

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## Remembering Our Loved Ones

**D**uring the month of November, when we pray especially for our departed loved ones, our "Wall of Remembrance" photo shrine displayed the faces of those we have lost in our school and extended school family, including teachers, clergy, siblings, parents, grandparents, and other relatives.

This year, we also remembered the founding pastor of St. Raphael Parish, Msgr. Thomas Duffy (Sept. 11, 1926–Oct. 15, 2018). When Msgr. Duffy became the pastor of St. Raphael's in 1966, the grassy hill where the new church and parish office settled had sparse surroundings. Today, amid a lively neighborhood, this space is now also home to SRS, SRNS, and Raphael House senior residence. Originally from Attleboro, Mass., Msgr. Duffy was ordained as a priest for the

Archdiocese of Washington in 1953 and served as pastor at St. Raphael from 1966 to 1977.

During his 65 years as a priest, Msgr. Duffy also served as assistant pastor at St. Thomas Apostle Parish and St. Stephen Martyr, chaplain to the Catholic student group at George Washington University, pastor-in-residence at the North American College in Rome, secretary for priest personnel for the archdiocese, pastor of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and retired priest at Our Lady of Victory Parish. He also ministered at Sibley Memorial Hospital. At St. Raphael's, the Duffy Community Center, an open gathering space and SRNS lunch area, is named in Msgr. Duffy's honor for his service in the Lord as our founding pastor.

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## What's Ahead this Winter

**Dec. 11:** Mother Teresa Luncheon welcomes the less fortunate for Mass and a home-cooked meal.

**Dec. 17-19:** SRS and SRNS Christmas pageants celebrate the joy of the season.

**Jan. 14:** SRS and SRNS double open house invites interested parents to learn more about our schools and tour our campus. SRNS (3's, 4's, 4-Plus) is at 9:15 a.m., and SRS (K-8) is at 10:45 a.m.

**Jan. 27-Feb. 1:** Catholic Schools Week recognizes the value of Catholic education and those who make it possible.

For details about these events and more, visit [www.straphaelschool-md.org](http://www.straphaelschool-md.org).

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## Sodality Prayer, Outreach, and Fellowship

**S**t. Raphael's Sodality is well into a busy year of prayer and service and is blessed to have inspirational speakers at our monthly events. Gina Witt, St. Raphael's parishioner, spoke to the Sodality in October and encouraged us to consider Mary as our loving Mother. In November, we heard from Chuck Smith, a parishioner from St. Martin's of Tours, who spoke to us of the ministry of his parish's Food Pantry. Chuck was recently awarded The Andrus Award for Community Service by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) for his nearly 20



Gina Witt

years of service to the Food Pantry where he coordinates donations, volunteer services, and food distribution. Every week the pantry distributes about four tons of food, toiletries, baby formula and diapers to approximately 200 people. He is challenged weekly to distribute all the perishable food while ensuring everyone receives some. After his talk, the attending Sodality members

*Continued on page 39*

## Giving Thanks



At the annual SRS Thanksgiving Feast, students and staff give thanks for their many blessings. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

**W**ith gratitude to God for His many blessings, SRS students and staff came together for a school Mass and simple meal to celebrate Thanksgiving. The younger grades wore handmade headdresses for the occasion, which added to the spirit of the festivities. As an expression of our grateful hearts, baskets overflowing with traditional holiday foods were shared with our dedicated maintenance staff—invaluable

*Continued on page 23*

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## Baltimore Catholic Charities Award

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor, accompanied by Stephen Rosenthal

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Baltimore honored Dr. M. Carmel Deckelman with its Mission in Action Award on October 30, 2018. Carmel, a board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, has worked for Catholic Charities for the past seven years in the

Family Services Division. The Award recognizes her consistent honor and respect for the dignity of every child and family she serves, her compassion and humility with each person, her capacity to reach out to others in a spirit of collaboration and her ability to serve with excellence and integrity.

Carmel is the daughter of Christ the King parishioners, Sue

and Frank Deckelman. Christ the King being the parish in which she was raised. She is a graduate of the Connelly School of the Holy Child (high school in Potomac), Princeton University, and the University of Maryland Medical School. She and her husband, Dr. Geoffrey Rosenthal, are the parents of three (very proud) adult children and two grandchildren.

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(l to r) Archbishop William Lori, Dr. Carmel Deckelman and Bill McCarthy Executive Director Catholic Charities of Baltimore. Photographed by awardee-husband, Dr. Geoffrey Rosenthal

## On the Feast of Christ the King

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

The Great Feast Day of Christ the King was held again this year in the Church. That Sunday the two English-language (8:30 and 10:30am) Masses were combined into one beginning at 9:30am with Auxiliary Bishop Michael Fisher celebrating. At the 12:30pm Spanish-language Mass (time retained) the main Celebrant was Auxiliary Bishop Mario D'Orsonville.

In preparation of the parish feast day, Christ the King parish held its vibrant annual Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9am in English followed by Mass in Spanish at 10:30am, November 22. At both Masses parishioners brought a food item to donate to the parish pantry (for those in need) or to go to Catholic Charities, and then enjoyed the reception held in the vestibule, annually coordinated by Sue Deckelman. The following Saturday November 24, the parish gathered in a day of Evangelization. It began at noon with lunch and an



Christ the King's Feast Day Mass, at the altar, (l to r) Deacon Stephen Mitchell, Bishop Michael Fisher, Fr Stephen Carter with the Choir in the background. Photographed by parishioner, Suzanne Y. Sigienza

orientation, after which, they went out into the neighborhoods to invite people to come and meet us as a missionary church. The day ended roughly around 4pm.

Each of the feast-celebratory Masses Sunday November 25, 2018, was followed with a breakfast held, gathering parishioners in a wonderful occasion of praise and glory for the Son who has redeemed and saved us.

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## A True Volunteer

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

Christ the King's Office of Religious Education appeals in each parish Bulletin for items needed both by the Parish Youth Group and the overall education program. Very quietly in the background, a fairly new parishioner, Donna Butler, went out on her own and solicited from area stores specific items from the published list! In November, Donna went to the Rectory, explained her actions and received the necessary letters to present to the stores which had promised to donate.

Donna is new to Christ the King. She became a widow last year, and, in going through the long and somewhat tedious process of what needed to be done, she gained a knowledge and a confidence to call government offices, to plan gatherings following the funeral, to make arrangements and to finish the financial burdens and paperwork. A friend suggested to her that she might want, in her retirement, to help others get through these same processes. Her friend was suggesting that she begin her own small business, which she now does, helping new widows who may not wish to "sit on hold" waiting for the needed answer, who may overlook this item or that. And it was with this new-found confidence that it occurred to Donna she could do



Donna Butler

the same for the parish in its call for donations! Every parish should have a volunteer like Donna Butler! We are delighted!

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## Advent at Christ the King

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

Christ the King has welcomed Advent with the initiation of a four-week, four session work-shop on Prayer, to learn to pray. Our Parish Administrator, Fr. Stephen Carter, proposed this because, "many of us do not know how to pray correctly". The workshop began on November 28,

2018 and will continue every Wednesday at 7:30pm until the 19th of December in the Christ the King Religious Education Building.

An Advent Retreat for Young Adults will be sponsored by Christ the King in coordination with the Office of Youth and Evangelization in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC

on Saturday December 15 with the invitation extended to all in the lower Montgomery County are. Fr Paul Dressler, OFM. Cap., Chaplain of Archbishop Carroll High School, director of Capuchin Theological Formation, and frequent Celebrant at Christ the King, will be one of the speakers at the Retreat.

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## WONDER DAY

Con't from page 11

hunt and kindness challenge where students learned the joy of doing something unexpectedly nice. In addition, students participated in a reader's theater workshop to read, act, and share their favorite scenes from the novel. The day culminated in a reflection of ways to "choose kind" on a daily basis. "One of the special things about St. Bart's is the relationships students form across grade levels," says Ms. Tehan. "The sixth graders read the novel last year and experienced the value of teamwork, relationships, and kindness on Wonder Day, so they were ready to lead this year's fifth grade. Students often can have an even larger impact

on each other than teachers do, so allowing the sixth graders to mentor the fifth graders not only fosters their relationships, but also sets the example of kindness."

St. Bart's launched Wonder Day in 2017, and it is now an annual event. "Wonder Day is a special rite of passage for our fifth and sixth-graders," says Mr. Hughes. "Next year, the current fifth grade will take a greater leadership role as they mentor the new middle school Bobcats. We want our students to be proud of their individuality, to practice self-discipline, and to remain accountable for their words and actions. Wonder Day is a unique St. Bart's tradition and just another great step in the greater learning process."

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## THANKS

Con't from page 17

able angels in our midst—who make daily operations and events run smoothly and efficiently across the school and parish facilities. SRNS also participated in a Thanksgiving prayer service and filled baskets of fruit before the altar.

These baskets were donated to Stepping Stones Shelter, an organization that supports homeless families with children in their transition to a stable home environment. With a 50-year nursery school history and flourishing K-8 school, we have so much to be grateful for!

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St. John the Baptist



SJB 12 and Under Girls: Katelyn Trebel, Caitlyn Ribas, Alex Brioso, Evelyn Draper, Adobe Obikwelu, Amera Egoro, Bella Calis. Non-SJB students: Annetta Ubedor, Nnedi Nwosu, Abigail Sagastume, Jordin Sagastume, Kimberleigh Hansbury Jessica Mages

**Congratulations, Girls 12 and Under Soccer Champs!**

The Saint John the Baptist (SJB) girl's 12 and under soccer team were champions this season! Their coaches and assistants include Saie Hazelon, Neive Carr, Sophia Vinson, Kali Grant, and Adaobe

Obikwelu. The team enjoyed a day at Five Guys to celebrate their accomplishments and were recognized in the weekly Principle's Note at school.

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**FELLOWSHIP**

Con't from page 17

Chuck's car with donations for the pantry. St. Raphael's Parish collects donations for St. Martin's Food Pantry once a month.

Sodalists continue to lead the holy rosary after the 6:30 and 9:00 daily Masses at St. Raphael's. In

addition, some Sodalists pray the telephone rosary Monday through Saturday at 8:00 pm led by women of the Archdiocesan Conference of Catholic Women. The rosary will be prayed through September 4, 2019 for the healing of those hurt by individuals within the Church. To join the telephone rosary call 605-468-8016 and enter access code 357090#. All are welcome to pray for healing within our Church.

Our January event is a bus trip to the Museum of the Bible, and we will have our third annual Sodality Tea in February. For more information, please contact Louise Cox at 240-731-1348.

To join St. Raphael's Sodality, send your dues of \$30 to Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

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St. John the Evangelist



Congratulations to the coaches and players of our 14U Girls Soccer team for taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the City Title tournament.

**St John the Evangelist CYO Soccer Highlights**

Soccer brought everyone out to the fields during the fall either as a team member or a loyal fan cheering on our SJE teams from the sidelines. The soccer season provided a great way to get some exercise and fresh air while learning to be a team player and a good sport. This season our 12U Boys and 12U

girls both won their Silver Division championships while the 14U Boys were the Silver Division Runner Up. The 14U Girls made it all the way to the City Title tournament and took second place. Thanks to all the coaches, players, and their families that helped make the 2018 Soccer season a success.

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St. Raphael



A highlight of the Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic is having the Finch family participate every year. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

**Fr. Bill Finch Honored at the St. Raphael Golf Classic**

By Nina Cardillo

The tenth annual St. Raphael Golf Classic was held at Lakewood Country Club in memory of Fr. Bill Finch, who at the time of his passing in 2009 was laying out the framework for a new educational building at St. Raphael's. Construction began a year later, establishing the groundwork for "Fides et Ratio" (Faith and Reason, our school motto) to be learned and lived out through Catholic education in a faith-filled

environment. In his honor, a memorial cookout and awards celebration ended a day of golf and fellowship with proceeds benefiting St. Raphael School.

Among the many participants who make this day so special, the company of Fr. Bill's family continues to touch our hearts year after year. This day of remembrance, as well as the many sponsors, generously contributes to the growth of SRS and continues to make Fr. Bill's dream possible.

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