

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



St. Michael Messenger

Poplar Springs, MD. Sept. 2, 2016

Volume 14 – Issue No. 1



St. Michael's Feast Day Festival

ANNUAL FALL PARTY - SEPT. 17 - 6 TO 9 P.M.



Once again we will be gathering to celebrate our patron saint, St. Michael, the Archangel and our parish family. Following the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass, the festivities begin with dinner and dessert prepared by Al **Cerrone** and his helpers. If you have ever been at Al's Christmas dinner thank you for his bingo workers, you know what a cook Al is!

Then all evening people can wander around the fields outside church for a moon bounce, photo booth, carnival games, lawn games, and our favorite cake walk, where you can win baked goods prepared by your fellow parishioners. With a background of live music to suit all tastes, the evening will end by relaxing on a blanket to enjoy a family-friendly movie TBA on a big screen and naturally popcorn available.

GIFT OF HOURS **share** and **serve** opportunities to bring this off:

- Manpower to set-up and take-down the tents, stage, tables, etc.
- Food assistants – cooking or serving
- Volunteers to supervise the moon bounces and the carnival games (must be STAND trained)
- Bakers to provide goods for the cake walk
- Ticket sellers before and after Masses
- Ticket takers at the entrance to the festival grounds



Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthex, and an email containing a link if you would like to sign up online. Contact person is **Carolyn Pasquino** [carolynpasquino@comcast.net] Even working on this is FUN!

Double Dose of Fun on SEPT. 17

The Wing & A Prayer 5K Run/Walk



The WING & a PRAYER 5K Run/Walk

5K - 8 a.m. (rain or shine)-- awards 9:15 a.m. Kids' Fun Run - 9 a. m. (1/2 mile)

Start and Finish at St. Michael Church T-SHIRTS, TROPHIES, MEDALS Free food and drinks at finish line.
Water on the course. Proceeds support St. Michael Youth Group Work Camp and Habitat for Humanity.
Entry forms can be downloaded on parish website and in the narthex Wing and Prayer 5K table.



The Gift of Hours: grow. pray. serve. give. share.



Grow our faith community with your presence worshipping God at Mass but also by participating

in the many times we gather together for fellowship. It is there that we share our love for God, by serving God through others with our gifts and talents. So many varied ways to grow!

Grow.

**Be not afraid
of growing slowly,
be afraid only
of standing still.**

Chinese proverb

A VOID TO FILL

We haven't been able to field the needed number of



team members for a Kairos weekend in some time due to the growth of **the ministry to the imprisoned.** The Kairos model calls for 45 men to support a Kairos weekend, and we often go in with 30 – 35. Sometimes less. If you have been considering Kairos, the need has never been greater! God has great things in store, but He gives the free will to choose to be His hands and feet and participate in His saving work.

We have several weekends to prepare for our taking Jesus into 7 prisons this fall.



Please prayerfully accompany us with your Masses and prayers. For some consider if you're being called to this unique opportunity to serve the least among us in a dark place. Contact **Tim Gaydosh** at 301-703-5908 or **Tony DeMattia** at 301-305-5037.



"FOLLOW ME: MEETING JESUS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN" will be our adult ed class this fall - 8 wks by Edward Sri, Tues. Sept .20 at 10 a.m. or Thurs. Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. in room A00 7. Following Christ takes more than simply believing in him or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer --He wants you to be his disciple and

friend. This can be your guide to a personal encounter with Christ. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus seeks after us. He comes to meet us and beckons us to follow him and experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. Register by contacting **Stacey Ford**, DRE at Sford@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org or by calling 240-437-3671. The cost of the study workbook is \$20.



MESSY & FOOLISH - by Matthew Warner, a small but mighty book, written to inspire you to quit the lesser pursuits of your life and accept nothing less than the joyful, adventure-filled life God intends you to live. Share your thoughts Mon. Oct. 10, 7 p.m. in the library.

Contact **Stacey Ford** for more information. 240-437-3671.



RCIA for those inquiring about becoming Catholic. A new group is forming. Contact **Stacey Ford** 240-437-3671.

Celebrating the Growth of our Parish Legacy Gifts Program

Sept. 24 (after 5 p.m. Mass

Sept. 25 after the 8 a.m. Mass in the Fellowship Hall

The Legacy League is a growing number of parishioners who have given, or have designated a gift through their resources; such as a bequest in their will or a commitment to our Parish Endowment Program. A brief presentation will update you on the progress of building Legacy gifts at St. Michael Parish. All parishioners are welcome to ask questions and share refreshments. The Legacy League was created in 2006, come and see the exciting results of the foresight and generosity of our parishioners over the past decade. **Don't miss the Testimony display in the Narthex! The faith stories of Legacy League members are beautiful!**

A bequest to your parish is a gift of faith which will help preserve our catholic heritage. If you choose to leave a bequest to our endowment, you can become the donor who "never dies" because your gift will continue to produce funds into perpetuity. Perhaps you have already made a provision through your will for a future gift to our parish. If so, please let us know.

The Latest Fund:

The Robert and Nancy Landsman Fund for Parish Support

"It has been almost thirty years since we became parishioners at St. Michael Church. In that time our family has grown to include our four children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law and most recently our first grandchild. We chose to create a Legacy League endowment as a way of giving back, to Saint Michael's, for all that it has been to our family. Whether it was attending weekly Mass, serving as altar servers, catechist, or Eucharistic minister, attending work camp and other youth group programs, Saint Michael's provided a strong foundation for each member of our family. Our daughter-in-law, Allie, became a member of the Catholic Church through the RCIA program here at Saint Michael's. Though our travels occasionally take us to other parishes for Mass, it is always nice to celebrate the Eucharist with our friends and family here in Poplar Springs. We encourage you to reflect upon all that Saint Michael's has meant to you and yours, and prayerfully consider establishing an endowment of your own."





Pray for at least one hour weekly to develop your relationship with God. For at least 10 minutes daily, remove yourself from the hustle and bustle of daily life for a time to be with God. Open your heart, speak to Him, listen to Him. Pray for others throughout your day.

Pray. Grow.

**The Mass is our highest form of prayer.
It is our WORSHIPPING God!**

"O Sacred Banquet in which Christ is received as food, the memory of His passion is renewed, the soul is filled with grace and a pledge of life to come is given to us." St. Thomas Aquinas

Grow our faith community with your presence. The Mass is the source and summit of our life of faith. Prayerfully **assist** at Mass 1 hour weekly. Unite your prayers of thanksgiving with others for the good of your soul, your family, our parish, and the Church world-wide. Our parish is committed to supporting every family's ability to attend



Did you know that each month about 20 Marian feasts are celebrated all over the world? In our country in just 2 months we honor her especially on these days:
Nativity of Mary-----Sept. 8
Holy Name of Mary-----Sept. 12
Our Lady of Sorrows-----Sept. 15
Our Lady of La Salette-----Sept. 19
Our Lady of Ransom-----Sept. 24
Our Lady of the Rosary-----Oct. 7
Our Lady of Victory-----Oct. 26

The 7 Sorrows of Mary

As Mary stood at the foot of the Cross on which Jesus hung, the sword of sorrow Simeon had foretold pierced her soul. Below are the seven sorrows of Mary:

1. Simeon's prophecy
2. The flight into Egypt
3. Loss of the Child Jesus for 3 days
4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary
5. Crucifixion of Jesus
6. Jesus taken down from the Cross
7. The burial of Jesus

Note we say **ASSIST** at Mass, not merely attend it. The word assist stresses that we are actively involved with the priest in the offering of Jesus to God along with offering ourselves to God.

Not only assist at Mass on these days if you can, (9 a.m. Mass daily in the small church) but also pray the rosary to grow closer to Mary and her Son by meditating on their lives. Note how much their lives are similar to ours today. If you don't know the origin of these feasts, look them up. You will be amazed at how involved she is with those her Son loves so much.

**Our Bi-Annual
LIVING
ROSARY
Sun. Oct. 16
7 p.m.
at the grotto**

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: "God's ways are not the way humans think and plan. Believers sometime can discover in their so-called failure, examples of **divine reversals**, a better plan, a more rewarding venture. What looks initially like a setback can be an opportunity for course correction."

John J. Pilch

Followed by Benediction in the large church. Come and be blessed by the Blessed Sacrament!



All ages gather in a large circle, each holding a bead and leading us in the rosary prayers.

TROUBLE FALLING ASLEEP AT NIGHT? Try slowly, thoughtfully reading a few verses from the Bible or parts of a psalm. What do these words mean to you? There are many books giving a short verse a day, such as *Daily Devotions* with William Barclay or daily booklets such as *Give Us this Day* or *Magnificat* with evening prayers and thoughts. You will be amazed at how much this slows you down, relaxes you, reminds you of God's constant care for you, and prepares you to go off to sleep.



Every sunrise is a message from God.

A MORNING PRAYER:

I pray that I will use this day ahead as a loving gift to God, filled with awareness and appreciation for all His gifts to me. (At bedtime, can you count 5 gifts you received from God that day? Try to keep it to 5. You will be amazed



I pray for those who suffer inner turmoil, difficulties, and trials that they may find in Christ the light and support that leads to authentic happiness.

I pray also for those who face the hardships of life without the benefit of faith, Christ's presence in others will be the light that leads them to God. Pray them all into the life of God.

A NIGHT PRAYER: Lord, I commit my failures as well as my successes into your hands, and I bring for Your healing, the people and situations, the wrongs and the hurts of the past. Give me courage, strength, and generosity to let go and move on, leaving the past behind me, and living the present to the full. Lead me always to be positive entrusting

the past to Your mercy,
the present to Your love, and
the future to Your providence

St. Augustine



Serve your community by volunteering one hour of your time each week. The gift of an hour of your time combined with others can meet immeasurable needs. Here are some of the ministries within our parish who would welcome the gift of your time and talent.



I shall not pass this way again. Any good thing that I can do, or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now! Let me not defer it or neglect it. For I shall not pass this way again.

In previous issues, we have focused on various ministries active at St. Michael Church. In this issue, we will highlight the **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**. This ministry stretches over a wide variety of needs in nearby communities. The one thing all of its ministries have in common is the gift of themselves in service to Our Lord and our parish. It is amazing that the participants cover a wide variety of ages. The groups meet on their own depending on the need and time of year.

- BEACON HOUSE** -hot meals organized by **Bev Shaffer** & delivered and served at Frederick homeless shelter monthly .
- BEREAVEMENT Support Group** - led by **Amy Kulesa** for those suffering the loss of a loved one recently on in the past
- CANCER Support Group** - moderated by **Cindy Beljan**, a cancer survivor herself - details, dates, and time TBA
- FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY - (DONUT SUNDAY)** is faithfully hosted the first Sunday of every month by **Christa Pusateri**,
- FOOD CELLAR** - three food delivery events per year and at Christmas time delivery of gift bundles
- CARING & SHARING TREE** - up in the narthax for people to take tags to fulfill Christmas gift wishes
- FUNERAL LUNCHEONS** -organized and initiated by **Mary Jane Brett** with parishioners cooking and serving
- GARDENING** - **Visa Vilar's** family and so many others using their talents and God's green earth to feed those in need
- HEALTH CARE** - services throughout the year (ex. blood pressure screenings) directed by **Linda Petro** and vol. nurses
- O.W.L.S. - Older, Wiser Leaders of Society Seniors-** trips, luncheons, companionship led by **Pamela Schettler**
- PASTORAL VISITS** - **Don** and **Margie D'Valle** lead a group bringing the Word and Blessed Sacrament to the sick
- RESPECT LIFE** - very active group involved in a variety of ways to foster the culture of life led by **Katie Baran**
- SCHOOL BACKPACKS** - filling backpack with items on a tag for students in need under direction of **Karen Gaydosh**
Staff liaison is **Joann Wozniak**. Liaisons to the pastoral council are **Bob Rossomondo** and **Laura Heck**.

HOW THOSE LEADING THESE MINISTRIES VIEW THESE SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Mary Jane Brett

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS



I could never do this job alone. It takes so many people contributing, not only their time but all the food they cook and donate. Our first funeral luncheon was in 1997, when I approached Fr. Mike with this need. Since then we have been serving luncheons. Sometimes there are 2 or 3 funerals a week and still our parishioners come to cook, bring dishes from home, decorate the tables, and serve. The families we serve are so grateful for these luncheons at a time of such sadness and confusion for them. They need to gather with relatives and friends, but don't have the space at home or the ability to plan and host such an event. We are blessed to be of help to them at this time. Considering the short notice we usually get and often the large numbers we are to prepare for, I am so grateful and astounded at how our group organizes it all so efficiency and quickly. My thanks to all who make this possible. And yes, I am always looking for more cooks and workers.

Linda Petro - HEALTH CARE



This ministry began at St. Michael's in 2003. Retired and considering what next, I took a parish nurse course through Frederick Community College. The approach was caring for Mind, Body and Spirit within the realm of a Faith Community. With Fr. Mike's approval medical personnel from the parish were recruited to begin offering blood pressure screening quarterly after all Masses. This activity helps to educate individuals regarding the importance of knowing what those numbers mean, review their medication regime, and the importance of diet and regular exercise to their health. Several people were directed to visit their physician for further evaluation, perhaps averting a serious outcome. While we have 14 volunteers for this service, some are not always available. Ideally we need 2 screeners at each Mass. I would greatly appreciate if other parishioners with a medical background would consider participating in this 15 minute quarterly activity. This ministry also includes semi-annual Red Cross Blood Drives. We are blessed to have 3-4 non-medical parishioners, who assist with the registration and post-donation greetings and refreshments for the 30+ regular donors, faithful parishioners. Throughout the year this ministry offers programs and speakers addressing multiple topics related to health and wellness.

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

Serve.



"Faith by itself if it is not accompanied by action is dead. . . Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." James 2:17-18

Pamela Schettler

O.W.L.S MINISTRY



Karen Gaydosh - BACKPACK MINISTRY

I have coordinated the backpack ministry for the past two years. I stepped in after **Noreen Christian** moved away after many years of dedicated service. Since I am a Pre-K



Assistant at OLPH in Ellicott City, I know the importance of children being prepared for school. This ministry ensures that all children have the necessary items needed to succeed in school. Our ministry collected 258 backpacks this year from generous parishioners with approximately 163 going to Sarah's Hope in Baltimore City and the remaining 95 going to Beacon House/Frederick Rescue Mission all an increase from last year. I enjoy this ministry because it makes me feel like I am able to help children in some small way.

Of course, the generosity really comes from our wonderful parishioners. Each filled back-pack cost about \$20. This year, I was also blessed to have the newly formed St. Michael's Mom's group assist with the drive. They stepped up to hand out tags and to also check in returned backpacks. It was great to have the assistance of these wonderful ladies. I also was helped by **Marie Welsh**, who helped me with announcements for the weekend bulletin and before Masses.



This year, I added to each backpack a blessing written by Fr. Mike. So, as you can see, this ministry really comes together with a lot of people's help. This, as many of our ministries, was a family affair with **Tim** and our children **Grace** and **Gregory** checking and transporting the backpacks from the narthex to the music room for storage until pick up day. Next year, the Mom's group will officially take over this ministry. It only seems fitting that a group of dedicated moms requested that they spearhead this effort.



Linda Nash CARING & SHARING TREE

The little, bare limbed Charlie Brown tree that appears in St. Michael's atrium every year after Thanksgiving isn't very pretty, but what it represents is BEAUTIFUL. The skinny, but mighty braches of this tree will



hold over 400 tags listing the Christmas the Christmas wishes and needs of approximately 50 local families that are in need of a little hope, love, and faith. St. Michael's parishioners answer the call through their gifts of service, time, and generosity to share God's love with others and help brighten someone else's Christmas.

This ministry has a small, but growing group of committed volunteers who tackle various jobs registering tags after Masses, sorting and bundling presents, and making phone calls for gift ideas, **Virginia Titus** has faithfully made calls for the past three years and looks forward to this task which she feels is a blessing to listen and empathize with the daily challenges that these families are facing. She is helping to create a special bond and trust for families to feel the comfort and love of a community.

Over the past three years chairing this ministry with my husband, **Steve** and our children, **Andrew** and **Ashley**, we have learned to work together for a greater good and have grown spiritually as a family. We have met some extremely giving parishioners; volunteers who are humbled by this way to serve God. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, hear what these families have to say about it: **Askeland** family, **Carol** and **Steve Coffey**, **Bob** and **Nancy Landsman**, the **Rankin** family, the **Seidel** family, the **Strong** family, and the **Titus** family.

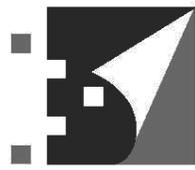


In September of 2003, a parish staff member named Amy Sorensen (now **Amy Kulesa**) requested anyone interested in forming a Seniors' Club at St. Michael's to contact her. 33 people attended a kick-off meeting to discuss ways to provide opportunities for fellowship, friendship, prayerful support, and trips and activities of interest for those 50 years or better in our parish and beyond. Soon, monthly luncheons were held in the church hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with food prepared by attendees on a rotating basis. After several years, these meetings (some with speakers on topics of interest to seniors) were moved to area restaurants.

Early on, the group adopted the name Older, Wiser, Leaders of Society (or "O.W.L.S."). Besides monthly luncheons, other activities include numerous theater trips and an annual retreat day in Emmitsburg, MD or at the Shrine of St. Anthony, in Ellicott City, MD, Trips are open to friends and family members of all ages. Through the years, the O.W.L.S. have contributed to the parish community through donations to the Poor Box Fund, purchase of bibles for the youth confirmation class, and preparation of meals for special events such as lunches for workers setting up for the annual Hoedown.

Participants from 2003 who are still active in the group are **Mikki Lemon**, **Leona Mahon**, **Liz Pichini**, **Inez Thomas**, and **Pamela Schettler** (who has coordinated the group's activities since 2003). We welcome any who would like to join us for our luncheon meetings at the Mount Airy Tavern in the Twin Arch shopping center from 11:30 to 1:30 on the fourth Tuesday of each month

Call **Pamela Schettler** at (301) 831-5067 for further information or if you need a ride. Always watch this parish newsletter and the weekly bulletins for announcements about upcoming luncheons and trips.



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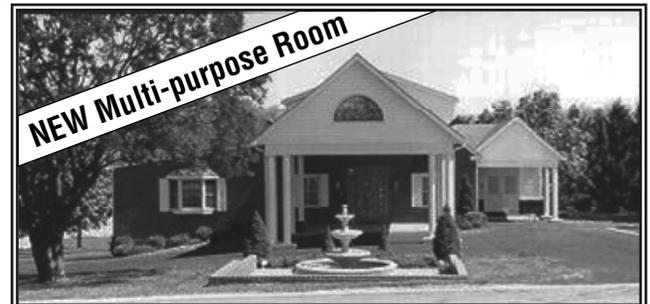


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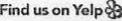
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Spend an hour weekly sharing Christ with others. Look for ways and opportunities to share the Gospel with those around you. In fellowship, share with other parishioners the work God is doing in your life.



"Tell His glory among the nations; among all peoples, His marvelous deeds. For great is the Lord and highly to be praised." Ps. 93:3-4

Much like we are eager to tell people when we have found someone or something we love, the same should be true of God. We are so filled with love for Him and the blessings of the Spirit, that we cannot keep silent.

FAITH IN ACTION: OUR PARISH GARDEN

HOW THIS CAME ABOUT: I approached Ted about doing a veggie garden because my kids loved helping with lunches on Saturdays. Then I heard a homily and report about all the talent and treasures our parish has, a veggie garden seemed like a good fit with such a gorgeous campus. We knew Ted through the lunch making program and Middle School camp. He said that others had asked him about this, but it needed someone to get behind it. So a committee was formed with **Ethan Welsh**, a high school student and working on his Eagle Scout project, and **Christa Pustateri**, who is involved in gardening at St. Michael already and a Master Gardener in Carroll County. To control weeds Ethan was to build raised beds as his Eagle Scout project, and to recruit teens to help. Christa guided the planting decisions. We listed in the weekend bulletin all the equipment, seeds and helpers we needed.

OUR SHORT TERM GOAL: Donate our crops to those who may not have access to fresh vegetables. We contacted the Howard County Food Bank which was very amenable to this. We also hope to offer anyone in the parish who may need some fresh vegetables.

OUR LONG TERM GOAL: Offer one more way for our parishioners to reach out and share the gift of hours, through sharing. We have such an amazing parish, with so many interest and talents. This is another way for a family or even a group of friends to help out and help others.



Maria: "Let's get to work."



Ted & Reed have to play.



It's really growing!

HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW? Great!

We received lots of donations- dirt, plants, and other materials. Our thanks to **Emmett Full, Greenway Farms, Sun Nurseries, Home Depot** and others. In addition to our original committee, others have come forth to volunteer. We have not had a harvest yet, but there are some peppers and other items well on their way. We should have some lettuces, tomatoes, cauliflower and more this fall. And I really hope we can bring something to our parish picnic to show what we have done. I am thrilled that we have things started and really hope we can keep this going for years to come.

TRULY A FAMILY PROJECT My husband **Miguel**, our three children (**Reed 12, Evan 11, and Maria, 5**) and I joined the parish when we moved here in the summer of 2014. I work part time at a community mental health clinic in Westminster as a therapist, and Miguel is an anthropologist at National Geographic. Getting this going was not a quick process, especially because this summer we had the added task of cleaning up quite a bit after the tornado took out many trees on our property. But working together with others under the encouragement of **Ted Burkhardt**, an idea became a reality!

Lisa Vilar



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MOTHERS OF SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH meet in the Religious Ed wing on the first Thursday of each month from 7-8:30. Next meeting: Sept. 8
PURPOSE: for moms to feel a sense of fellowship in our faith, service to the church and community, and friendship with one another.
GUEST SPEAKER: Sept 8 -Theresa Fagan, expert on children's books with resources on incorporating virtue in books and media for our children
FUTURE EVENTS: are always being planned
WHO'S INVITED: all moms , Catholic or not, mothers of all age- We learn from others' experiences. Young mothers benefits from others' know-how.
CONTACTS: **Megan Smith** (megangriffin.smith@yahoo.com)
Kit Hart (hartkit@gmail.com)

What is the church library all about?

by Fr. Michael Ruane

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (Jn12:24) The sower has sown the seed. The farmer has patiently waited. The years of dormancy are over. Now is the time for bearing fruit! That has been my feeling or wish ever since the establishment of the 1,485 sq. ft. multi-media resource center in 2003. While many have benefited from its use, it is time, nonetheless, to make people ever more aware of its existence and purpose and invite greater support, exploration and use.

WHY WAS THE CHURCH LIBRARY CREATED?

Because as a teaching pastor I wanted to establish not only a Catholic (universal) but also an ecumenical, resource center for children and adults – Catholic because St. Michael, Poplar Springs, is a Catholic Church, and ecumenical because many of our married couples are in mixed-religion or interfaith relationships. Plus in seminary I was trained in the documents and principles of Vatican Council II and since have been involved in ecumenical association with local pastors of Lutheran, Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian, and Episcopal churches.

The idea is that the church library would serve as a community resource not only for parents, teachers, and children in a parochial school setting but also for staff, parents, catechists and students in the K to 12 religious education and adult faith-building programs. But, generally speaking, the library is for the spiritual enrichment and edification of the whole parish, especially for lay and clerical ecclesial ministers. Furthermore, it has the potential to be a resource for other churches in the south-central region, particularly as we focus on evangelization-based parish planning and the principle of clustering or sharing of resources and learning opportunities with nearby churches.

I was once frustrated by the lack of space and resources available to parishioners for research and study in parishes or by school libraries limited in scope and accessible only to teachers and children. Of course, my parish assignments had pamphlet racks that I maintained and I conducted religious book fairs to serve the educational needs. **But now, we have a church library broad in scope and accessible to the whole parish!**

THE CLEMENTINE VICTORIA RUANE LIBRARY

Since my mother, Clementine, was an avid reader almost up until the time of her death (fifty-one days shy of 103!), it was kind of **Don D'Valle**, when he served on the Pastoral Council, to move that the church library be named in memory of Clementine Victoria Ruane. You can see her photo at 100 years-old on the dedication plaque in the library.

Ninety-five percent of the materials in the library have been purchased at my expense and donated from my personal collection; and I still have lots of materials to bring over from my residence that will challenge, uplift and inspire; teach and instruct; enable and empower, and, yes, entertain!

I am grateful for the *Gift of Hours*, donated by **Peter and Lori Churchyard** for any technical help, and by **Nancy Curtin**, a would-be librarian, for her interest, enthusiasm, and six-year support, and by help given by the **Danchiks, Dottie Kaczmarek**, other volunteers and church staff. Upon his seeing the library Cardinal William O'Brien remarked: "What a lot of work!"

SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES & INTERESTS!

Attention, bibliophiles and videophiles! We know that the love of learning is connected with our holy longing for God, the Source of Wisdom, Beauty, Truth, and Goodness!

In addition, then, to the types of materials one would expect to find in a church library, e.g., sacred Scripture, biblical commentaries, philosophy and theology, lives of the saints, etc., one finds material on interfaith studies and world religions; nature, science, history, the performing arts, and wildlife to reinforce our awareness and experience of the natural world and to seek Enlightenment, Enrichment and Enhancement. *Lord, show us your goodness, present in every creature. We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. Because by Your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.*

Other media include great talks and courses by renown teachers on CD and DVD; sacred music from the early ages through contemporary and children's songs; family-friendly, inspirational feature films; religious art; images of strange and familiar animals!

LIBRARY HOURS

The library is open when the offices are open during the day and evening, and it is a self-service check out with explanation and forms on the desk to do so. There is access to the library before and after Masses and religious ed sessions – a nice bonus when parents drop off or are waiting to pick up their children. A return drop box is built into the librarian's desk.

It's a warm and comfortable welcoming space for relaxation, reading or for laptop homework. Visitors to our campus have remarked how unique and wonderful is the church library, impressed not only with the quantity but also with the quality of materials and the beautiful furnishings, ambience, décor, picture-window view, etc.

The word 'disciple' means 'one who learns'. I can relate to the Dominican motto: 'contemplata tradere', i.e., to hand on the fruits of one's studies, contemplation and research. I want to help parishioners Be Missionary Disciples trained and equipped to engage the culture, increase reverence for God's creation and the environment, and respect the sciences, in bringing the joy of the Gospel to others.

"Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?"
(Lk 12:4)

"Train a child in the ways he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Ps. 22:6

Grow. Pray. Serve. Give. Share.



Start a tradition: **BLESS YOUR CHILD** (no matter what the age) before they leave the house, so they are aware that God goes with them. Make the sign of the cross on their forehead and offer a little blessing in your own words. These make memories.

Oct. 2, 3, or 4 for class chosen

Sun.- 9:00 a.m. --10:15 a.m. (pre-K -9th)

Mon.- 7:00 p.m. --8:15 p.m. (1st to 9th)

Tues. - 7:00 p.m. --8:15 p.m. (1st to 9th)

➤ Blessing of back packs and students occurred at the 10:30 Mass, Aug. 28.

➤ Need for teachers and aides for Monday & Tuesday classes

➤ HOME STUDY starts Sept. 21, 7 to 8:15 in the hall

➤ Handbooks, registration forms, and information - See Faith Formation on stmichaelooplarspringas.org/church

*IF YOUR CHILD HAS SOME ANXIETY about going off to school, no matter what the age or reason, read **The Kissing Hand** by Audrey Penn. It makes a goodbye special. Also remind them of their own special Guardian Angel, God's gift to them in love.*

Children's Liturgy of the Word during 10:30 Mass. --the gospel on their level.



TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS:

✂ **WORK CAMP** -To be merciful like the Father - In June 38 youth and adults traveled to western Maryland to build foundations, frame houses,

in Oakland for Garrett County Habitat for Humanity and build a wheelchair ramp for a woman to get and out of her house safely. We also supported the Alzheimer Awareness fundraiser with Mike and Jody College.

✂ **MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP** with 128 middle school youth and 28 high school peer ministers along with a great group of chaperones explored aspects of Mercy each morning: Mandeville Mission, Fair Trade through CRS presented by Simone Blanchard, the Kairos prison ministry witnessed by **Tim Gaydosh**, and about the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center (an emergency shelter that provides homeless services to over 275 adults. In the afternoons there was swimming, rafting, and our annual trip to Hersey park.

✂ **THEOLOGY DISTILLED** is our young adult evening of faith, food, and good spirits. We began in May at the Mt Airy Inn where the conversation was started by **Jeff Pickard** in how his faith has carried him through his life and work.

MEET OUR ALTAR SERVERS

*Each issue we will introduce 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. In this issue meet **Nick and Natalie Davis**.*

Nicholas (Nick) and Natalie Davis are brother and sister who enjoy participating in the liturgical life of our parish as altar servers. They started their journey as altar servers at the end of last year. Nick and Natalie worked with different altar servers, and during the process they met wonderful people who helped them along the way. After a few months of great support and practice they were able to serve together.

Nicholas is a vibrant 6th grader, ready to start his new life as a middle schooler this year. Nick decided to become an altar server when Natalie asked about taking the altar serving training with Deacon Cliff. Since then, he has taken the responsibility very well and the most important part is that he enjoys working as a team with his little sister. Nicholas is an active reader from an early age; his favorite place to visit has always been the local library. At the moment he prefers books about history and geography, especially American history and military life. Along with his school activities, Nicholas practices karate, and he is looking forward to becoming a black belt in less than a year.

Natalie is a very active and outgoing 4th grader who could not wait to receive her First Holy Communion and to be an altar server. For Natalie being an altar server is a great honor, and she likes to be an active participant in the Sunday Mass. Natalie has also been part of the children's choir. It was such a great experience for her that she is looking forward to



singing in the choir this year. She also enjoys reading, writing, drawing, and hanging out with her friends. She is very passionate about karate and becoming a black belt. During the summer she is part of the dive team at the local swim club and spending summer days by the pool.

Being altar servers has been a great experience and they hope to continue doing it together for many years to come. They live in Woodbine with their parents **Robert and Claudia Davis**.

OUR APPRECIATION to **Deacon Cliff** who trains our altar servers in this service but also in the spirit and the wonders of what they are participating in. Also **Tricia Buckham** for her dedication to the laundering and ironing of the cassock and surplices. It is a time-consuming job for one person and she can surely use help with this on-going job. Please contact patriciabuckman@gmail.com. You can even iron some while your child is in rel ed class.

Share.



"Come into the Lord's presence singing for joy."

Spend an hour weekly sharing Christ with others. Look for ways and opportunities to share the Gospel with those around you. There is such a wide variety of ways to show the work God is doing in your life.

Do You Like Music?

Look at the variety of ways you can share your voice and talent for the glory of God!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

grade 1-5. Rehearsals begin in Oct. for the Christmas Pageant & Christmas Eve Children's Mass. Directed by **Gina Del Gandio** and **Allan Laino**.

YOUTH CHOIR & ENSEMBLE

singers and instrumentalists in grades 6-12. Rehearsals begin in September. Directed by **Vida Vaskys** (youthchoirmusic@verizon.net) and **Allan Laino**.

ADULT CHOIR

singers ages 18+. Rehearsals on Thurs. 7-9 p.m. in the large church beginning Sept. 1. No audition required. The repertoire includes traditional and contemporary hymns, motets, chant, spirituals, and anthems spanning over six centuries of sacred music repertory. Directed by **Allan Laino**.

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC MINISTRY

singers and instrumentalists ages 18+ interested in contemporary styles of sacred music. CMM rehearses on Mondays at 7 pm in the large church. Directed by **Karen Courtney** (karencourtney@verizon.net).

Visit the Music Ministry page on the website for information and sign-up forms.



GO PAPERLESS!



Sat. Nov 12 - 9 to 3

Think about helping out with the myriad of jobs to make this the annual success it always has been. Start planning for white elephant room items and the parish homemade specialties room and planting for the plant room. Watch the bulletin and Facebook page for more information! Proceeds from this festive fundraiser will be used to support Catholic Education.
Jody Lilly 443-996-2545



THE LARGEST & FIRST BAZAAR IN THE AREA!

Tables will be \$50 up until October 15 for early bird discounts.



❖ **Our nursery** will reopen after Labor Day. Check weekend bulletin for times and the help we need to make it work!

- ❖ That we have a new addition to our parish staff. She is **Jamie Thomas**, our part-time book keeper. She has been at home raising 4 children and is reentering the work force after a career in cost accounting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management from UMUC and has run a home-based business assisting small businesses with office administration tasks. Jamie will be working in the office on Tuesdays.
- ❖ Subscribe **FREE** to **THE LOOP**. Informative and upbeat, positive stories not covered in mass media e-mailed to you daily with current news, Catholic news, saint of the day, daily Mass readings, "on this day years ago" and often a joke or picture of faith. Quick! Concise! Fact-filled! YOU will be the best informed! Always something to talk about. <http://www.catholicvote.org/loop/>
- ❖ St. Michaels will offer a 4-week **Bereavement Support** Group on Thurs. evenings this fall starting Oct. 20th. Parishioners suffering the loss of a loved one recently or in the past are invited to participate in this gentle and supportive group experience to assist them in processing their grief. Contact **Amy Kulesa** to register at askulesa@gmail.com or 301-606-3216. We must have a minimum of 4-5 participants to hold the group.
- ❖ **BLOOD DRIVE** - Sat., Oct. 1st from 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m..

- ☰ **GOING PAPERLESS:** In an effort to stay eco-friendly and save money, St. Michael is going paperless for special holiday letters, Mass schedules and more. You can be informed through our
 - weekend bulletins after Mass parish Facebook page
 - **NEW** website at www.stmichaelpoplarsprings.org
 - email communications sent directly to you
 - *St. Michael Highlights*, a weekly emailed newsletter

If you do not have access to any of the above forms of communication and wish to receive information by US. mail, please call the parish offices at (240) 437-3660 or send an email to parish_secretary@stmichaelpoplarspring.org and request to be placed on our post office mailing list. Our next goal is to transform our 600+mailers for the *St. Michael Messenger Newsletter* to email and web publication by November!

- ☰ **NEW PARISH WEBSITE:** sleek and simplified design, color scheme and layout developed by **Marie Welsh**. www.stmichaelpoplarspring.org

- ☰ **YOU TUBE CHANNEL:** We have our own now where we can share more video information and content for the people of St Michael.



KNIGHTS on the GREEN

Sept. 26 - Holly Hills CC - Ijamsville, MD.
Open to all men and women
\$125 per player \$450 per foursome

- Green fees & cart
- Prizes
- Goodie bag
- Food & free cigars
- Silent auction
- Golf contests

Prize for Hole in One Contest is 2 yr. lease on 2017 Ford vehicle

9 a.m.-Continental Breakfast & Registration
10:45 - Registration Ends
11 a.m/ Shotgun Start
5 p.m. Awards Dinner

Charity Tournament to support Knights charitable works local and statewide

Paul Snyder 301-980-3293
John Sotak 301-655-1103

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 10525

Newly installed officers

Grand Knight: **Chuck Young, PGK**

Deputy Grand Knight: **Jim Moser**

Chancellor: **Paul Snyder**

Warden: **Ralph Trautwein**

Recorder: **Paul Fogleman**

Financial Secretary: **John Lackay, PGK**

Lecturer: **Richard Drexel**

Treasurer: **Martin Luchansky, PGK**

LADIES AUXILIARY

of the Knights of Columbus

Newly installed officers

President: **Carole Lyons**

Vice-President: **Joyce Lakatos**

Secretary: **Kay Peltzer**

Treasurer: **Kathy Brossart**

Our Popular Pasta Celebration is

Oct. 22!

Watch weekend bulletin for details



O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care. O Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, you are the patroness of our country. We implore you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son and bless our land with justice and peace. Amen

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, pray for us.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us

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

Sept. 2	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 7:30 p..m.
Sept. 3	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in Sept.
Sept. 3	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Sept. 4	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Sept. 8	*Mothers of St. Michael - 7 p.m. to 8: 30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Lunches made & delivered for needy in Baltimore & Beacon House
Sept. 17	* Wing & a Prayer 5K Run/Walk- 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. start times
Sept. 17	*St. Michael Feast Day Festival --after 5 p.m. Mass -- 6 to 9 p.m.
Sept 20	*Follow Me - St. John's gospel study - Tues. 10 a.m.
Sept. 22	*Follow Me - St. John's gospel study - Thurs. 7 p.m.-room A007
Sept. 25	*Cornerstone Breakfast: 8:30 to 12:30: extended hours & menu
Sept. 27	*O.W.L.S. Lunch - Mt. Airy Tavern, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 1	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in Oct.
Oct. 1	*Blood Drive - 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Oct. 1	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Oct. 2	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Oct. 2,3,4	- religious ed classes begin depending on class chosen
Oct. 7	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 7:30 p..m
Oct. 16	*Biannual Living Rosary - at grotto 7 p.m. Benediction follows
Oct. 15	Lunches made & delivered for needy in Baltimore & Beacon House
Oct. 23	*Cornerstone Breakfast: 8:30 to 12:30: extended hours & menu
Oct. 25	*O.W.L.S. Lunch - Mt. Airy Tavern, 11:30 -1:30 p.m
Nov. 12	*Annual Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Prayer Before Studying

O Lord, give me a keen understanding, a retentive memory, and the ability to grasp things correctly and fundamentally. Grant me the talent of being exact in my explanations and the ability to express myself with thoroughness and charm. Be with me at the beginning, direct the progress, and help in the completion. I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
St. Thomas Aquinas



Prayer Before Beginning a Task

Father, may everything I do begin with Your inspiration, and continue with Your saving help. Let our work always find its origins in You and through You reach completion. I ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, my brother and friend, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,, one God, forever and ever. Amen



"So that in all things, God may be glorified." Benedictine motto