

A. M. D. G. - "For the greater glory of God"



St. Michael Messenger

Poplar Springs, MD. Feb. 1, 2017

Volume 14 – Issue No. 3



Holy Guacamole Fiesta Party with a Purpose

MAY 6
Saturday



Janet Carroll, Dawn Schumaker, Bill & Pam Davis, Laura Heck, Dave Boettinger, Mike Fitzpatrick & Michael Gallagher (Not pictured: Melissa Gallagher, Ray Rachuba, Rebecca Stepling, Margie D'Valle, Laura Strong & Dave Richardson)

The time is growing near for this annual parish spring event. This year it will be a Fiesta with all the trimmings and a whole new group of organizers under the direction of co-chairs **Laura Heck** and **Mike Fitzpatrick**. Groundwork has been laid, but we need so many committee leaders and workers. **BIG NEED** for completing tasks that can only be completed on week DAYS. **KICK-OFF WEEKEND (MARCH 4/5)**.

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Here is our invitation for you to get in on the initial planning for this gala affair. Overheard last year from guests: "We are amazed that this is such a professional production. We had no idea of the magnitude of it all!" Those involved have always echoed how much fun this is -- work but also real fun and laughs. You certainly get to know your fellow parishioners.

Contact **Mike Fitzpatrick:**
mfitzsr660@gmail.com 443-677-2591 **Laura Heck:**
mtairyhecks@comcast.net
301-471-5058

Ticket Sales Sub-Committee Lead: **Janet Carroll**

Still needed: 5:00 Mass Sales Team

Live Auction Sub-Committee Lead: **Dawn Schumaker**

Still needed: Sub-Committee Members

Bar Sub-Committee Lead: **Ray Rachuba**

Still needed: Sub-Committee Members

Social Media/Communications

Sub-Committee Lead: **Rebecca Stepling**

Still needed: Sub-Committee Members

Food Sub-Committee

Co-Leads: **Melissa & Michael Gallagher**

Still needed: Sub-Committee Members

Set-up/Clean-up Sub-Committee Lead: **Dave Boettinger**

Still needed: Sub-Committee Members

Decorations Sub-Committee Co-Leads: **Pam Davis &**

Margie D'Valle Still needed: Sub-Committee Members

Entertainment Sub-Committee Lead & Members

Silent Auction Sub-Committee Lead: **Janet Carroll, Laura Strong & Dave Richardson** Still needed: Sub-committee members



Meet
TITO
our
mascot



PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

This year is to finalize our plans for a pavilion, adding to last year's funds. We had to have an updated site plan, for the church grounds, before doing anything. That's like a \$40,000+ item so we need to raise more funds, this year, to get the pavilion built --\$60,000+. The pavilion will be built, with donated trusses and by skilled and willing parishioners.

2017 ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL *FORWARD in FAITH*

KICK-OFF FEB. 25 & 26 WITH IN PEW APPEALS

Our 2017 goal is \$85,400 (last year it was \$84,500). The parish share is 25% to goal and 50% for every dollar over goal. In 2016 we achieved 123% of our goal by contributing \$103,904! Our parish share is invested in building and capital improvements, 10% of St Michael's share in the appeal is sent to the Diocese of Mandeville Jamaica. The Archbishop's Annual Appeal is crucial to the continued survival of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, providing substantial support for our parishes as well as for a wide array of initiatives including tuition assistance, Catholic Charities and a host of other evangelizing ministries. Contact **Donna Binney**, Parish Business Manager



Faith Stories

This is OUR story: the faith community of St. Michael Church

share

Eleven years ago we began through the inspiration of Bishop Boyle, the first Bishop of Mandeville and Fr Gary Weismann... to connect with the people of Jamaica. In the beginning we were completely focused on solidarity... we collected clothes and luggage to take and leave in Jamaica. Over the years we began to witness how our efforts could be even more diversified and so we were able to spend time with Fr. Francis in Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish in Hayes. This year we built on that relationship after Fr. Francis spent the weekend here in September 2016 when we discussed the possibility of building a concrete block house for Jimmy (Charles Lewis). We were able to raise the funds through the generous offerings of our parish and a family who chose to sponsor the material costs. During our appeal for Jamaica, we received over \$19,000 which we were able to deliver by check for the building initiatives.



While in Mandeville, we traveled each day to help Jimmy and Dave Singh

build the home. By the end of the week we completed the structural block and poured concrete, the roof framing and half of the corrugated zinc. We also were able to frame up three windows and install redwood louvers to create the much needed windows for Natisha, who had been living in the house with corrugated roofing flapping down over the outside of her window openings. She is so happy for the work we did, and we left additional funds for Fr. Francis to purchase ceramic tiles for the floor in the house for her!

Our visits to the nursing home in Balaclava was an amazing moment of grace as we were able to sit with so many of the residents some of whom were blind, or in a wheel chair, or affected in other ways. We witnessed Robert demonstrating how much he enjoys his wheel chair. Ilone shared her songs and then a spirit-filled gentle prayer for her friend's ailments, her own and for us. We all joined hands, and her voice raised our spirits!

We visited Miss Ella whose house was built in April 2016 with funds from our previous year's donation. She continues to make efforts to be able to enjoy the sunshine while keeping watch over her many grandchildren.

We stopped in to see Miss Philomena whose extended family is in need of a home. Her son-in-law is an excellent craftsman and we have high hopes of supporting their efforts in 2018!

Ted Burkhardt, Coordinator of Youth Ministry



Our Jamaica Mission trip continues to be a source of great gifts to all who participate. Our parish here at St. Michael, beginning with such great support from our pastor **Fr. Mike**, parish business manager **Donna Binney**, **the staff, the parishioners** in the outstanding amount of money donated as well as the items for us to take to the people in the Jamaican high country -- all of it was astounding and humbling to us going on this mission. This was definitely a parish supported effort!



"When we went to the Singh house, they kept giving us food, asking us to try and always offering more. You haven't experienced generosity, until you see people give everything they have, when they have nothing."
Kayla Piechowiak

"This week was very eye-opening to me especially in regards to everything that was currently going on back at home. I think we tend to be skeptical of and distrust people, but this week I saw that people can be really extraordinary. It was enlightening to see how grateful and open every single person we interacted with was and just how genuinely happy they were that we took the time to care; I think that was a beautiful thing."
Nicole Centi

"The highlight of my week in Jamaica was playing with all the kids while on the job site and at Mrs. Singh's house. They are filled with so much energy and love to play outside. I realized that back at home kids nowadays are very different. Most of the time usually they are buried in some kind of technology. But hanging out with the kids I met they were so filled with life, so eager to learn and explore new things."
Katie Ogorzalek

"Being present emotionally, mentally, and spiritually was just as important as being physically present. I noticed the importance of connecting on a deeper level with the people we helped."
Gina Potter

Remember our Home Mission:

KAIROS. Preparations for the spring weekend visits to MD prisons are going on now at St. Michael. So many in prisons need and are waiting to meet Jesus. Maybe you could be a member of one of these teams. Please support these team efforts with your prayers at Mass, praying the rosary, and in your daily sacrifices.

"Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as with the love with which we do them." St. Therese of Lisieux



pray pray

"The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day has drawn near. . So let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light...." Romans 13:11

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU!



Lenten Wed. individual confession, large church

7:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Starts Ash Wed. Mar. 1 to Holy Thurs. Apr. 13

Work into your daily schedule these 3 focuses of Lent.

PRAYER

✦ The Greatest Prayer: Mass, consider a daily Mass, 9 a.m. here or near work

✦ Daily Bible reading

✦ Stations of the Cross Lenten Fridays, 7:30 p.m.

✦ The rosary: slowly and meditatively prayed

✦ Morning (giving the day to Him & asking direction) & Evening (thanking Him for 3 gifts He gave you that day)

FASTING

✦ **abstain** from meat on Fridays

✦ **fast** from eating between meals

✦ **fast eating only 1 full meal a day & 2 lighter ones**

✦ *Ash Wed. & Good Friday are days of fast & abstinence for all 18 to 59*

ALMSGIVING

✦ increase your weekly giving to church

✦ sign-up for online giving, mainstay of parish support

✦ extra change in poor box

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH GOD

The Liturgy of the Hours

 (Divine Office) is the official set of prayers marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. Pray the hours that fit your schedule. Know you are praying with the church all over the world with these psalms and Bible readings. Resources: booklets like *The Magnificat*, *Give Us This Day*, on the internet, from Amazon and Our Lady's Center in Ellicott City (410) 461-5066

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Little Black Book for Lent

 - brief reflections based on the Passion of Jesus - \$4

Also **Little Purple Book** (ages 6- to 12)

THIS LENT PRAY FOR VOCATIONS:!

St. Josef Bilczewski (1860-1923) **asked each person and each family to pray 1 Our Father and 1 Hail Mary daily for vocations.** The number of priests increased from 79 to 140! He also fostered family love, religious education, devotion to the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart, and that mothers teach their children about God.

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

*is **WORSHIP**, but also reparation, love, commitment, belief, trust!*

If we truly understood the meaning of the Mass, we would never miss an opportunity to go to Mass. So many say it means nothing to them. **"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near."** Isaiah 55:6

- Prepare before going. One way is to go to Doctrinal Homily, Year A, for the 3 Sunday readings and psalm with meditative ideas, & Central Idea, Doctrine, and Practical Applications for the readings- on-line or sent as e-mail, free

- **LISTEN** for God's voice in the prayers and homily. In *Resisting Happiness*, Matthew Kelly even suggests writing down a particular idea you can take home. **"Speak Lord, for Your servant is listening."**

"We don't go to Mass to socialize or to be entertained. We go to receive, to receive, to be fed and nourished by the Word of God – both in Scripture and in Sacrament.

Blessing yourself with holy water as you enter church:- reminder of your Baptism (your own covenant with God), cleanses of venial sin, powerful weapon against the devil, Do this slowly and reverently, *touching all bases.*" Whenever St. Francis of Assisi was about to enter church for Mass or to pray, he would say, "Worldly and frivolous thoughts, stay here at the door until I return." Then he would go and pray with complete devotion.

TEACHING MASS: MAR. 19, 5 P.M. DINNER FOLLOWING

A STORY: A free-thinking man had no use for any church, much less for things Catholic. Every morning, he noticed a cleaning woman passing by on her way to daily Mass. He wondered if she would ever miss morning Mass. But every morning, rain or shine, she passed on her way to Church. One morning, in the midst of a winter ice storm, he stood convinced that this was the morning she would miss. It would be impossible for the woman to walk up the treacherous hill to make it to Mass. Then to his amazement she passed by, crawling up the hill on her hands and knees. The man broke down and told his shocked family that the woman's faith had broken through his crusty resolve, and that he was going to become a Catholic. The woman was called in faith every day to attend Mass. Each day she prayed with the gathered community, received Jesus in Holy Communion and was dismissed to be a witness to Jesus in the world. And without even knowing it, her example had helped a stranger to discover the Catholic faith. Could you be an example?

"Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study. Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life"
 ~Henry L. Doherty

grow

"I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday."
 ~Abraham Lincoln



"It's what you learn after you know it all that counts."

Why do some Catholic think they can deal with the myriad of challenges life presents us with only what they learned about God in their childhood years? Here are 3 programs offered by St. Michael to help you grow in your Catholic faith, through the seasons of winter, Lent, and Easter.



WINTER: This Christmas we shared a gift (generously donated by a parishioner) that over

a thousand people received: the book **RESISTING HAPPINESS** by Mathew Kelly. Each chapter of this book encourages us to look at ways in which we can make choices that lead us to ways in which we meet Christ and nurture our relationship God wants us to feel in order to love and serve Him, and ways to be truly happy with what God has intended for us. If you missed the opportunity to receive this book, call Stacey Ford (240) 437-3671 or sford@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org Recommended highly is Kelly's book, **REDISCOVER JESUS**, distributed last year to parishioners.

BE BOLD. BE CATHOLIC!

When 70% of Catholics don't go to church, isn't it time someone did something? Matthew Kelly is trying to **Re-energize** the Catholic Church in America. This site will amaze you!. www.dynammiccatholic.com



LENT: 5 weeks program entitled **FORGIVEN**
 Thurs. Mar. 2, 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.,

with a light supper and talk from our 'Formed' subscription program
Tues. mornings - Mar. 6 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Homework or purchase is not required. Join us for fellowship and time to reflect on how we can become more humble and kind in 2017! If you are unable to physically attend, you can log onto the Formed site and use our parish code HYWN36 and follow along. Contact **Stacey Ford** to register for either the Thurs. evening or Tues. morning gatherings for Forgiven via e-mail sford@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org or call 240-437-3671.

FORMED: Catholic Faith on Demand - St. Michael Church

has become a partner in this 24/7 on-line web-based digital formation series -Go to parish web site to see what FORMED has to offer: books, movies, DVD's -- all for growth in Faith!



EASTER: an Easter Mission in the church Apr. 22 through Apr. 24

with Emmy nominated Frank Runyeon!
SAT, - Apr. 22, 7 p.m.
Luke: Stories on the Road Dinner will be offered following the 5 p.m. Mass -- RSVP to sford@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org or (240) 437-3671.
SUN. April 23 , 9:15 a.m
Salt and Light , a comedy for kids in the church (all ages welcome)
SUN. Apr. 24, 7 p.m. *Sermon on the Mount*, in the church, light refreshments will follow in the hall.
MON. Apr. 25 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., *Hollywood vs. Faith: The Struggle to Live Faithfully in the Media Age* -- light refreshments after both presentations will be offered
 There is no cost to attend any of the sessions, but free will offerings will offset the cost to the parish.

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." St. Jerome

Daily Bible Reading- How? Why? Jesus tells the parable of the tiny mustard seed (Mark 13:31) growing into such a large tree that birds can nest in its branches. The Kingdom of God started small and almost unnoticeable. A tiny infant, born in a manger, brought into a world that was too busy to notice Him. Does that describe you today? Just as Christ came humbly into the world, He has come to us quietly in Baptism. His kingdom is in you now, whether you notice Him or not.

It might seem an impossible task to begin to read Scripture daily. But, if you start small, you will be surprised at how the Lord will magnify your efforts. A verse or passage, read on arising and revisited in the evening, can be an invitation for you to meet your King. The beautiful thing is that, once you have seen and acknowledged Him, Christ's life becomes harder to ignore. As we invite Christ's life into our lives, through encounters with the Word, you may have a similar experience. It may take a bit of time to learn to hear Christ's voice. **"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."**(1 Sam. 3:10) But, once you give Him permission to make a home in your life, His voice will become clearer. Life is busy. It was when Christ came. Life will always be busy. Christ doesn't wait for serenity to come into our lives; he brings serenity and peace into our detailed-cluttered, scheduled lives. If you [begin to read Scripture](#), you will have just as much time as you had before, but your life will have purpose and make sense. Don't miss out on the joy that comes with [knowing Christ](#) and living in and with Him. If you don't have a Bible, that is the first step. Get one and make it your own. And remember to always pray to the Holy Spirit in your own words before reading the Bible.



share

"There are different kinds of gifts ... but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service... but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work for the common good..." 1 Corinthians 12:1-11



"WHAT NOW? TRUMP AND THE PRO-LIFE CONSCIENCE"

On **Feb. 17 10:00** in the small church **Fr. Paul Schenck** will speak after the 9 a.m. Mass. Fr. Schenck has spent 33 years in pro-life advocacy as a crisis pregnancy counselor, teacher, media spokesman. He has spent 33 years in pro-life advocacy as a crisis pregnancy counselor, author, certified ethicist, federal prisoner and Supreme Court petitioner.

His 1997 US Supreme Court case, *Schenck v. Pro-Choice Network of Western New York*, struck down floating buffer zones at abortion sites. Meet him and his brother on [youtube.com/watch?v=4_IN4LMdSUG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_IN4LMdSUG)- Baby remains in dumpster started he and his twin brother's pro-life work. Just Fr. Schenck's *Journey Home* EWTN is fascinating.

Altar Server Training



Sunday, Feb.19 after 12:00 Mass in the large church, **Deacon Cliff** will start a training session for new altar servers, lasting about one and a half hours.

Parents should plan on attending. All young people who have received their 1st Holy Communion and are mature enough to serve at the altar independently can attend...EVEN if they are not sure yet if they want to be altar servers! Come! Take the training and decide afterwards. Helping Fr. Mike and Fr. Kurt celebrate the Mass is an honor and the perspective of Mass is completely different from the altar. If you have any questions contact **Deacon Cliff** clbritton@verizon.net or **Tricia Buckman** [\(301\) 829-5137](tel:3018295137). patriciabuckman@gmail.com



Mar. Fridays, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Fri. April 7- last fish dinner

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

7:30 p.m. in the large church.

MENU

Baked Fish,
Boiled Red Potatoes
Fried Fish
French Fries
Green Beans, Cole Slaw,
Applesauce, Salad
Macaroni & Cheese, Pizza
Iced Tea, Lemonade, and
Coffee

Adults: \$10 per Plate
Children: 6-16, \$5
Children under 6, free
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Ladies Appreciation Dinner & Social

Saturday, February 18 5:00 p.m. after our
Quarterly Mass



Throughout the year whenever the Knights of Columbus are involved in various activities, their ladies were always there

to support them, as well as in their daily lives. Therefore, each year the Knights invite their ladies to dinner, cooked by the men, and an evening of entertainment. February, the Valentine month, is a perfect opportunity for expressing our appreciation. For reservations **John Sotak** (301) 655-1103..



Holy Week Music

Palm Sunday: CHOIR 10:30 a.m. Mass
Holy Thursday: CHOIR 7:30 p.m. Mass
Good Friday: YOUTH CHOIR & INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE, Director **Vida Vaskys**, 7 p.m.

"That In All Things, God Is Glorified."

1 Peter 4:11

Easter Vigil will be supported by a "Schola Cantorum" ("school of singers") singers with advanced training

Easter Sunday (Apr. 16) CHOIR- 10:a.m. in large church

Easter Sunday - CONTEMPORARY MUSIC MINISTRY, 10:30 a.m. Director **Karen Courtney**, multipurpose room

Easter Choir first rehearsals on Sat, Mar.18 and Sat., April 1 -- 9:30-12:00 p..m . large church.

All are welcome to join to prepare a diverse selection of music for the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday.

Dr. Allan Laino, Director of Music and Liturgy



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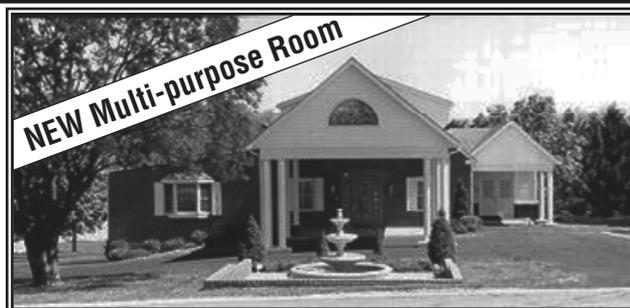


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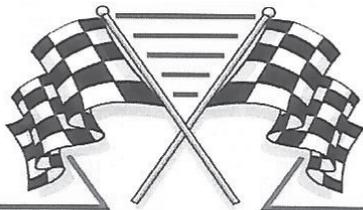
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Breakfast at St. Michael's

8:30 – Noon

4th Sunday of every month

(Except Dec & May)



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Pancakes, scrambled eggs, hash browns,
chipped beef w/gravy & biscuits, bacon,
sausage, baked apples, various breads,
cereal, coffee, tea, juice, milk.

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“LOOK WHO’S SITTING NEXT TO YOU” Since we gather together to praise our God as a community, it would be nice to know others on this faith journey. People are picked at random. Our thanks to this couple for sharing their story.



Family: Where life begins & love never ends

This is the family of **Marcus** and **Laura Devine Rosano** taking their children to Children's Christmas Choir practice for 2 months while pursuing 14 month Zoe as she investigated the church. Patience and fortitude, gifts of the Holy Spirit and foundations of family life.

They have come a long way from those years at Frostburg State University in 1997 when Marcus, typical frat boy, met freshman Laura in math class. They have been together ever since and were married in 2004 on the Eastern Shore.

Laura went on to earn her master's degree from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland (now Notre Dame University). She is now the 6th-grade reading teacher at Neelsville Middle School in Germantown. Marcus is Director of Media and Public Relations at Montgomery College and working on his master's degree in public relations management from UMUC. Their lives have been blessed with 3 children:

Siena, 6 , a first-grader at Twin Ridge Elementary, an avid reader and writer who enjoys art, playing the piano and playing lacrosse. She has been a dancer for four years for Concepts in Motivation and also with LOUYAA Poms and Dance. She is named after Marcus' grandmother whose maiden name was Siena.

Andrew, 5, in Pre-K, enjoys releasing his energy at HiYa Karate, played soccer for LOUYAA and excelled at picking clovers and bird watching! Next is tee-ball in the spring.

Zoe, 14 months, loves to be held and does her best to avoid naps. She likes to play with anything in the house that is NOT hers.



We spend a lot of time together as a family, whether it's Friday night movie night with popcorn – all over the floor! - or eating dinner outside on the back deck. It seems we've fallen in love with what God has given us, a nice community and a beautiful family.

We love exploring small towns and Main Streets. Being from New England, Marcus was attracted to the character and neighborly warmth of Mount Airy and the “Friday Night Lights” feel of the Lancers football community. We also enjoy American history as we take drives to Gettysburg and Antietam, among other places, with their own stories. We once did a covered bridge tour through Pennsylvania. As we drive through random towns, Laura or Marcus, is often

Googling the historical facts and significance.

We vacation annually with Laura's family in Hatteras Beach, South Carolina, and with Marcus' dad in Myrtle Beach. Laura grew up in Deale, MD. Her dad lives on an inlet off the bay and while she and her dad go out on the boat, Marcus and the kids enjoy crabbing from his dock.

Individually, Marcus loves watching sports when time allows, mainly the Cowboys and his hometown UConn Huskies and New York Yankees. He also enjoys yard work and cooking! Laura coaches Siena's Pom Squad, likes going to the gym, and helping Mothers' Club at St. Michael with the club's initiatives. While Laura is from southern Maryland and Marcus is from often-snowy Connecticut, Laura is the one who loves to ski; Marcus has never been on skis!

While he's a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan, Marcus interned with the *Cumberland Times-News* while at Frostburg covering none other than the Washington Redskins. Laura surprised Marcus a few years ago Christmas morning with tickets to a Cowboys game; they left that day! And the Cowboys beat the Redskins!

Laura's mom, Barbara, often sitting with us in Mass, lives in her own in-law space, and it is truly a blessing having her for not only us, but for our children.

A thought we like to remember is “*It is in Christ we find out who we are and what we are living for.*” Ephesians 1:11. Also we feel the Golden Rule – do unto others – is important to pass on to our children in their dealings with friends and classmates. Siena has become wonderful friends with two special needs boys at school, and we take pride in knowing she helps them if they are in need.

Also, we beamed one day at the Mount Airy carnival when Andrew ran up to a boy and gave him a huge hug. The little boy was an African American friend from pre-K and the fact that our son showed something we long to see in our country – pure unconsciousness to skin color – it was something beautiful. The faces on the bystanders around us, just priceless.

We are incredibly grateful for the warmth and support the parishioners of St. Michaels have shown our family, especially **Ida “Church Grandma” Famoso** in the back row at 8 a.m. Sunday Mass and **Deacon Cliff** who presided over the most wonderful christening for Zoe.

Our Next New Parishioner MEET & GREET Sunday



March 5 in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 Sunday Mass from **11:30-12:30**
Come and meet clergy,

staff, and volunteers, and a guided tour of the campus along with donuts and coffee.

The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers.

~Everett Mámor

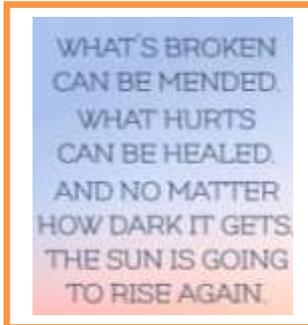
grow. share. serve.



Sharing Opportunity in 2 Ministries

Over the past few months, there have

been several workers who have retired and/or moved away. The few hours you share would greatly benefit the parish and yourself. Both are well-organized into teams; making your time effective and productive.



DIVORCE RECOVERY MINISTRY

meets once a week at St. Michael, every Wed. 7 p.m. in Room A-120. Healing Hearts Support Group for the Separated and Divorced. It does not matter if your divorce was 10 months ago or 10 years ago, this about healing hearts Weekly meeting topics include: shock, denial, fear, anger, depression, loneliness, financial issue, custody and visitation, annulment, dating

again, marriage, sex, chastity and singleness. This process takes time, effort, prayer, and faith. Here you can meet with others who understand where you are. You are not alone! Hope and Healing are possible after a Separation or Divorce - through Christ all things are possible.

Journey of Hope Program (12 weeks) will start March 17. Subsequent chapters will be continued in April and ending in June. These video programs and the discussions following have been found to be extremely helpful to participants. For more information contact **Irene** at StMHealingHearts@gmail.com or **Deacon Harbey**, healinghearts@stmichaelspoplarsprings.org.

ANNUAL SINGLE AGAIN CONFERENCE April 29, 2017, at Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, Md. 8:15 a.m. -4:15 p.m. (followed by Mass at 4:30 p.m.) ministering to the Separated, Widowed and Divorced. This JOURNEY OF HEALING. CONFERENCE topics include: anger and forgiveness, bereavement, annulments, dating and healthy relationships, and impact of divorce on children and families. You are not alone in this journey, or solely defined by your past choices, mistakes, or loss of relationships. Join us for a day of prayer, workshops, and fellowship, as we walk this road together. If interested in volunteering the day of conference, please call **Irene** at #703-254-3888. or contact **Jeanne** at Ministry4SingleAgain@gmail.com



The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide - Personal Survival Guide by Rose Sweet



Rebuilding After Divorce: Making Your House a Home by Rose Sweet

Both available at AscensionPress.com

BINGO: on Mondays, (once every SIX (6) weeks)

- Two people or husband and wife to work from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the kitchen
- One person to work 2 p.m. -5 p.m. in the kitchen

Many people who are not parishioners and even some from other counties come and find a place to make new friendships and renew old ones. Some come after work and have their evening meal here; others are home all day and look forward to this evening for socializing and fun.

CORNERSTONE BREAKFAST

Assist in cashiering 10 a.m. to 12:30, once a month (4th Sundays only) This is a great opportunity for men and women to help their parish financially for the income from these two affairs provide much funding for the Church. Many in and out of the parish, look forward monthly to seeing friends, relatives, and neighbors. Here they can choose from a large breakfast menu, after a Sunday Mass and enjoy good food and conversation.

New to the parish? Here is your chance to quickly feel a part of this very warm and welcoming community. Contact **Al Cerrone** (301)514- 9859 Alan.cerrone@gmail.com.

Be a Responsible Catholic and Citizen! Be in the LOOP!

- **Catholics in Annapolis 2017- Feb.15 3 to 8 p.m.** St John Neumann Mission Church, Annapolis- Meet with state legislators and share the Catholic viewpoint on issues. A great turnout enforces our message. See The Maryland Catholic Conference web site for details.
- Biblestudyforcatholics.com/blog/ In this **Great Adventure blog** various writers speak about the Sunday readings and readings during the week plus many other articles to inform you about your God. Great preparation for Sunday Mass.
- Subscribe free to **The Loop**, daily delivering news online that you should know about from all over the world.
- **Catholic culture.org** -informative, wide range, free, sign up



"An educated, enlightened and informed population is one of the surest ways of promoting the health of a democracy."

Nelson Mandela

"Train up a child in the way he should go; Even when he is old he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6

grow.

Good parents give their children Roots and Wings.
Irresponsible parents give their children Everything!



This is CLOW- Children's Liturgy of the Word

for ages 3 to 3rd grade-

Children join the community at the beginning of 10:30 Sunday Mass. Then they are called to the altar for a blessing from the presiding priest and escorted to the library by an adult teacher as *The Word of God* is sung by the organist. There they hear the Word of God on their level before quietly returning to the sanctuary to sit with their families. Much appreciation to **Joann Wozniak** who coordinates 6 rotating volunteers each Sunday: **Cindi Curtin, Michele Difranco, Sheri Hudspeth, Lisa Noorani, Teri Petterson, and Melissa Udbinac.**

Keeping Christ in Christmas Poster Contest winners receive their awards



after Mass from the Knights of Columbus who sponsor this annually for religious ed grades 1 to 5. Six winners were **Sienna Cappuccino, Evelyn Crook, Christopher Vita, and Emma Glass,**(not pictured **Emma Zepp and Troy Jacobson.**) Pictured above are Knights **John Sotak, Charles Young, Joann Wozniak, Fr. Mike and Deacon Cliff Britton.**

MEET OUR ALTAR SERVERS



Each issue you can meet the young people who volunteer to serve Masses at St. Michael. We appreciate their dedication to the parish and would like to thank their parents who encourage them in their active part in our parish.

Now meet **Philip and Sam Danchik** who have served at the 8 a.m. Mass for many years. They especially enjoy the opportunity to build relationships with our deacons and priests, as well as visiting priests, bishops, and even the archbishop at confirmations. Sam is a sophomore at Mount Saint Joseph High School who enjoys reading, running, and drawing in his spare time. Philip, a homeschooled seventh grader, also plays soccer and loves the outdoors. Both boys enjoy a unique Catholic faith-building summer camp experience in Emmitsburg each year at Camp Veritas. They'd love to have some of their fellow parishioners join them on the altar or at camp this summer.

HAVE YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN TO THE PARISH LIBRARY TO SEE ALL THE CRITTERS THERE? 150 animals

are mentioned in the Bible. Wow! For example, the picture of the perfect lamb as a sin offering can be found consistently in Scripture from Genesis through Revelation. But did you know there are 70 animals in the church library? Yes, stop in, and while you're browsing the shelves of multi-media materials - *regardez-vous* the beautiful sculptures of creatures great and small, wild and domesticated, exotic and familiar.

Animals can teach us lessons and certainly inspire us to wonder and awe at God's creation. And there are 10 animal-friendly quotes in Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*, his exhaustive letter to the Catholic Church on caring for the environment, He didn't fail to that address our treatment and view of animals. We never have to doubt where the Catholic Church stands on responsible stewardship as applied also to the animal kingdom. *"But now ask the beasts to teach you, and the birds of the air to tell you; or the reptiles on earth to instruct you, and the fish of the sea to inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of God has done this? In His hand is the soul of every living thing, and the life breath of all mankind"* (Jb 12:7-10).



See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. " Matthew 1 8:10

Did You Know That...

YES, Mary is truly our mother.

Just like earthly mothers, she is watching over us, anticipating our problems, and ready to help when asked. Here are two examples of her spiritual attentiveness to us.



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

From 16th century to 1990, this painting has been lost, hidden, and miraculously found several times. Mary is determined that we know her. In 1990, Carbon -14 test indicate it was from the years 1325 to 1480. Its final resting place is with the Redemptorists in Rome. Under this title Mary is venerated across many cultures. Go on line to see all the symbols in this icon. Notice how she seems to look at you. Notice her open hand.

OUR LADY UNDOER OF KNOTS

This is a 1770 Baroque painting, promoted by Pope Francis, who discovered it while studying in Germany in 1980. Ever since he has had great devotion to Mary under this title. The concept of Mary untying knots is derived from a work by St. Irenaeus of Lyons in his Against Heresies. In that he presents a parallel between Eve and Mary, describing how "the knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary.



MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS, pray for us.

Through your grace, your intercession, and your example, deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God and each other in our families, so that we, free from sin and error, may find God in all things, may have our hearts placed in God, and may serve God always in our brothers and sisters. Amen.



This blue ribbon reminds us of our fight against COLON CANCER. Colorectal cancer is the 4th most common cancer in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death from cancer. Colorectal cancer affects people

in all groups most often in people age 50 and older. However, if everyone age 50 and older were screened regularly, 6 out of 10 deaths from this cancer could be prevented. The need to be screened is essential and March is the month to raise this awareness- also exercise, healthy eating habits (fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products, lean meats, poultry, fish, beans, eggs and nuts, limiting saturated and *trans* fats, sodium, and added sugars and controlled portion sizes. Learn about screening: <http://bit.ly/2cr2aJd> and <http://1.usa.gov/1bSOLjN>, covered under the health care reform law. "Take care of your health, that it may serve you to serve God." St. Francis de Sales

"COMPUTER GEEK" TAKES ONE MORE STEP TOWARD SAINTHOOD!

Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old Italian boy who died in 2006 of leukemia, cataloged all of the 136 Eucharistic miracles in the world. He was a well-loved teenager who devoted himself to prayer and daily



Mass as well as computer programming and a myriad of electronic ventures that many considered him a genius. He started his Eucharistic project when he was 11 and wrote "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus and have a foretaste of Heaven." His web site to house this virtual museum and presentations have traveled around the world. He remains an inspiration, especially to teenagers who aren't sure whether they could be both holy and "normal." He loved friends, and his work with children and the elderly. "Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven." "All people are born as originals," he said, "but many die as photocopies." "To die as an "original," Carlo maintained, was to be guided by Christ, and to look at Him constantly. The first steps toward canonization has been completed; now it moves toward his being declared Venerable by the Pope.

THERE IS A NEW RELIGIOUS ORDER,

THE SISTERS OF LIFE! They were founded in 1991 to protect and enhance the sacredness of all human life. After a visit to Dachau Concentration Camp. John J. O'Connor (later archbishop of New York proclaimed "Good God, how could human beings do this to other



human beings?" He then vowed to do all he could to protect and enhance the sacredness of every human life. He prayed for understanding and direction and his eyes fell upon this Scripture: " This kind of demon can only be cast out by prayer and fasting" and another life-transforming grace was his. After his weekly newspaper column titled: "Help Wanted: Sister of Life," 8 women entered the newly formed community. Now with over 70 sisters, they offer retreats, shelter pregnant women in New York and Canada among a myriad of their outreaches. This active community also spends 4 hours a day in common prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

"Somehow, I am necessary for God's purpose, as necessary in my place as an archangel in his." Cardinal John Henry Newman

SCRIPTURE for a CHANGE

by Dr. Tim Gray

Many Christians find prayer difficult and, as a result, do not do much of it. The fact is, many simply do not know how to pray. Even St Paul notes this sad fact when, in Romans 8:26, "We do not know how to pray as we ought." This book, for a popular audience, was written by a well-known Catholic biblical scholar. Here you may discover how to enter into a lively dialogue with God: the ancient art of *Lectio Divina* (divine, or sacred reading), which is reading, meditating, and praying the Scriptures. "When we pray, we speak to God; when we read Scripture, God speaks to us." Available at Amazon and.AscensionPress.com

O MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP,

I invoke your powerful name
which is the safeguard of the living and
the salvation of the dying.
O purest and sweetest Mary, hear me
when I call upon you for help
in all my physical and spiritual needs.
I offer myself into your hands.
Hold me close to your heart
as you held your Son Jesus,
and ask the angels, Michael, and Gabriel,
to keep watch over me always
in times of trouble and temptation. Amen

MONKEY MIND

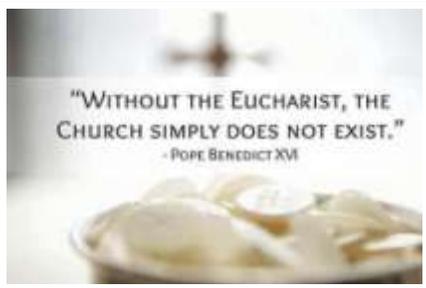
Someone asked me to share what was unfolding in me as I sat in perfect stillness in the chapel.

I replied, "Monkeys." I then explained that, although exteriorly I may appear to be centered and quiet in prayer, I continually struggle with what the Buddhists call "monkey mind," that interior chatter that goes on within me when I engage in meditation, as if a dozen monkeys were all clamoring for attention.

Years ago, I was quite discouraged at my failure to silence the monkey mind and live a tranquil prayer life. With wisdom, I have come to believe that God calls us not to perfection, but to faithfulness, to continually start over, start fresh, start anew, and not give up.

Lord God, teach me to pray not give up, and be patient with myself.

Breathe in me,
O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts
May all be holy.
Act in me,
O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too,
May be holy.
Draw my heart,
O Holy Spirit,
That I love
But what is holy.
Strengthen me,
O Holy Spirit,
To defend
All that is holy,
Guard me, then,
O Holy Spirit,
That I always
May be holy.
St. Augustine



WHAT'S GOING ON? For your calendars or refrigerator door. * Details inside.

Feb. 3	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 4:30 p..m.
Feb. 4	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in Feb.
Feb. 4	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Feb. 4	*Pasta Dinner, 5:30 to 7 p.m. sponsored by Knights of Columbus
Feb. 5	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Feb. 18	Lunches made & delivered for needy in Baltimore & Beacon House
Feb. 18-19	Health Ministry- B/P screening after all Masses in library
Feb. 26	*Cornerstone Breakfast: 8:30 to 12:30: extended hours & menu
Feb. 28	O.W.L.S. luncheon - Mt. Airy Tavern, 11:30 -1:30 p.m.
Mar. 1	Ash Wednesday - Lent begins- prayer, fasting, almsgiving
Mar. 2	* <i>Forgiven</i> program starts - 5 weeks- 6:45 to 8:30 p.m.
Mar. 3	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 4:30 p..m
Mar. 3	Stations of the Cross , 7:30 p.m. every Fri. in Lent
Mar. 4	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in March
Mar. 4	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Mar. 4 & 5	*Archbishop's Appeal kick-off for archdiocesan initiatives
Mar. 4 & 5	Fiesta Kick-off for our May 6 PARISH SPRING EVENT
Mar. 5	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Mar. 18	Lunches made & delivered for needy in Baltimore & Beacon House
Mar. 26	*Cornerstone Breakfast: 8:30 to 12:30: extended hours & menu
Mar. 28	O.W.L.S. luncheon - Mt. Airy Tavern, 11:30 -1:30 p.m.
May 6	St. Michael Spring Event - a Fiesta! - 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
St. Michael Messenger Published 5 times yearly Editor: Carole Eber	

LAPSED IN FAITH
Lord, I thank You for the gift of faith. I know that faith is a gift. Faith can't be created merely by our wanting or wishing it. But you taught us to ask for what we need, and so I ask that you give a renewed faith to _____ who seems spiritually adrift and no longer believes. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

✠

"Cast all your cares on Him because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

✠

"TRUST in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all ways, acknowledge Him and He will direct your path." Proverbs 3:5

✠

DIVINE REVERSAL:" God's ways are not the way humans think and plan. Believers sometimes can discover in their so-called failure, examples of divine reversals, a better plan, a more rewarding venture. What looks initially like a set-back can be an opportunity for course correction."
John J. Pilch