

Resurrecting the Family

Helen Alvaré is a George Mason University Professor and speaker and delegate to various UN conferences concerning women and the family. Sodality and Knights of Columbus were honored to host Helen speaking about *Resurrecting the Family... for the good of all people and the restoration of Holy Families*. One of Helen's messages that resonated with the group was to keep doing what you are doing – show what strong marriage looks like. Children are the beneficiaries of such a marriage.

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(L-R): Mike Watson, Anna Derry, Helen Alvaré, Jan Rathgeber, Gina Witt, Larry Boesch



St. Raphael Sodality recently enjoyed a pilgrimage to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg. The Sodality walked Corpus Christi Lane and Stations of the Cross, as well as Rosary Lane. They visited the Glass Chapel of St. Mary's on the Hill, the Grotto Cave Area, Visitors Center and gift shop. They ended the day with lunch at the Carriage House Inn.



*Congratulations,
Class of 2018!*

Natalia Adams

Academy of the Holy Cross

Brian Bromley

St. John's College High School

Matias Camp

Thomas S. Wootton High School

Max Edmonds

Gonzaga College High School

Alex Gerbstadt-Smolarczyk

Georgetown Preparatory School

John Grintzias

St. John's College High School

Alexandra Gunz

Academy of the Holy Cross

Tomas Hurtado

Colegio Everest (Chile)

Mick Kaibni

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Connor Kearns

Richard Montgomery High School

Conor Kelly

Gonzaga College High School

Erin Madruga

Academy of the Holy Cross

Sean McGlasson

Winston Churchill High School

Carmen Moreno

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Ben Navabi

Georgetown Preparatory School

Tony Orr

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Isabella Pineda

Academy of the Holy Cross

Caleigh Rose

Academy of the Holy Cross

Maggie Sullivan

Georgetown Visitation

Katherine Tylor

Academy of the Holy Cross

Tamara Vargas

Sherwood High School

James Washko

St. John's College High School

Annabella Zara

Academy of the Holy Cross

Benjamino Zelaya

St. John's College High School



St Raphael School News

St. Raphael School Presents "Shrek the Musical Jr."

By Nina Cardillo

Hard work, diligent rehearsal, and the blend of individual talents and personalities culminated in an uplifting presentation of "Shrek the Musical Jr." by the St. Raphael School Performing Arts Program. The middle-school cast and crew, led by music teacher Karen Shantz, delivered the Shrek message that "what makes us special makes us strong" with enthusiastic singing and dancing, and through the portrayal of misfit characters working together for a greater good and ultimately finding true love and happiness in the deeper layers beneath the surface.

Many teachers, parents, and vol-

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SCHOOL NEWS

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unteers contributed their time and talent to bring this tale to life with colorful costumes, sets, and props, as well as behind-the-scenes logistics. We are grateful to those who came out to support the show and to all who were involved, especially the "Shrek" cast, whose convincing performance that everyone indeed has a unique story and that beauty is truly more than skin deep made us all want to sing out loud, "I'm a Believer!"

Sacraments and Spring Celebrations

The sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation were received with great joy this month at St. Raphael Catholic Church, where 105 First Communicants and 128 Confirmandi across the parish reached these milestones in their Catholic faith journey. The parish welcomed Bishop Herbert Bevard, bishop of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, who celebrated Confirmation Mass along with our pastor, Fr. Mike Salah, and our parochial vicar, Fr. Dave Wells. Congratulations to all the children, as well as the parents, teachers, catechists, and priests who made this spiritual step possible!



St. Raphael School second-graders mark a milestone as they celebrate their First Communion May 5. Photo by Tom Carrington

With anchors aweigh, this year's nautical-themed SpringFest transformed SRS's Trumpet Room in sailing splendor as the community gathered for an evening of fun and fundraising. Silent and live auctions benefited the school while everyone aboard enjoyed live music, a buffet

dinner, and the popular cornhole tournament. Thank you to all of the volunteers and participants who made this year's event a shipshape success!

SRS also hosted its annual Girls' Night Out, a spring shopping boutique. This one-stop shop had it all—fabulous vendors and great raffle, appetizers and drinks, and an emporium filled with SRS family and friends.

And finally, SRS school moms enjoyed a heartwarming morning with their children at the Mother's Day celebration. This annual tradition began with Mass, during which Our Blessed Mother was crowned with a beautiful wreath honoring Our Lady as Queen of May, followed by a light reception. The children's video messages and gifts made for precious keepsakes and loving memories from this day.

End-of-School Events

May 22: St. Raphael Nursery School Picnic and Basket Raffle closes out the nursery school year with a fun-filled family celebration. Tickets are now available for the annual basket raffle that benefits the preschool.

June 1: Eighth Grade Graduation



SRS student Benjamin Zelaya stands proudly with Bishop Herbert Bevard, left, and Pastor Mike Salah. St. Raphael School's eighth grade class received the sacrament of Confirmation on May 5. Photo by Cindy Zelaya

wishes all the best to our SRS Angels who are ascending to new heights and preparing for high school.

June 4: Father's Day Prayer Service brings together SRS dads and their children for prayer and a light reception.

June 12: Field Day and June 13:

Closing School Mass mark the end of the school year and start of summer break.

For more information about our school, visit our website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org. Have a blessed and safe summer!

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Mick Kaibni portrays Shrek and Maggie Sullivan plays Princess Fiona in St. Raphael School's production of "Shrek the Musical Jr." The cast performed for a packed house April 27 and 28. Photo by Tom Carrington

BREAKFAST

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do with our Blessed Mother. The Sodality is celebrating 25 years at Mother Seton Parish this year, and their motto is: "To Jesus through Mary."

Susan Conroy, the speaker at this year's breakfast, spoke of Mary, particularly about Mother Teresa's devotion to her, but mostly Susan, a writer, speaker, and TV host on EWTN, spoke of her 11-year friendship with Mother Teresa, now St. Teresa of Calcutta. Susan, at age 21, traveled alone to Calcutta to work alongside Mother Teresa and her Missionary Sisters of Charity in Calcutta, and later in the Harlem

district of New York.

Joy and grace radiated from Susan as she shared pictures and spoke of Mother Teresa and her Sisters, as they lovingly and joyfully care for the poor and orphans. Susan told the 150 guests who attended the breakfast that in order to join Mother Teresa's Missionary Sisters of Charity three qualities were necessary: willing hands, a loving heart, and most important of all, a spirit of joy. Guests at the breakfast were spell bound by Susan's presentation, and were thrilled to be able to meet her afterward as she signed their books. To learn more about Susan Conroy, to buy her books, or schedule her as a speaker, go to her website: www.susanconroy.com.

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RCIA MASS

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Sacrament of Confirmation. Their sponsors, parents and other family members were there to share with them this wonderful occasion, along with parishioners who were asked to pray them all through the month of April. May God continue to bless them all throughout their lives.

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Fr. Lee Fangmeyer baptizes the children



ST PATRICK

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est fundraiser of the year for the Knights," said Tom Firestone. "In the words of one who should know, Father Sweeney said the food was excellent! Add to that the wonderful Irish dancers, and it's easy to see why our guest-list was so strong and growing. We really had a terrific time celebrating the feast day of St. Patrick."

Circle the March 2019 date on your calendar, because you don't want to miss even one of these annual gatherings!

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