

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



St. Michael Messenger

Poplar Springs, MD. November 5, 2016

Volume 14 – Issue No. 2



SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017 ST. MICHAEL SPRING EVENT

With the "Holy Guacamole" Fiesta only 6 months away, new co-chairs, **Laura Heck** and **Mike Fitzpatrick**, can't wait to get the planning started and want to invite many to be a part of the planning. From our spring fundraising events of previous years, we all know that this is an enormous and very professional production, so many hands, talents, and a lot of time are needed. So far a planning committee has met to lay the groundwork, but it is only a beginning. We have a theme and a whole list of specific tasks in need of leadership and workers. The wide list of opportunities to be a part of all this is on page 4 and also www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0A4AAA92EA4F58-2017

Our Party with a Purpose



While the purpose of this event is to have fun for adult parishioners and friends, it is also to make our multi-purpose pavilion a reality: our outdoor venue for meetings, summer camps, picnics, VBS, etc. From our 2016 spring Bull Roast, \$41,000 from the proceeds was used to update the site plan for the pavilion which had to be done before any work could begin. Also seed money was set aside toward construction and furnishing of the pavilion. It is estimated that we will need at least \$60K to erect the pavilion even though we plan to solicit donors for labor and materials.

OUR NEXT MILESTONE
After 12 years of previous successful spring affairs (Hoedowns and Bull Roasts), this year's venture will benefit from the organization files and counsels of our past creative and dynamic leaders:
**Gigi Ippolito,
Mary Ann Gehle &
Stephanie Scranton and
Cathy & Jay Stephens.**

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar

Nov. 12 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



- ✂ Vendors, Crafters & Artisans
- ✂ Jewelry
- ✂ Pictures with Santa
- ✂ Door prizes every hour

- ✂ Girl Scouts gift wrap service
- ◆ freshly prepared lunches to eat in quiet room
- ✂ Wreaths, Christmas ornaments, and decorations
- ◆ afghans
- ◆ gift baskets
- ✂ White Elephant Room, including potted plants and canned home goods!



.St. Michael's bazaar is the largest and earliest Christmas Bazaar of the season in this area !
For more bazaar features, see page 4.

Faith Stories



Catholic school and regular Mass attendance is the foundation of my faith journey. Like many, as I attended college and started as a young working professional, I fell away from those regular activities for no particular reason.

As my husband and I started a family we felt the need to bring our

children into the faith through the sacraments. I was faithful, but use the term loosely, and wasn't inspired by Catholicism until a few years ago.

As Lent was approaching I was searching for something meaningful to make Lent a purposeful time, to reconnect with my faith, find a deeper understanding, a personal relationship with God. What I found has changed my life.

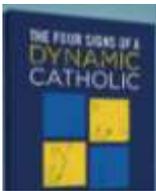
I stumbled across a web site called **Dynamic Catholic**. Secretly I smile when I say that for now I know it was the Holy Spirit quietly guiding me when I was open to listening and willing to grow in

**Gift of Hours
share. grow.**



faith. Dynamic Catholic offered a program called *Best Lent Ever*. Beginning Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, I read brief personal reflections that gave me simple ways to bring Jesus into my daily life. This has put me on a path that is awe inspiring and deeply moving.

Dynamic Catholic has a mission to *re-energize* the Catholic Church in America by developing world-class resources that inspire people to re-discover the genius of Catholicism. Based on our parish survey, this mission to re-energize Catholics is a definite need. I saw there are parishioners who feel as I did.



I was never a person to openly talk about religion. I think as Catholics we somehow feel that we shouldn't. Dynamic Catholic is helping me break that habit. As a result of my deepened love for my faith, I volunteered to be a member of our parish Evangelization Ministry team and be our Parish Champion of Dynamic Catholic This is stepping outside my comfort zone: reaching out to others by offering free books, CD's etc. to parishioners at selected Masses. This inspiration is from God; I'm just trying to do what I can to help others feel as passionate about our faith as I do. This isn't the only way to deepen one's faith; it just happens to be my way.

Dynamic Catholic's website: dynamiccatholic.com. may have what you are looking for. There you will find many resources to open your mind up to God. You can also sign up for daily e-mail messages *.Best Advent Ever: Rediscover Christmas* e-mails start Nov. 27 Sun. until Dec. 26. Mon. Videos & personal messages will be a part of it. **Lizanne Kile**

Tell Me Again, What Is This NEW Evangelization I Hear So Much About? What is NEW about it?

To whom it is directed?	Those who were baptized into the faith but have since left the fold for one reason or other
Who is to do it?	All baptized Catholics as people of God, not just priests, deacons, and religious orders
A new context	Not about increasing our numbers; it is about helping others to live the Christian lifestyle, connecting to the Gospel message, truly being disciples of Jesus, welcoming all back to the sacramental life.

"Go therefore and make disciples . . . and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

For a Child's Return to Faith

O God, You became human, suffered, and died to win salvation for all. Look graciously on our children, who have turned their backs to Your sacrifice, drifted away from the faith and apparently, from You as well. grant _____ Your grace to see the error of their ways and return to the fold and the reception of the Holy Eucharist. Teach me to stay close to each of them during this trying time. Help me to try to influence each by kindness and prayers more than by words that may antagonize. Amen.



"Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart." Ps. 90:12



EVANGELIZATION TAKES MANY FORMS: Your faith grows stronger when you share it with others. This spring consider joining a Kairos team. So many in prisons need and are waiting to meet Jesus. You can introduce them. You will be well prepared by instructional meetings, support of others, and much prayer. One college young man is considering joining his father in this evangelization ministry. How about you? Pray about it! Meanwhile we all should pray for this challenging truly life-giving ministry.

"Let us not think that we can hasten the coming of God's reign in others. It is all in God's hands; we are to pray and appeal to God who alone it is who transforms and saves. But let us appeal to Him with the simple conviction and in trust that He alone will do what must be done and will bring spiritual life to those for whom we act and pray."

Elizabeth Leseur, Servant of God (whose atheistic husband after her death read her letters, believed, and became a priest.)

"I will put my spirit in you that you may live." Ezekiel 37 :14

November: Remembering the Holy Souls in Purgatory



Gift of Hours

pray.



"The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster. . . but they are at peace. . . God tested them and found them worthy; like gold in the furnace he tried them. . . and he accepted them. They will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. . . and He watches over his elect."

Wisdom 3:1-9

Often read at funeral Masses.



The deceased whose funeral services Fr. Mike administered from November 2015 to November 2016

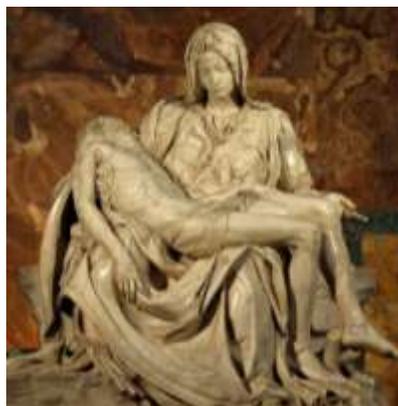
- August Ballabina
- Dan Bartolini
- Lou Borghans
- Frances Coolahan
- Delight Covill
- Robert Creel
- Audrey Full
- Lydia Gifford
- Christanne Haught
- Jean Holmes
- Marian Holmes
- Kathleen Kenyon
- Catherine Kiefer
- Charles Manzolillo
- Gloria Mariani
- John Martin
- John McKenna
- Ward Pleines
- Tom Rankin
- Doris Russ
- Hubert Sauter
- Elizabeth Simon
- Carolyn Surbrug
- Helene Tassallo

"We have a cemetery at St. Michael, Poplar Springs, devotedly maintained in the past by **E. Donald Warfield** and in the present by co-chairs **Doug B. Gasch** and **Larry Pugh**. During my pastorate here, I have met with families of the deceased and negotiated the sale of 316 grave sites. We have *The Bill and Inez Endowment* for the care and upkeep of the St. Michael Church Cemetery to which you can contribute and build up, through The Legacy League of The Catholic Community Foundation. The Archdiocese wants cemetery upkeep funds to be at the \$200,000 level. Our newest endowment, *The Earl Henderson Endowment* is dedicated to the cemetery perpetual care fund." Fr. Michael Ruane

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

Since the 7th century people have been buried in consecrated ground next to a church. At St. Michael our loved ones are put to rest next to our small church. Here we are very aware of our union with those who have gone before us. This is the spiritual union of the living and the dead: those on earth, those in heaven, and those in purgatory. For them we can offer Masses, prayers, the rosary, and good works. Though they cannot pray for themselves, they can pray for us, and we must pray for them.

O Mother of Mercy
I fervently recommend to your loving maternal heart, the Savior's beloved souls, who suffer still in purgatory, that quickly they may join in praising God in heaven and be comforted with eternal happiness. Amen.



Mary knew the sorrow of death depicted in the **PIETA**, as Michelangelo shows Mary mourning over Jesus.



The **PASCHAL CANDLE** lit at the head of the casket symbolizes Christ, dispelling the darkness of death and promising eternal life. The candle was prominent at our Baptism. Life has come full circle.

Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses offered throughout the world today for all the Holy Souls In Purgatory.

Good and gentle Jesus, Whose loving Heart was ever troubled by the sorrows of others, look with pity upon the holy souls in Purgatory. Eternal rest grant unto them, O, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Gift of Hours



serve.

"God has given each of you a gift from - His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. So that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory and the power forever and ever."
1 Peter 4:10

Be a part of our "Holy Guacamole" Fiesta on May 6, 2017- We are in the planning stages now. Join our team!

Sub Committees to Lead and Fill	Members Needed
Live Auction	2
Decoration	2
Bar/Money Wheels	2
Social Media/Communications	Lead
Social Media/Communications	2
Silent Auction	Lead
Silent Auction	2
Entertainment	Lead
Entertainment	2
Food	2



Day	Time	Activity
Sun.	10:30 a.m.	Ticket Sales Lead
Sun.	10:30 a.m.	Ticket Sales Team
Sun.	Noon Mass	Ticket Sales Lead
Sun.	Noon Mass	Ticket Sales -Team 2
Sat.	5 p.m. Mass	Ticket Sales Lead
Sat.	5 p.m. Mass	Ticket Sales- Team 2

So much help is needed: your ideas, enthusiasm, time, and talents. This is a challenging but fun activity.



Get a friend to come along to our next meeting. See the weekly bulletin for these meetings. We have the expertise from those who previously managed such great *Parties with a Purpose*.

Contact co-chairs
Mike Fitzpatrick 443-677-2591
Laura Heck 301- 471-5058

To view the initial sign up page, go to:
www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0A4AAA92EA4F58-2017



Bake table with homemade cookies, cakes, breads, and pies - always popular and a must to check out

- hand painted and lighted gourds
- Children's Room (gently used clothing & toys)
- Parish Room with plants and canned goods
- Vendors: Scentsy, 31, Mary Kay, Lularoe
- Handcrafted items from the Holy Land
- American girl doll clothes
- Knights' Christmas cards & ornaments
- freshly made soups, sandwiches and lunch items available and quiet room to relax, eat and share your purchases before more shopping

St. Michael Annual Christmas Bazaar

Sat. Nov. 12
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

PLEASE consider helping at 3 p.m. to take down all the tables and pack up. Many hands will get this done in record time. HELP!

JODY LILLEY
minibrute50@aol.com

To benefit Catholic Schools.

Gift of Hours



"I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Etienne de Grellet, Quaker Missionary

SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS so others will have special Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners ! St. Michael's Food Cellar will again provide these dinners to approximately 50 Mt. Airy community families in need. Here are 5 of the ways you can share your blessings with them:



- 1) helping sort, pack baskets, and transfer to cars
- 2) deliver to families as well as home bound folks
- 3) add our need to your shopping list: stuffing, gravy, canned pumpkin, cranberries, evaporated milk, boxed instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetable and fruit, cereal, syrup, pancake mix, soups, cream of mushroom soup, 40 oz. cans of sweet potatoes, Durkin fried onions, brown sugar, mayonnaise, chili packets, mini marshmallows. Please leave donations in the narthex next to the shopping cart.
- 4) Money for us to purchase perishable items such as meat, turkey, eggs, cheese, etc.
- 5) If you are into crafts or perhaps looking for a scout project, it would be a thoughtful gesture to include something seasonal to put into these food baskets.

Mike and Sharon Rice

FoodCellar@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org

Thanksgiving Dates

Thurs. Nov. 17- 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. Nov. 18 - 6:30 p.m.
 Sat. Nov. 19 - 7 a.m.

Christmas Dates

Thurs. Dec. 15 -6:30 p.m.
 Fri. Dec. 16 - 6:30 p.m.
 Saturdav. Dec.17 - 7 a.m.

SHARING IN THE DIVORCE RECOVERY MINISTRY

Have you or a family member experienced the devastation of Divorce? Much needed strength can be found in your faith and the support of others who are on this same journey. St. Michael Church has an active support group for those in such need offering them hope and prayers, reminding them that they are NOT alone.



Monthly meetings: 1st Tuesday, *Fellowship* 6 p.m. at local restaurant, RSVP, Irene Cochran, Andrew Shiber

- **Healing Hearts Discussion Group:** 1st Thurs. 7-9 p.m. Rm. A-109 at St. Michael, Deacon Harbey, scripture and discussion
- Every Wed.- Surviving Divorce: DVD & discussion 12 wks -Oct. 12 to Feb. 22
- May 17- Journey of Hope Program begins

Contact healinghearts@stmichaelpoplarsprings.org

"Joyful in Hope. Patient in Affliction. Faithful in Prayer."

share.

God didn't add another day to your life because you needed it. He did it because someone out there needs you!

SHARING YOUR TIME to provide funds to support St. Michael's financial needs -- Our Bingo game program every Monday from 7 to 10 p.m. is one of 2 programs that does this regularly, but we really need your help!



- Help prepare sandwiches between 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (preferred) or anytime between noon to 4 p.m. **ONCE** every **six weeks**. Great for husband and wife team (2 people needed).
- Help serve sandwiches between 7 to 9 p.m. **ONCE** every **six weeks**. Great for husband and wife team (2 people needed)

You are not only helping your parish, but you can meet a lot of nice people while doing it.

Contact **Al. Cerrone** at alan.cerrone@gmail.com

SHARING WITH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS & RAFFLE

- Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary will sell ornaments depicting St. Michael Church, great tree decoration for each year. They will also have their annual, popular Christmas wreath raffle.



Whoever holds the winning ticket will immediately have his/her Christmas shopping done, for the wreath is decorated with a wide variety of gift cards! Both of these will be offered for sale in the narthex starting Nov. 12 and available at the Christmas Bazaar. There also the ladies will be offering crafts made by their members. Starting it all off will be their bake sale the weekend of Nov. 5 and 6. Proceeds will benefit the Women's and Children's shelters for the abused in Carroll County and the Second Chance Organization.

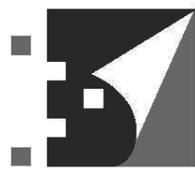
SHARING & CARING TREE

will be in the narthex the weekends of Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. Visit the tree and take tag to buy a gift for a local needy family. **Remember to register the tag with the volunteer on a sign-up sheet.** Gift suggestions vary from clothing, to toys, to household items.



Purchase the gift, wrap it, attach the tag, and return it to church the weekend of Dec. 3 or 10th, but no later than noon on Dec. 11. These gifts will be delivered with the food baskets on Dec. 17th. Please consider sharing your time to help with this tradition. Call **Linda** or **Steve Nash** at 301-363-3139.

"Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Proverbs 11:24-25



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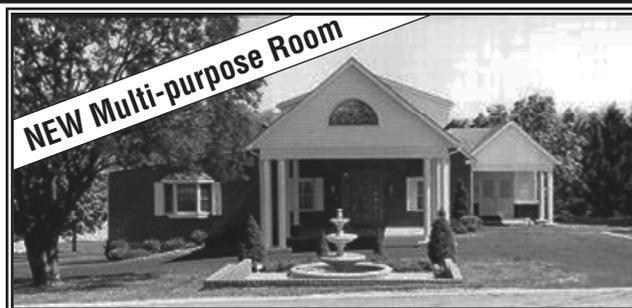


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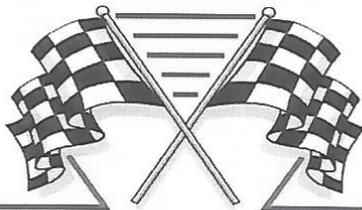
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Breakfast at St. Michael's

8:30 – Noon

4th Sunday of every month

(Except Dec & May)



Multi-purpose room/Gym

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

Adults \$8 Children 5 - 10 yrs \$4 under 5 free

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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.



***"There are no strangers here;
only friends you haven't met yet."*** Wm. Buttler Yeats

Greg and Maria Barrows are now "officially" new members of St. Michael Parish Community. Even though they have lived in Woodbine for 23 years, they have been parishioners at St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg because of home schooling ties. Since they have often gone to daily Mass at St. Michael, they decided to become members of St. Michael Church.

Greg graduated from DeMatha High School in Hyattsville, MD, and Maria from Immaculata Preparatory School in Washington, D.C. While Greg has been a UPS driver for over 30 years, Maria has been a wife and mother homeschooling children for 23 years.

They have been blessed with seven children. Two teens live at home **Thomas** (17) and **Gianna** (13). Both are homeschooled under Mother of Divine Grace School. Thomas and Gianna, in additions to their studies, are involved in HST, a cultural arts organization for home schoolers. Thomas also loves sports and film making and Gianna is interested in art and pottery, and they both take piano lessons. **James**, (19) a sophomore at Ave Maria University interested in literature, acting, dance, and sports. **Nick**, (28) lives at home. works in construction, and his hobby is photography.

Three Barrows children are married: **Jessica** married to Paul Fickel, living in Mt. Airy and parish members; **Philip** Barrows married to Sophie and living in Woodbine and also parish members; **Emily** married to Colby Popik and living in Naples, Florida.



So far the grandchildren are just starting to arrive: **Drew** Fickel (4), **Samantha** Fickel (3), **Kateri** Fickel (1-1/2 yrs old), **Baby Boy** Fickel - due in December **Edith** Barrows (10 months) and **Jack** Popik (10 months).

Naturally no family would be complete without a few pets: 3 dogs, 2 cats, 2 bunnies, and a number chickens.

As a family, we love to garden, cook, and spend time together. In family time we enjoy playing games together: board games, card games, ping pong, and outdoor sports games as well as summer days in the pool. We love the beach especially in North Carolina and hiking/camping in the Northeast.

Beekeeping is a new found joy. Maria's interest in this came from her grandfather who was very successful in keeping bees. Both Greg and Maria took a beekeeping course a few years back and are novice beekeepers. They both were so astounded about what they learned about the world of bees, and how it points to how marvelous God's creation truly is. Everyone enjoys the honey from the three hives that they currently have going.

Spiritual thought we call on often is **"Pray, Hope, and Don't Worry"**, words of Padre Pio. Maria has a special devotion to now Saint Pio of Pietrelcina since her grandmother went to confession to him one time and her grandparents had a special devotion to him.

Since we are "new" official parishioners of St. Mike's; we haven't jumped in on belonging to any organization of the parish. However, Jessica and Sophie have gone to some of the meetings at the newly formed Mom's group.

Greg and Maria belong to Teams of Our Lady and have been on the same team for 13 years. The commitment is just enough, not too intrusive to family life! Anyone interested in Teams of Our Lady, can contact Maria (443-928- 7063). It is nice to hear about first-hand instead of just reading about it on a website.

In 1939 four young couples approached their parish priest for help in exploring the richness and joy of the sacrament of Matrimony. This was the start of T.O.O.L. now a world-wide movement, involving about 4,000 couples in the USA.

What is Teams of Our Lady (T.O.O.L.)?

an International Christian Community

- of married couples meeting in Christ's Name
- in communion with the Church
- who witness God's marvelous plan of love to the world around them and
- seek to live as the first Christians of whom it was said: "See how they love one another!"

It is a way

- to grow in love of God and each other a little more each day
- aided by the mutual help and support of other similar minded couples
- to thus better follow the One who assured us that: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* (John 14:6)



They gather monthly for

- a simple meal
- prayer
- a time of sharing and
- discussion on a study topic

Why as a couple?

- because God has entrusted you to each other through the Sacrament of Matrimony.
- because when your response is made in unison it deeply affects:
the quality of your love
your children and all you meet

Why with other couples?

- there is more strength in a Team
 - in a world where fidelity is no longer esteemed, meeting with others who value married life brings joy and hope
- T.O.O.L. is open to couples who are in a marriage recognized by the Church. Only one spouse needs to be Catholic.

Gift of Hours



Remind Yourself:

This is a holy and blessed season!



The holiday season can be a time full of joy but for many people, it is a stressful and lonely time. This can be caused by stress, fatigue, financial issues, unrealistic expectation, and family loss, but you can be in charge!

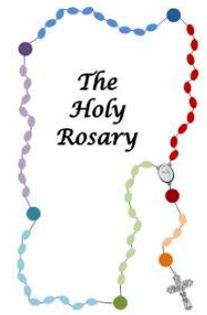
- **Know your spending limit.** Financial stress is a major cause of stress during the holidays. Set a budget and stick to it. Give something personal that you made.
- Meaningful gifts show your love.
- **Get organized.** Keep track of tasks. You do not have to do everything yourself. And, you can combine tasks and have fun doing it. Why not invite friends to a help you decorate your home gathering?
- **Do not overextend yourself.** Use a calendar to keep track of events to attend and do not be afraid to say no. It is okay to say no to some events so that you can concentrate the ones that are important to you. Do less and enjoy more!
- **Live in the moment.** Today's electronics keeps us in a perpetual fight-or-flight mode. This is exhausting and contributes to our stress levels. So, enjoy the moment with your family and friends and let go of that buzzing cell phone!
- **Take care of yourself.** Pay attention to your own needs and feelings. Engage in activities that you and your family enjoy. Go for a walk as a family. Laugh often.
- **Be realistic.** Do not pressure yourself to create the perfect holiday for your family. Remember what the holidays are really about. Use this time to nurture your relationships or reconnect with people who are important to you.

TIPS FOR MANAGING STRESS

- Go for short walks.
- Do some relaxation breathing.
- Keep a sleep, meal & exercise schedule.
- Limit your alcohol intake.
- Ask for help: talk to your doctor about counseling or talk to a friend.

from St. Michael Health Ministry

grow.



If you practice no other devotion in your spiritual life, **PRAY THE ROSARY.** Through it, you will obtain all that you need and will vanquish the enemies of your soul. Through it, you will find peace and joy in life's trials.

Learn to pray the rosary or revitalize your praying of it. On the Great Adventure Blog, there is a meditation with Biblical references for each of the 4 mysteries. It is a refreshing way to bring the life of Jesus and Mary into our hearts and minds.

"The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times." -St. Padre Pio



LEGISLATION ATTACK: We must always be growing and learning!

The Maryland Catholic Conference wants you to know that Compassion & Choices continues to make Maryland a priority to pass legislation that would legalize physician - assisted suicide.

suicide, and they will do whatever it takes to win. They are already organizing people and legislators to support such legislation in the 2017 General Assembly session.

This is euthanasia! What can you do about this?

- ☒ **Be informed.** This 50-page booklet *Comfort and Consolation* helps Catholics think through the often difficult questions that arise in times of grave illness and impending death. It includes a practical, 8-page form that Catholics can use to tell health care providers how they wish to direct their care. It covers spiritual support, nutrition and hydration, pain -relieving medication, terminal illness and pregnancy. Available at mdcathcon.org/comfort
- ☒ **We need to be aggressive** in our effort to oppose physician assisted suicide to ensure it does not become a Maryland law in 2017. Email your state senator and state delegate and ask them NOT to co-sponsor or support any physician assisted suicide legislation that is filed in 2017. Go to **Contact Your MD State Legislators** for their names. We must speak out and pray for the right and dignity of life from conception to a natural death.

The Death of a Christian: Spiritual, Legal, Practical

Reflections at the Shrine of St. Anthony, Sat. Nov. 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Fr. Dennis Mason, OFM Conv., Mrs. Sherri Collins-Witzke, Vice President and Manager of Harry Witzke Family Funeral Home, and James D. Walsh of Walsh and Company Estate Planning will lead the day and address questions from participants. Spiritual and legal questions often abound regarding how to care appropriately for someone who is dying and how to assist them in their journey to God. We offer this time to help you prepare for what St. Francis called "Sister Death." For more information please call 410-531-2800 or visit www.ShrineofStAnthony.org

Be an Informed Catholic: Read THE LOOP e-mailed to you daily. Concise. Topical. Current. Grow. Learn. Current. <http://www.CatholicVote.org/Loop>

Gift of Hours

grow. pray.

*Two lasting bequests for our children:
one is ROOTS; the other is WINGS!*

"Train a child in the ways he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it." Ps. 22:6

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. Little things mean a lot and are remembered!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS RECOGNIZED!

This is 3rd year the Knights of Columbus in conjunction with vocations awareness programs have honored the parish youth who have volunteered to be involved at our liturgies. Their help enables us to focus on our prayer and worship during Masses. Those honored are those who started their service over the past year. They received a special blessing by Fr. Mike or Fr. Kurt, along with a certificate and a lapel pin with prayerful, helpful hands signifying their service. Some serve in several ministries on one weekend or even the same day. Also there are the times they were not scheduled, but stepped up because there is a need. Some of our young adults continue to assist when they are home from college. How special they all are! Some serve in multiple ministries such as Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Musicians, Singers, Artists, Ushers and Lectors:



**Jenna Barth Samantha Bonsby Logan Bucy
Rory Bucy Lorraine Carr Julia Chamberlain
Natalie Davis Nick Davis Lyndsay Grillo Rebecca Korkosz
Josselyn Martinez Natalie Martinez Shannon Mullaney
Cameron Pickard Christian Pickard**

Hana Santiago Zachariah Suhar Lily Welsh Corinne Zepp

The Youth Liturgical Ministers with their parents are showing us the way with their Gifts of Hours. We appreciate their consistent and committed efforts throughout the year. To their parents, we thank you for your guidance and your help with their service.

Christmas Corner

- **Advent Wreath** - ready and put up on kitchen table for prayers
- **Advent calendar** to keep all aware of how they are preparing by prayer and good acts for the coming of Jesus
- **Pageant** - Dec. 18, 9:30 need lots of children to fill the spots; call **Joann Wozniak** 240-437-3673
- **Shop with Jesus** in mind with gifts: CatholicCompany.com
- **Dec. 6** - St. Nicholas
- **Dec. 8** - have a special candle and dessert in honor of Mother Mary

St. Nicholas, holy patron of children, generous bishop, inspire us to give gifts of ourselves and our time.



Breakfast with Santa ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sat. Dec. 3, 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- All you can eat pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon, home fries
- \$6 donation, children under 10 (\$3), infants free.
- Sleigh rides with Santa - weather permitting
- Don't forget "Toys for Tots". Bring a New Unwrapped toy for ages 1 - 18.
- Family meal before gift or tree hunting
Hosted by St. Michael Men's Club



APRIL DANCHIK
teaching classes, helping with sacramental programs and VBS -

our *Catechist of the Year* honored at a ceremony by Archbishop Lori. She is the mother of 5. all homeschooled.

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.

Corinne Zepp is in the 3rd grade at Linton Springs Elementary School. This is her first year as an altar server and she is extremely excited to be part of this ministry. Corinne wanted to be an altar server to celebrate Mass. She enjoys helping Father Mike, Father Kurt, Deacon Cliff, and Deacon Harbey during Mass. Corinne loves playing all types of sports: basketball, swimming, and lacrosse. She also likes to draw and put puzzles together and especially enjoys cooking and creating her very own recipes. She is fascinated with horses and enjoys reading about them and riding. She dreams of owning her very own horse one day. Corinne looks forward to many years of serving as an altar server at St. Michaels. She lives in Woodbine with her parents **Sean** and **Amber Zepp** and her sister **Emma**, a 5th grader and who serves Mass with Corinne.



"Let us make one point, that we meet each other with a smile, when it is difficult to smile. Smile at each other, make time for each other in your family." St. Teresa of

Gift of Hours



give.

RADIATING CHRIST

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly, that my life may only be a radiance of Yours.

Shine through me, and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus!

Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine, so to shine as to be a light to others; the light, O Jesus will be all from You; none of it will be mine; it will be you, shining on others through me.

Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me. Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching force of the sympathetic influence of what I do - the evident fullness of the love my heart bears to You.
Amen Cardinal Newman

This is a beautiful prayer to pray before or after Holy Communion. St. Theresa of Calcutta's Missionaries of Charity pray it each morning before they go into the slums to care for Jesus' poor. It can be our daily prayer of



GIVING FRIENDSHIP: The O.W.L.S. celebrate the season! They will replace their 4th Tues. luncheon for the months of Nov. and Dec. with a Holiday Luncheon on Tues., December 6th, from 11:30 to 1:30 in the back room of the Mount Airy Tavern (in Twin Arch shopping center). Individuals can pay \$13 for a fixed-price lunch or order from the restaurant's regular menu. Everyone 50 or better is welcome to join us. Our regular luncheons will resume on the 4th Tues. of Jan. through Oct. of 2017, weather permitting. Call **Pamela Schettler** at (301) 831-5067 for more information or if you need a ride.

THE JOY OF GIVING:

Allan Laino, Director of Music

This past fall, I made my first trip to Rome. I traveled as a member of the Choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine for the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage and 50th Anniversary Concert Tour. We were to sing 5 Masses at 4 Basilicas/Jubilee Doors and present 3 separate concerts.

Prior to becoming Director of Music at St. Michael Church, I sang for three years as a member of the Basilica's choir. The choir, comprising professional singers with advanced degrees in music and voice, is not only one of the best in our region, but perhaps one of the best in the world. This year, they celebrated their 50th anniversary with this concert tour and Jubilee Year of Mercy Pilgrimage, and I was incredibly blessed to be invited.

Our six-day stay included five Masses and three concerts, each with its own set of musical selections. Needless to say, our schedule was packed with a lot of work, but our voices held up. We even had some time to see the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, Roman Forum, and Pantheon. Every meal was absolutely delicious. But I will always remember this trip for my experiences in the sacred spaces. As a learned musician who has intensely studied the great works and composers of the Catholic tradition, it was a sublime experience to visit the churches that inspired centuries of great music. No amount of study could substitute singing Palestrina's Jubilate Deo at St. John Lateran, the mother church of the world where he once served as maestro di cappella (music director).

As I resume my full schedule here at St. Michael Church, I will also be one of the conductors for the **Annual Christmas Concert for Charity** at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This public event attracts over 3,500 attendees every year and through a free-will offering raises thousands of dollars for a designated charity. On Friday, December 2, I will conduct a portion of the performance by The Catholic University of America Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs, which will be taped and broadcast on EWTN on Christmas Eve. Music is a blessing to me, and I want to share it.



GIVING THEIR TIME SINCE OCT.- Music directors and choir members preparing for Christmas Season:

Allan Laino and Gina Del Gandio - Children's Choir

Allan Laino -The Lessons and Carols

Guy and Rachel Cappuccino

Karen Courtney - Contemporary Music Group

LaNita Bennett - 8 a.m. Mass, Dec. 25

Vida Vaskys and Allan Laino - Youth Ensemble

The Music of Christmas at St. Michael

Sun. Dec. 18, 9:30 a.m. - Children's Christmas Pageant, main church

Sat. Dec. 24

4 p.m. Mass in the large church - Children's Choir (grades 1-5)

4 p.m. Mass in the gym - Contemporary Music Ministry

6:30 p.m. Mass in the large church - Guy and Rachel Cappuccino

9:00 p.m., large church - Lessons & Carols Prelude with Chorus and Chamber Orchestra

9:30 p.m. Mass in the large church



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*



Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged

Blessed are they who understand my faltering step
and palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know that my ears today
must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes
are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away when coffee
spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile who stop to
chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say, "You've told that
story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back
memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known that I'm
loved,
respected and not alone.
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss to find
the

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Parishioner, **John H. Foertschbeck, Sr.**, is a history buff who self-published several books and most recently historical calendars. "**Mount Airy, Then and Now**" is one of the 2017 local history calendars. John developed this calendar along with **Michael Eacho, Rodney Carr, and David Miller**. John and Mike are both past presidents of the St. Michael Parish Council. John also served as Chairman of the building committee that built our church in 1982-83. The Mount Airy calendars include period photographs from the archives. This keepsake calendars is available at the Mount Airy Branch of the Carroll County library, Town Hall, and Mount Airy History Museum.

BE HUMBLE. TRUST always and a great deal in Divine Providence; never, never must you let yourself be discouraged, despite contrary winds. Always **TRUST** in God and Mary Immaculate; Be faithful and forge ahead." St. Pauline

Lord, please make me Steadfast in **FAITH**, Unwavering in **TRUST** and Enduring in **LOVE**.

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

Nov. 4	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 4:30 p..m.
Nov. 5	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in Nov.
Nov. 5	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Nov. 6	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Nov. 17-19	Thanksgiving Baskets prepared and delivered
Nov. 12	*Annual Christmas Bazaar - 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Nov. 19	Lunches made & delivered for needy in Baltimore & Beacon House
Nov. 27	*Cornerstone Breakfast: 8:30 to 12:30: extended hours & menu
Dec. 2	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 4:30 p..m
Dec. 3	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in Dec. .
Dec. 3	* Breakfast with Santa - 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Bring a Toy for Tots
Dec. 3	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Dec. 4	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Dec. 6	*O.W.L.S. luncheon - Mt. Airy Tavern, 11:30 -1:30 p.m.
Dec. 8	Immaculate Conception -Holy Day, Mass 9 & 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15 -17	Christmas baskets & gifts packed and delivered - help needed!
Dec. 18	Christmas Pageant by children- 9:30 with children's choir
Jan. 6, 2017	First Friday- Eucharistic Adoration in chapel until 4:30 p..m
Jan. 7	First Saturday 9:00 Mass, blessing of couples married in Jan.
Jan. 7	Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayed and sung, 4:30 p.m. main church
Jan. 8	1 st Sunday Fellowship, after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses
Jan. 21	Lunches made & delivered for needy in Baltimore &Beacon House
Jan. 22	*Cornerstone Breakfast: 8:30 to 12:30: extended hours & menu
Jan. 24	*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.

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PRAYER FOR OUR ELECTION

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

Your Epiphany

Learn from the 3 Kings: You too can bring royal gifts to Jesus: **GOLD** (the best you can do in all you do), **FRANKINCENSE** (lifting your mind and heart to Him frequently), **MYRHH** (remember the price he paid for your freedom.) You too have a star to follow as did the Kings. Be steadfast in this. At times clouds (trials) will hide the star, but we are to have **FAITH** that it IS there. Wait in prayer. It will reappear. **TRUST!**

"It is only in eternity that we shall know the great mystery effected in us by Holy Communion." St. Faustina Kowalska

That in all things, God may be glorified.
1 Peter 4:11