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## INTRODUCTION

We are called in baptism to be God's people. We are challenged to carry out His will in our words and deeds. Through our service and caring, we enable people to be liberated from their burdens and we commit to equity, justice, and fairness. This is our parish Mission—to trust God, live generously, act justly, welcome all, emboldened by the Spirit.

When we truly belong to a parish, we are part of community. We are called to experience friendship, hospitality, conviviality, sympathy, and empathy and have the opportunity to find and share our deeper purpose. One way to share and really belong, as many of our parishioners have experienced, is to be a volunteer for a ministry and engage with the parish family. At St. John, we have many places where people can volunteer, share their gifts with others, and become more connected within the parish, the community, the nation, and the world.

Our ministries are very much volunteer-driven and because they evolve as needs arise and diminish any listing of our ministries must be considered dynamic. However, one thing is constant; ministries are always in need of new volunteers. This *Ministry Directory* is our first attempt to compile St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church's (SJERC) ministries. We will update this listing periodically to ensure that the list and contact information are current. Consider the *Ministry Directory* your guide to St. John and we invite you to hear God's call to join at least one of our ministries.

We are called to do ministry in all kinds of different ways so the gospel can be proclaimed, the kingdom can be built and God can be glorified. Each parish has its own unique blend of ministries, but they share common features. To facilitate the presentation of our ministries, we have developed an organizational structure that is similar to those used by other parishes. While the structure is set, not all the ministries fit neatly into one of the boxes we have selected for various reasons. The following are the ministry categories selected for organizing this *Ministry Directory*:

- Administration Ministries
- Faith Formation Ministries
- Hispanic Ministries
- Interfaith Ministries
- Outreach Ministries
- Service Organization Ministries
- Worship Ministries

Hopefully, this *Ministry Directory* will give you a greater appreciation for how your fellow parishioners are giving of themselves and their time, talents, and resources to bless and help others. For many, being a minister helps them find the greatest joy and the most fulfillment in life. Is God calling you to become a minister? If yes, we can help you find your niche at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church.

This Ministry Directory project was conceived and overseen by the 2019-2020 Pastoral Council with enthusiastic support from Pastor Gerry Bowen. Special thanks are extended to Pastoral Council members Audrey Marsh and Cathy Spain, who led this project, and volunteer Jill Bispels, for the report design.

*This is the first publication of a comprehensive Ministry Directory at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. We made every attempt to include all parish activities, and the parish will update and maintain this information. Contact the Pastoral Council at to provide information on new ministries or update information in this directory. [pastoralcouncil@sjerc.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@sjerc.org)*

*Many ministry programs were disrupted by the pandemic in 2020. Some have leveraged technology and other means to continue their work, and the others hopefully will resume soon. If you have questions about the status of a program, reach out to the contact person listed for the specific ministry.*

## ADMINISTRATION MINISTRIES

A parish is an organization that needs to be managed with respect to various functions such as finance, legal accountability, personnel, and record keeping. Administration ministries are committees and other bodies that work in support of the management of the parish.

### Finance Committee

The parish's volunteer Finance Committee's purpose is to assume responsibility in conjunction with the pastor for the finances of the congregation. This shall include developing and monitoring the parish's budget, financial recording and reporting, disbursement, etc. The committee's responsibility is to oversee the financial well-being of the congregation and to make recommendations to the pastor on all financial matters as deemed appropriate by the Committee or requested by the pastor. The committee reviews and advises the pastor regarding the activities of related committees, as appropriate. Currently, the Finance Committee consists of three volunteers. The two Parish Corporators are non-voting members. The members of the committee serve three-year terms.

Contact:  
Geoff Martiny  
geoffmartiny@hotmail.com

### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is appointed each year by the president of the Pastoral Council with the concurrence of the Pastor. It consists of at least four members. The role of the Nominating Committee is to prepare a slate of candidates for the election of new Pastoral Council members.

Contact:  
The Pastoral Council  
pastoralcouncil@sjerc.org



## Parish Corporators

The parish corporation is the legal vehicle for managing parish affairs and establishing specific legal accountability. The board is comprised of two laypersons (called parish corporators), the Archbishop of Baltimore, the Vicar Bishop, and the parish Pastor. The parish corporators are responsible for assuring that matters such as safety, condition of the physical plant, hiring personnel, finances, security of parish assets, and operations are in accordance with Archdiocesan policies and in compliance with state and federal laws. The corporators work closely with the Pastor, the Pastoral Council, and the boards overseeing the Interfaith Centers. Lay corporators are nominated by our pastor and appointed by the Archbishop for five-year terms, which can be renewed.

Contact:

Carolyn Arena [larcar4@comcast.net](mailto:larcar4@comcast.net)



*Outdoor Mass during the 2020 pandemic*

## Parish Written History Project

The History Project is collecting vignettes and photographs that tell the story of St. John. New stories continue to be added to this project, which was inspired by those stories unearthed in planning for the parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2017. This year we have acquired many pictures of our past pastors and associates. Anyone wishing to share their stories or pictures should contact Deacon Paul Gifford.

Contact:

Deacon Paul Gifford [paul.gifford@sjerc.org](mailto:paul.gifford@sjerc.org)  
Carolyn Arena [larcar4@comcast.net](mailto:larcar4@comcast.net)



*St. John 50th Anniversary Celebration*

When we truly belong to a  
parish,  
we are part of a  
community.

St. John Ministries  
are open  
to all  
parishioners  
and rely on  
our members  
for support  
and participation.

## Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is an advisory body that represents the needs and interests of the members of St. John, and provides a channel of communication between the members of the parish and the Pastor. The council deliberates and advises on issues affecting the life and work of the parish, and makes recommendations to the pastor. The Pastoral Council may lead in establishing new ministries and undertaking special projects, such as the new parish website. The council consists of nine members elected at-large by the parish community and up to five appointed members. The officers of the council are the president and vice President. Elected members serve three-year terms, and appointed members serve from their appointment until the conclusion of a council session in June. Members of the parish are presented each May with a slate of candidates by a Nominating Committee. The council meets monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday from September through June.

Contact:  
Pastoral Council  
[pastoralcouncil@sjerc.org](mailto:pastoralcouncil@sjerc.org)



## Safety/Security Team

This team ensures that worship services and other St. John programs are held in a safe and secure manner. The team is comprised of security-minded individuals who work with the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center (WLIFC) and St. John United Methodist-Presbyterian Church (SJU) safety/security teams to develop measures and drills to prevent, monitor, and respond to safety/security issues. Measures include developing a plan to communicate information, such as new security upgrades and evacuation routes; coordinating teams to monitor and react to safety and security issues at services; developing a safe way to perform evacuation drills; and communicating with WLIFC about safety/security concerns.

Contact:  
Mike Shaw  
wlifcmd@aol.com



## Wilde Lake and Oakland Mills Interfaith Centers Boards of Directors

WLIFC and Oakland Mills Interfaith Center (OMIFC) are separate nonprofit religious and community service organizations whose purpose is to operate and maintain the facilities for member congregations. Each corporation is governed by a board of directors that consists of a set number of members, all of whom must be members of one of the congregations. Board positions are allocated based on each member congregation's usage of the facilities. Parishioners of St. John are appointed to the boards by the pastor. A building manager oversees day-to-day operations.

Contact:  
Father Gerry Bowen [gerard.bowen@sjerc.org](mailto:gerard.bowen@sjerc.org)



*Mass at Oakland Mills Interfaith Center*



*Wilde Lake Interfaith Center Rededication*

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

Faith must be known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer. Faith formation refers to the transmission of Jesus' moral teachings as well as their implications for Christian living. Faith formation prepares us to live in community and participate actively in the life and mission of the church. The ministries in this section promote knowledge of our faith through education, opportunities for prayer, and sacramental preparation.

### Baptism Preparation Class

Preparation for baptism is an important time for prayerful meditation on the significance of the Sacrament. Baptism preparation classes are held for first-time parents once a month. Godparents are invited to attend as well. The one-hour classes are led by a team of volunteers and clergy. New volunteers are invited to assist with this program.

Contact:  
Deacon Paul Gifford  
paul.gifford@sjerc.org

### Book Club

The St. John Book Club provides opportunities for parishioners to meet in a social setting to share ideas and get to know each other. Books discussed have religious/faith themes or present moral dilemmas. Books have included: *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande, *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah, *Educated* by Tara Westover, *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate, *The Girl in the Glass* by Susan Meissner, *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, *What the Wind Knows* by Amy Harmon, and *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen. The club meets 10 times per year, and the meetings are open to anyone in the parish.

Contact:  
Faith Mauro-Huse  
fmh@leadershipenhance.com

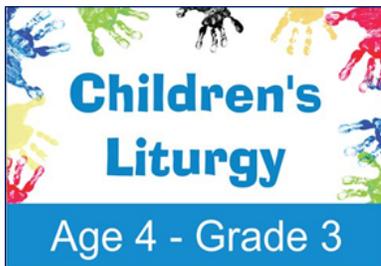


## Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word program is offered on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. during the school year at WLIFC. The program is for children age four to third grade. Younger children may attend with a parent or guardian. The 20- to 25-minute lesson reflects on the readings during Mass. Volunteers are needed to teach and to assist.

Due to the pandemic, the Children's Liturgy will be held online the second and fourth Sunday at 10:00 a.m. starting in September 2020. The theme for 2020-2021 is "God is My Hero." Contact Ms. Magaletta or check the weekly parish bulletin for Zoom meeting details.

Contact:  
Nadine Magaletta  
kidlit@sjerc.org



### VIRTUS Training: Working with Children & Youth

St. John supports and complies with the Archdiocese of Baltimore policies and practices aimed at creating and maintaining a safe environment where our children will thrive. In 2017, the Archdiocese joined more than 90 dioceses using VIRTUS as our training and compliance management system.

Church personnel and volunteers are required to register using VIRTUS. Volunteers will review:

- *Code of Conduct for Church Personnel*
- *A Statement of Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth.*

The Archdiocese works with Employment Screening Resources (ESR) to conduct online criminal history screening. As part of the registration process, VIRTUS will direct volunteers to the ESR website where they will be asked to submit to an online criminal history screening.

Volunteers will "Signup" and create their own VIRTUS user name and password. If you are unable to do this from home or don't have access to a printer, contact Jan Shaw to make other arrangements.

Contact:  
Jan Shaw [jan.shaw@sjerc.org](mailto:jan.shaw@sjerc.org)  
410-964-1425 x 324

<https://www.virtusonline.org>

## **Mother of the Eucharist and Grace – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Prayers**

The Marian Groups at St. John meet together to pray the rosary, followed by celebration of the Holy Eucharist and anointing of the sick. The statue of the Mother of the Eucharist and Grace is placed next to the altar during prayers, and parishioners usually donate rose flowers to place at the Blessed Mother's altar. The Blessed Mother's statue is placed in the chapel afterwards, so parishioners can pray with Her.

The Blessed Mother's statue is a pilgrim image, and parishioners are encouraged to take Her home for a week or two, so she can visit and pray with them.

The group meets the first Saturday of every month at 12:00 p.m. at the WLIFC, and the pastor is available to celebrate mass after the rosary. Prayer Group members usually hold a potluck dinner in May and October, sharing fellowship after prayers.

Contact:  
Evelyne Mbandi  
embandi@hotmail.com  
443-739-7884

## **Precious Blood Prayer Group**

The group's prayers are centered on the mysteries of the rosary and Chaplet of the Precious Blood, and end with the Archangel Michael Prayer of Protection. Five members of the group have been consecrated to the Apostolate of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The group meets every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. The prayer group's hope is to be able to join other members of the Precious Blood Apostolate during the Gethsemane hours from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. on Thursday nights, God willing.

Contact:  
Fanny Essien Obeng  
fannyobeng@verizon.net  
443-418-1768



## Reading Scripture Together

This bible study group meets to discuss scripture, and has discussed the Gospel of Matthew, the Letter to the Galatians, and the Letter to the Romans. This bible study group normally meets twice a week—Tuesdays after the 12:00 noon Mass or Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. During COVID, readings for Sunday are emailed during the week to the group, which then discusses them on Friday mornings via Zoom. Join the mailing list to receive the weekly reading selection.

Contact:  
Deacon Paul Gifford  
paul.gifford@sjerc.org



## Religious Education Ministry (Grades K-6)

Parents of children in grades K-6, who are responsible for being the first educators of their children in the Catholic faith, are supported by this ministry through various programs that introduce moral values to the children so they will become followers of Jesus Christ and will experience and demonstrate their faith through prayer and the sacraments. Programs are offered in English and Spanish, and special needs students are integrated with the assistance of “buddies” and parents. This ministry supports the Sunday morning religious education program, a Family Program providing at-home lessons, preparation for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation, and RCIA for Children. The ministry organizes extracurricular activities for the children, such as the Children’s Stations of the Cross and the Christmas Eve Children’s Liturgy. Additional adult and youth volunteers are always needed for this ministry.

Contact:  
Consuelo Petro [cpetro@sjerc.org](mailto:cpetro@sjerc.org)  
410-964-1425 X325



## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process in which adults become full, participating members of the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. Our RCIA program and volunteers serve individuals of another faith who wish to convert to Catholicism, individuals who were baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to become a member of the Catholic faith, and individuals who were baptized in the Catholic Church, but never received the sacraments. Individuals going through the process meet on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Contact:  
Deacon Paul Gifford  
paul.gifford@sjerc.org



*Candle lit Mass at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center*

## Small Church Communities

Our parish encourages 18 to 20 small church communities by providing materials that support the discussions of these small groups of adults who gather to reflect on their lives in the light of the Gospel and to share their faith through prayer, friendship, and service. Traditionally, small church communities met in members' homes or in one of the interfaith centers. During the pandemic, meetings have been held virtually on Zoom or Facetime. Individuals interested in joining a small church community or starting one should contact the parish.

Contact:  
Kathie Armstrong  
karmst1221@verizon.net  
Jan Shaw  
410-964-1425



## Women’s Faith Sharing Group

Each year, our group holds seasonal meetings each week during the six weeks of Lent, with a celebration meeting after Easter.

Participants can sign up for the program at tables in the Interfaith Center lobbies several weeks before Ash Wednesday. We use the Disciples on the Journey Lenten lectionary resource (a booklet provided to each group member) with questions for small group sharing. <https://disciplesonthejourney.org/> Half of the members attend the weekly morning meeting, while the other half meet in the evening for the same program. Here is what one participant said about the program, *"The Women's Faith Sharing Group provided a sense of community. I didn't know what to expect, because I've never been in a faith-sharing small group before, but the connections I made with the other women gave me a sense of peace through faith. I would recommend this experience!"*

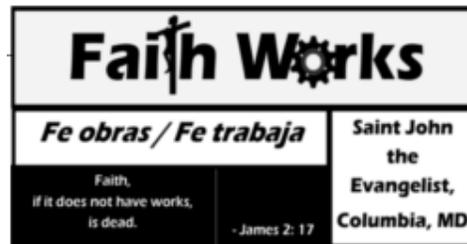
Contact:  
Chris Marcinek 1chrismarcinek@gmail.com  
410-599-0967



## Youth and Young Adult Ministry

We offer faith formation for youth (7th-12th Grades) and young people, in both English and Spanish. The ministry encourages young people to participate in retreats and conferences, such as those offered by the National Evangelization Team, the National Catholic Youth Conference, and Praise Night sponsored by the Howard County Youth Ministers. We provide confirmation-related education and programming, including pilgrimages in historic Baltimore and Parent-Youth retreats. In response to the pandemic closures, the program offered a reflection video for families, a related examen prayer, as well as Stations of the Cross, a three-night Parish Family Mission, the Praise Night as a virtual experience, and a viewing party of Just Mercy. Meetings are held on Saturdays and Sundays.

Contact:  
Scott Miller smiller@sjerc.org



## HISPANIC MINISTRIES

At St. John we are blessed to be able to offer Hispanic Ministries to our Hispanic community. These ministries provide our brothers and sisters with the opportunity to live the Catholic faith in their own Spanish language and cultural traditions. Sacraments, religious education, pastoral counseling, and other pastoral needs are offered in Spanish.

### HISPANIC ADMINISTRATION MINISTRIES

#### Hispanic Committee

This committee advises the Hispanic clergy-- Associate Pastor Leandro Fazolini and Deacon Jose Rivera. It also is a mechanism to coordinate all the Spanish-language ministries. The coordinators and representatives of the ministries meet monthly on the first Tuesday.

Contact: Deacon Jose Rivera  
[jose.rivera@sjerc.org](mailto:jose.rivera@sjerc.org)  
301-219-8869



*Associate Pastor Leandro Fazolini leads our Hispanic congregation*

### HISPANIC FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

#### Religious Education Programs

Religious education programs in Spanish are provided for children, teens and adults. Sacramental preparation programs are offered for the sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist—and Marriage.

#### Children—

Consuelo Petro [cpetro@sjerc.org](mailto:cpetro@sjerc.org)  
410-964-1425 X325

#### Teens—

Scott Miller [scott.miller@sjerc.org](mailto:scott.miller@sjerc.org)  
Lemberth Peñate [penateleberth@yahoo.com](mailto:penateleberth@yahoo.com)  
Aida Peñate [penateaida@gmail.com](mailto:penateaida@gmail.com)

#### Adults and RCIA—

Janet Ochoa [jeannetteochoa63@gmail.com](mailto:jeannetteochoa63@gmail.com)  
301-213-6809  
Manuel Aliaga [maliagar@hotmail.com](mailto:maliagar@hotmail.com)  
973-699-8190

#### Marriage—

Melinda Ruiz [mebarca@hotmail.com](mailto:mebarca@hotmail.com)  
443-561-4373  
Santiago Ruiz [stgoruiz@hotmail.com](mailto:stgoruiz@hotmail.com)  
443-469-5620

## HISPANIC OUTREACH MINISTRIES

### **Walking Together with Jesus Prayer Group**

The prayer group's approach is that each person can have a personal encounter with God. As a prayer group of the Charismatic Renewal, we promote programs offered at the Archdiocesan level, such as the Catholic Charismatic Encounter, Initiation Retreat "Life in the Spirit," Encounter of Women, Encounter of Men, and Vigils. Through these activities, the prayer group promotes a personal, mature, and continuous conversion toward Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Programs are carried out to teach and follow up with new members of the groups. There are also workshops for leaders and servants of the different ministries. The prayer group enhances and enriches the parish since many of the members of the group are active servants in the different ministries such as ushers, lectors, ministers of the Eucharist, choirs, and catechesis. Come and join this prayer group and let yourself be loved by God, have a personal experience with Him, witness His love, mercies and grace for each of us, His children. Enrich and strengthen your faith through your word. The prayer group meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 -7:00 p.m. for Holy Rosary and 7:00-9:00 p.m. for Prayer Assembly. During COVID, meetings are virtual (Zoom). Contact us for more information or if you know of someone who needs prayer.

Contact:

Ángel Magaña [aj864130@gmail.com](mailto:aj864130@gmail.com)  
443-996-9435  
Jorge Fuentes  
443-310-2084

### **Bereavement**

Paulina Jimenez [paulinaj@gmail.com](mailto:paulinaj@gmail.com)  
443-864-1685  
Alejandra Garcia  
[alejandragarcia7181@gmail.com](mailto:alejandragarcia7181@gmail.com)  
443-518-9965

### **Hispanic Community Representative**

Laurentina M. Takovich  
[tinatakovich@verizon.net](mailto:tinatakovich@verizon.net)  
443-904-2672

### **San Andres Evangelization**

Ismael Esteva [isma6974@gmail.com](mailto:isma6974@gmail.com)  
301-717-4073  
Patricia Esteva [pesteva73@aol.com](mailto:pesteva73@aol.com)  
301-675-2259



## HISPANIC SERVICE ORGANIZATION MINISTRIES

### **Boy Scouts of America Cub Pack 2010, Troop 2010, and Venture Crew 2010**

St. John's Hispanic Ministry charters three Spanish-speaking BSA scout groups. La Manada (Cub Pack) 2010 is for children ages 7-10 and emphasizes the commitment between children, parents, adult scout leaders and friends. La Tropa (Troop) 2010 is for youth ages 11-17 and helps them develop character and citizenship. La Tripulación (Crew) 2010 is for boys and girls ages 14-20 and emphasizes leadership, and the development of life and outdoor skills. The scouts contribute to service projects including food drives, health fairs, and parish activities.

Contact:  
Victor Torres tropa2010@gmail.com  
301-928-5197



### **Legion of Mary, Maria Reina de la Familia Praesidium**

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church in which members seek to sanctify themselves and others through a program of prayer, study, service, and spiritual works. There are three local units of this group, called praesidium. Maria Reina del la Familia is the St. John Hispanic praesidium. Active members and auxiliary members work to console the sick, the lonely, and the bereaved. Another area of focus is bringing the faith to others.

Contact:  
Hilda Luna lunaestrella5678@gmail.com  
443-255-9295



## HISPANIC WORSHIP MINISTRIES

### Eucharistic Ministry



Eucharist ministers serve at the three Hispanic Masses on the weekend. They also assist by taking the sacred eucharist to the sick and others who are not able to participate in the eucharistic celebrations. They meet monthly to share a biblical reading, discuss important subjects related to the ministry, and visit and meditate with the sacred sacrament.

Contact: Shirley Cruz [diazji2@yahoo.com](mailto:diazji2@yahoo.com)  
410-294-0402

### Lectors



Readers participate in the liturgy as readers of biblical texts other than the Gospel, which are assigned to the priest or deacon.

Recently, the number of readers has increased to 21 serving three weekend Masses (six readers per weekend). Coordinators develop a schedule for two consecutive months and assign readers based on their availability. A coordinator is elected every two years. The goal is for each member to serve as a coordinator. In the past year, we returned to a monthly schedule and, before Covid-19, the plan was to spend most of our meeting presenting and discussing a chapter of a book related to our ministry. The topic of discussion is assigned to a reader who introduces it and guides the conversation. Our goal is to provide enrichment opportunities for our members to better understand our ministry. We meet the second Thursday of each month. Typically, about 70 percent of our members attend. We currently meet through Zoom..

Contact: Marianela Estrada  
[emailnella22@gmail.com](mailto:emailnella22@gmail.com)  
973-223-1024



## Music Ministry



The choir worship ministry is comprised of three groups that perform at Mass, First Holy Communion, Holy Week, Posadas, Christmas Eve, Quinceanera, Wedding, and Baptism celebrations. The choirs also participate in special events, such as the Concert to Santa Cecilia, the Mid Atlantic Congress Hispanic Heritage, and retreats in Glen Burnie and Columbia. The names of the choir groups and contacts for each are listed below.

Sagrada Familia Choir  
Saturday 7:00 p.m. Mass  
Contact: Benjamín Chacón 301-221-4512  
Veronica Baldizon 443-570-0657

San Juan Evangelista Choir  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass  
Contact: Orlando Villalonga  
guitarristapalante@yahoo.com 240-723-3288  
Juana Espinal juananespinal73@gmail.com  
443-500-0400

Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe Choir  
Sunday 12:15 p.m. Mass  
Contact: Victor Torres 301-928-5197  
Veronica Baldizon 443-570-0657

Renacer en el Espíritu Choir, Prayer Group  
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Mass  
Contact: David Piña 443-463-4778

## Usher Ministry



The mission of the ushers is to provide all present at Mass with a comfortable, safe and welcoming environment. Some of the responsibilities of the ushers are to welcome those who come to holy Mass, deliver missals and songbooks, make sure the offertory gifts are in place, collect the offerings, direct the flow of people at communion time, deliver the weekly bulletin, and clean up the church for the next service. The Usher Ministry is open to all—families, married couples, singles, and young people are all welcome.

Contact:  
Espiridión Hernández  
piloherandez2011@gmail.com  
443-542-3165

## INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

The publication *Creative Tension* (2017, edited by Carolyn Arena and Elizabeth Martin of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church (SJERC)) tells the story of the development of interfaith life in Columbia and examines the rich interactions of the various faiths that came together in the new city of Columbia, Maryland. Mission-oriented interfaith experiences, which in the early 1970s were groundbreaking, are still very much a part of our community.

### **Columbia Pregnancy Center**

The Columbia Pregnancy Center is an independent, nonprofit medical clinic serving women and families in Howard County by providing free pregnancy-related services and life-affirming pregnancy choices. The center provides counseling and educational instruction through trained volunteers; additional volunteers provide leadership on the board of directors, office assistance, accounting and legal services, language interpretation, donation sorting, and event coordination. The center collaborates with St. John's parish on programs, obtains financial support from the Knights of Columbus, and relies on parishioners to fill volunteer positions. Other congregations are also involved in this interfaith ministry.

Contact:

Nancy Vawter

Nancy.vawter@columbia-pregnancy.org  
(410) 730-3223

24/7 Hotline:

(800)712-HELP (4357)

<https://www.columbia-babies.org>

### **Home Repair Ministry (Appalachia Service Project and Howard County)**

The Home Repair Ministry is a joint service program between SJERC and SJU. Although we do service projects for those in need in Howard County, our main focus is the Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP is a week of service to help make homes warmer, safer, and drier in the mountains of Appalachia. The program begins in October, culminating in the trip in June. Over the course of the year, volunteers participate in fundraising (making and selling wreaths, share sales, dinners out), three days of sensitivity and construction skills training, and a Howard County service project. SJU began this ministry in 1980, and was joined by SJERC in 1990 to create this successful interfaith ministry. Together we send around 60 teenagers to Appalachia each summer. Interested students and adults are invited to learn more about this life-transforming volunteer project.

Contact: [sjuaspm@gmail.com](mailto:sjuaspm@gmail.com)



## Interfaith Coalition for Compassion

This non-profit organization helps prevent evictions and utility turnoffs, helps with prescriptions, provides access to a food pantry, and sponsors monthly Hospitality Center dinners. Volunteers engage with persons requesting assistance and verify the need for the requests. This nonprofit organization is supported solely by donations from a wide variety of churches and synagogues within Howard County.

Contact:

Sue Carpenter [sue3san@gmail.com](mailto:sue3san@gmail.com)

Jack Gegner [jacargeg@juno.com](mailto:jacargeg@juno.com)

## Interfaith Hospitality Center

The Interfaith Hospitality Center is an activity of the Interfaith Coalition for Compassion and St. John parish. The center provides support for monthly dinners that are open to all. Volunteers cook, serve, clean up and provide special activities at the monthly dinners. The center also undertakes special programs, such as school supply drives, Secret Santa Shops, and holiday gift card giveaways, which are made possible by working in conjunction with our interfaith partners. While dinners were cancelled during the pandemic, we continued to provide information about resources for families through email. We also received a grant to provide cookbooks for budget-friendly meals and the ingredients for one of the meals to 66 families.

Contact:

Beverly Prosen [bprosen@hotmail.com](mailto:bprosen@hotmail.com)



## Wilde Lake Interfaith Library

The library has a collection of more than 4,000 items, mostly books and some videos and audiobooks, available for patrons of both SJERC and SJU. The library has a large collection of books on religion, prayer, scripture, and theology, as well as family life, self-care, society/social justice, history, biography, and fiction. The children's section includes both religious and non-religious topics for all ages. The library has a small but growing collection of books in Spanish. The video collection includes DVD recordings of parish events, such as the Conversation Project talks provided by the Gift of Peace Ministry. The library displays feature items for church seasons including Lent and Advent, and more general topics such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, and the Season of Creation. Occasionally, the library holds special events, such as a children's book reading, or a book discussion group. For the last couple of years, we have participated in the "One Maryland, One Book" program that supports community and conversation in Maryland by selecting a topical book and preparing discussion guides and other material. Parishioners can arrange for the donation of a new book to the library in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Volunteers from both churches work together on all aspects of the library, which is open on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Contact:

[interfaithlibrary.wildelake@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithlibrary.wildelake@gmail.com)



**VOLUNTEERS**

do not necessarily  
have the time.

They just have



the **HEART!**

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Every Christian and church are called to help others in need. Examples include serving the poor, homeless, sick, and imprisoned. Outreach ministries provide opportunities for us to mobilize and inspire our capacity to serve. Parishes support and celebrate outreach ministries in many different ways. This section describes how we minister to those in need at St. John and beyond.

### **Beechfield Elementary-Middle School**



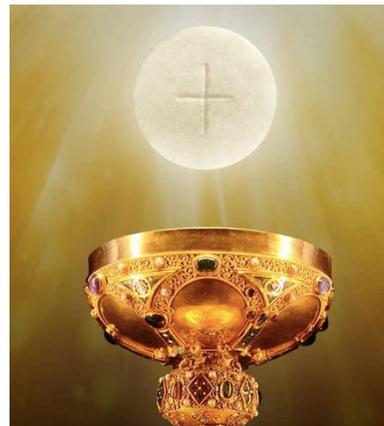
St. John has had a partnership with Beechfield Elementary-Middle School in Baltimore city for over 25 years. Last year, our volunteers assisted at their Fall Fest to raise money for the school. Parishioners also have shared children's books with classes and holiday gifts with families in need. In the past, parishioners have also helped with fun activities to reward students with perfect or near perfect school attendance, certificates for good attendance and achievement, raise scholarship money for field trips, and run evenings for families to learn about improving literacy and STEM skills. In addition, St. John has assisted other city schools with books, games and materials for bilingual students and school supplies. We welcome new volunteers interested in becoming involved with this wonderful ministry to teachers and children.

Contact:  
Marge Trenkle [m.trenkle@verizon.net](mailto:m.trenkle@verizon.net)  
410-788-2185

### **Communion / Prayer at the Hospital and Senior Living Facilities**

St. John eucharistic ministers visit Howard General County Hospital, Lorien Nursing Home, and other senior residences to offer communion and prayer to Catholic patients and residents.

Contact:  
Linda Raudenbush [lr78@georgetown.edu](mailto:lr78@georgetown.edu)



## Creating Friendships for Peace Inc.

Creating Friendships for Peace Inc. (formerly Cyprus Friendship Program) is one of St. John's earliest outreach programs that is still ongoing. Parishioners host summer visits by teens from areas of the world where there is conflict. Teens from both sides of the conflict stay together with a host family with the hope of building new friendships and understanding. CFP is a non-profit with the goal of building friendships, mutual respect, and understanding to promote peace among tomorrow's leaders. Over the years, we have welcomed teens from Northern Ireland, Israel/Palestine, and Cyprus.

Contact:  
Tom McCarthy, [gtrmccarthym@gmail.com](mailto:gtrmccarthym@gmail.com)

<https://friendships4peace.org/>



## Diversity and Inclusion Ministry

The Diversity and Inclusion Ministry, formerly known as the Diversity Committee, seeks to welcome and recognize the various cultural groups within the parish community. By organizing and creating activities that show and tell the diverse ethnic backgrounds among us, we hope to bring about a better understanding and appreciation of all God's people uniquely created in his image and likeness.

In response to events in 2020, we are restructuring some of our goals and commitments to meet the growing changes we face in a world that is constantly evolving. Previously, we participated in the Annual Pentecost Mass and celebration by having a bilingual Mass, offertory prayers, and Mass hymns said and sung in different languages. We have organized a multicultural cafe, which featured displays, presentations, and cuisine from around the world. A highlight is the large world map with pins for guests to denote their country of origin. We have held workshops on topics that touch on sensitive issues regarding the differences among us.

Our Ministry hosts an annual retreat for the parish and takes on joint projects with other ministries in the parish, such as the Sister Parish Partnership.

Contact:  
Ulumma Onyewu [uabii@yahoo.com](mailto:uabii@yahoo.com)



*Pentecost Diversity Presentation*

## Elizabeth House Soup Kitchen

Our parishioners make casseroles for the Elizabeth House Soup Kitchen in Laurel, Maryland. We also serve dinners at Elizabeth House, which is an all-volunteer food pantry and soup kitchen.

Contact:

Susan Defibaugh [susankdefibaugh@gmail.com](mailto:susankdefibaugh@gmail.com)



*Window at Oakland Mills  
Interfaith Center*

## Embracing Global Solidarity

Over the past 10 or more years this group has organized many information sessions about topics of global concern, including several on the Palestinian question, immigration, global aid, and human trafficking. We organized parish-wide signing of letters to our Congressional representatives and senators on issues affecting the global poor, including the Farm Bill, Food for Peace, and related issues. We hand deliver letters to members of Congress, meet with congressional staffers, and participate in marches, including in Washington, DC in support of Darfur and immigration rights. Our annual activities include Alternative Giving at Christmas in support of five small-scale charities in the global community. This ministry is currently engaged in advocacy efforts to support poor countries struggling with COVID-19 in addition to their other problems.

Contact:

Sarah Lutterodt [sarahlutterodt@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlutterodt@gmail.com)



## Food Bank

St. John's parish collects non-perishable food donations and personal hygiene products in the WLIFC lobby on an on-going basis. Over 5,200 pounds of food and other materials are provided to FISH of Howard County annually. Collection stalled when the WLIFC closed in early 2020 due to the pandemic. We resumed collection in conjunction with SJU by placing a container for donations outside of the WLIFC office. Donated food and hygiene items are now distributed within our neighborhoods by Columbia Community Care, a nonprofit food pantry that serves hundreds of local families each week.

Contact:

Bud Hunt [hunt-family1@comcast.net](mailto:hunt-family1@comcast.net)

<http://columbiacare.live>



## Gift of Peace Ministry

Part of a worldwide campaign to transform the dying part of human experience, this ministry provides information, guidance, and support for our parishioners and their loved ones so that wishes for end-of-life care may be expressed and respected. With grant funding support from The Horizon Foundation, this past year we developed an instructional video to help families think through their preferences for care, talk about them with loved ones, and name a health care agent. Videos of previous workshop sessions featuring clergy, lawyers, hospice workers, funeral directors and others are available on St. John's website and in the Interfaith Library at WLIFC.

Contact:

Audrey Marsh [giftofpeace@sjerc.org](mailto:giftofpeace@sjerc.org)



## Give it a Second Life Collection

An annual Fall collection of bicycles, sewing machines, musical instruments and more. The items, after being repaired by the receiving organization, are distributed to needy families in Baltimore, as well as Africa and Latin America.

Contact:  
Tom McCarthy [gtrmccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:gtrmccarthy@gmail.com)



## Green Team

The Green Team provides education on environmental threats and potential solutions affecting Maryland, our nation, and the world. We motivate and educate our parishioners and local community to a deeper reverence and respect for God's gift of creation. Our fellow parishioners are engaged in activities to deal with environmental challenges including climate change in their own yard, in our parish, and in our community and to take action on issues of environmental justice.

Contact:  
Kathy Gross [haitikathy@gmail.com](mailto:haitikathy@gmail.com)



*Rain garden restoration at WLIFC*



## Marriage Encounter

Marriage Encounter (ME) is a movement in the Catholic church designed to enrich and strengthen marriages. Married couples of all faiths are invited to weekend faith-based experiences to get away from their usual routine in order to focus on their marriage. ME weekends usually take place in retreat houses or hotels, and are also offered as a non-residence experience where couples return to their homes each evening from the church or meeting place where the presentations are given. And, a virtual experience is now being offered.

Contact:  
Mary Rekus marymd66@gmail.com

[www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)



## Mental Health Ministry

Work began on our new Mental Health Ministry this year with the sponsorship of a Mental Health Summit in the fall in cooperation with the Howard County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Shortly thereafter, The Horizon Foundation awarded the parish a grant to fund this new initiative. The important work of supporting, not treating, those with mental illness and those who care for them has been delayed due to the pandemic. Volunteers will be needed when we are able to move forward.

Contact:  
Deacon Paul Gifford paul.gifford@sjerc.org



## Our Daily Bread Casserole Project

The project provides casseroles once every month to Catholic Charities Our Daily Bread dining center in Baltimore for the homeless and other needy persons. A six-person steering committee supervises the project, which is comprised of over 200 volunteer home cooks and four two-person teams who deliver the casseroles. Parishioners do not need to be enrolled in the project to contribute — watch for announcements in the church bulletin, collect the recipe and empty pan after Mass, prepare the simple meal, and deliver your frozen casseroles according to the schedule published each month.

Contact:  
Jeanette Jenkins [sjodb12@yahoo.com](mailto:sjodb12@yahoo.com)



*Our Daily Bread volunteers make, collect and deliver meals*



## Parish Nurse Ministry

Our parish nurses offer blood pressure screening every second Sunday of the month after the 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses at WLIFC. About 20 to 30 screenings are conducted each month and instructional materials and needed support are also provided. This is an especially valuable service to those without insurance.

Contact:  
Mary Bielefeld [mbielefeld10@gmail.com](mailto:mbielefeld10@gmail.com)



## Prison Healing Community

Pope Francis encouraged us to go to the fringes and we will be changed. Our prison ministers visit Catholic inmates at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup on Tuesday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. On Tuesday, a Mass is celebrated or a communion service is held. On Saturdays, a bible study class is conducted with written materials and videos. Family members of the incarcerated are also assisted by this ministry as they deal with their plight, and our assistance is offered to returning citizens in need of support during their transition. This ministry advocates for prison reform and for programs to help the men and women after release. Meeting prisoners teaches you that they are just like us except they made some bad decisions. This ministry especially welcomes Spanish-speaking volunteers.

Contact:  
Deacon Paul Gifford [paul.gifford@sjerc.org](mailto:paul.gifford@sjerc.org)

## Racial Justice Committee

The recently-established Racial Justice Committee is comprised of members of the Social Justice Ministry Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This committee advises Pastor Bowen and church leadership on various issues effecting our community.

Contact:  
Patty Dugan [pattydugan@hotmail.com](mailto:pattydugan@hotmail.com)



## Resurrection Ministry

The Resurrection Ministry is an outreach ministry to families who wish to have a funeral Mass or memorial service at St. John. The parish office receives the call from the family and determines with them the date, time and priest availability for the Mass or memorial service. Volunteers are notified by the parish office of the date and time and ministry volunteers then respond to the office with their availability. Volunteers serve in a variety of ways: meet with the family to plan the Mass or worship service and serve as ushers, sacristans, and eucharistic ministers.

Contact:

Eileen Kiefer [eileenmaykiefer@gmail.com](mailto:eileenmaykiefer@gmail.com)



## Senior Alliance Committee

This year our Pastoral Council formed a new ministry--the Senior Alliance Committee--to provide faith-based and socialization programs that are relevant to our senior parishioners, 50 and older. Our parish serves seniors who attend Masses at the Wilde Lake and Oakland Mills Interfaith Centers and those in assisted living, nursing facilities, and group homes, as well as the homebound. The Senior Alliance Committee created a survey to better understand the dynamics of our senior community and their needs and organized a process to call our seniors 65 and older during the early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic to offer spiritual and emotional support, as well as physical support, to the extent that our parish could.

Contact:

Ann Benjamin [labenjamin@verizon.net](mailto:labenjamin@verizon.net)



*Outdoor Masses during the 2020 pandemic*

## Sister Parish Partnership with St. Bernardine Parish

St. John has been in a partnership as sister parishes with St. Bernardine parish in Baltimore for a couple of years. A steering committee of about ten members from both parishes meets routinely to discuss and plan activities to foster this relationship. The primary focus of the committee has been to stay connected, recruit members, and advance the relationship between both parishes. Recent joint activities were a picnic and Mass at St. John with a performance by the St. Bernardine choir, and the annual Martin Luther King (MLK) Peace Walk in Baltimore. Possible future activities include another picnic, a choir exchange, a joint ministry fair, a joint youth activity, and a book club where social justice issues can be discussed. The steering committee is seeking additional members.

Contact:

Evelyne Mbandi [embandi@hotmail.com](mailto:embandi@hotmail.com)



*MLK 2020 Walk in Baltimore City*

## Social Justice Ministry Committee

This committee's mission is to inform, inspire, and invite the parish to consider and act on local and global issues of social justice, and to support the empowerment of the oppressed and disenfranchised. This year we held a JustFaith Phase 1 Program, incorporated information about Catholic social teaching in bulletin inserts and prayers, planned an advent giving guide with resources for prayer and social justice actions, sent members to the Archdiocesan social ministry convocation, and began planning for a St. John Green Team. The committee also supported many other groups that work for social justice and empowerment including Embracing Global Solidarity, Prison Ministry, the Give it a Second Life Collection, Creating Friendships for Peace, partnerships with Beechfield Elementary-Middle School as well as the casserole projects for Our Daily Bread and Elizabeth House Soup Kitchen, and Visitations at Spring Grove Hospital.

Meets the fourth Thursday of the month, September to May at 7:30pm.

Contact:

Marge Trenkle [m.trenkle@verizon.net](mailto:m.trenkle@verizon.net)



## Spring Grove Hospital Center Visitation

Once a month, a group of our parishioners visits Spring Grove Psychiatric Center where we organize a game of BINGO and bring snacks and game prizes for the residents. Spring Grove Hospital Center in Catonsville provides inpatient psychiatric services to adults and adolescents, as well as residential psychiatric services to adults. Our purpose is to bring smiles and provide a distraction and entertainment and socialization. Donations of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotions as well as soap, toothpaste, and deodorant are distributed to the patients and are very much appreciated. Our ministry visits Spring Grove the first Tuesday of every month.

Contact:

Renessa Tuason [renessatuason@gmail.com](mailto:renessatuason@gmail.com)

## *Saint John the Evangelist and the Poison Cup*



*16th Century Painting by Alonso Cano,  
on display at the Louvre in Paris, France*

## SERVICE ORGANIZATION MINISTRIES

Catholic lay organizations and organizations chartered by Catholic churches serve the church and provide direct services to our community.

### Boy Scouts of America Scouts BSA Troop 649

Troop 649 provides boys (ages 11-17) from diverse backgrounds with opportunities to do, learn, and grow. Activities range from hiking and camping, to campfire cooking; from community service projects to sports and fitness activities; from learning to be leaders and learning to protect our environment to better understanding the role of faith in their lives. Our Catholic scouts earn the *Ad Altare Dei* Catholic religious emblem for scouting under the guidance of St. John Youth Ministry. Troop 649 brings the International Peace Light from the Grotto of the Nativity in Jerusalem to share the flame and message of peace in the Advent season. Troop 649 and St. John celebrate Scout Sunday Mass where scouts demonstrate their commitment to the church by serving as lectors, ushers and bearers of the gifts each February. We recite the Scout Oath at weekly Troop meetings, promising “To do my duty to God and my country....” And during monthly camping weekends, the scouts give thanks and say grace before meals. Scouts help with Our Daily Bread Casserole Project and Green Team rain garden restoration. Troop 649 received BSA’s Gold Award for Journey to Excellence, recognition for delivering a high-quality program, including scout activities, community service, and governance. Troop 649 meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at WLIFC.

Contact: [patrick.roth@ngc.com](mailto:patrick.roth@ngc.com)  
[jill.bispels@gmail.com](mailto:jill.bispels@gmail.com)

[troop649columbia.weebly.com](http://troop649columbia.weebly.com)



Troop 649 and St. John celebrate Scout Sunday



Troop 649 brings the Peace Light to St. John parish

## Knights of Columbus Columbia Council 7559

The Knights of Columbus is a charitable, religious, fraternal organization that supports the parish, our priests, community members, and our members and their families. During the pandemic, we assisted with outdoor Masses, including attendance/registration, parking, collections, and social distancing. We provide similar assistance with reconciliation/confession services. We assist with annual picnics, the 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> parish anniversary celebrations, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Pentecost Sunday Diversity Mass and Reception, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Thanksgiving Supper. The Knights support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Soup Dinner); the Tanzanian Children’s Project, a non-profit charitable organization founded by the Columbia Council (St. Patrick’s Day Celebration); Knights’ Coats for Kids; Clermont Foundation Wine Tasting Event; Columbia Pregnancy Center (Baby Bottle Drive); and Special Olympics Maryland of Howard County and the Arc of Howard County (Tootsie Roll Drive). The Knights of Columbus depends on its many member volunteers, and is eager to welcome men age 18 and older, who are interested in joining us for fun, fellowship, and devoted dedication to our many good works.

Contact:  
Dr. Frank A. Attard [attard@rocketmail.com](mailto:attard@rocketmail.com)

<http://koccolumniamd.org>



*Knights of Columbus  
NAMI Supper*

## Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians - Howard County Division I

This is a nationwide sisterhood of Irish and Irish-American Catholic women, a Catholic Action organization pledged to God, Country, and fostering our Irish Heritage. Saint Brigid is the Patroness of the organization and its motto is “*Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.*” We were established in 2000. The division chaplain is Deacon Paul Gifford. We support the Knights of Columbus, the Columban Fathers and Sisters, Catholic Charities, the Columbia Pregnancy Center, the Little Sisters of the Poor, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center and other local and national organizations. LOAH meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m. from September through June at the WLIFC.

Contact:  
Sharon Strobel [rhstrobel@verizon.net](mailto:rhstrobel@verizon.net)

<https://marylandlaoh.org/membership/adult-divisions/howard-county/>



*Knights of Columbus Columbia Council with  
Archbishop William Lori and Rev. Fr. Gerry Bowen*

## Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is the largest apostolic organization of lay people in the Catholic Church in which members seek to sanctify themselves and others through a program of prayer, study, service, and spiritual works. There are three local units of this group, called praesidium. Active members and auxiliary members work to console the sick, the lonely, and the bereaved. Another area of focus is bringing the faith to others.

Mary Seat of Wisdom

Contact:

Valentina Ukwuoma ihuomaval@hotmail.com  
443-430-5220

Our Lady of Good Remedy

Contact:

Elizabeth Dennis 443-864-1653

Maria Reina de la Familia (Spanish)

Contact:

Hilda Luna lunaestrella5678@gmail.com  
443-255-9295



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul— St. John's Conference

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul builds a more just world through personal relations with and service to people in need. This network of friends gathers together in prayer, spiritual reflection, and mutual support to assist neighbors who are experiencing financial hardship. Our network provides financial assistance to parishioners and non-parishioners who are residents of Howard County. Examples of assistance include rent eviction prevention assistance, utility cut-off prevention, emergency gas and food, and other needs. Funding is made possible through the generous donations of parishioners at St. John as well as fundraisers, such as ice cream socials, bake sales, and an annual community soup dinner. Annually, an average of 250-300 phone calls for assistance are received and nearly \$25,000 in financial assistance is distributed. In addition to financial assistance, we also provide our neighbors with referrals to other organizations that may offer additional resources. Our goal is to end poverty through systemic change.

Contact:

Alan Pultyniewicz apulty@yahoo.com  
For Emergency needs call 410-964-1440



## WORSHIP MINISTRIES

Through our worship ministries we create worship experiences that glorify God and inspire us. Our worship ministries work together to present memorable and engaging liturgies.

### Linen Ministry

Volunteers wash and iron the altar linens used at the Interfaith Centers. These linens include purificators, corporals, and small hand towels, which are cleaned on a weekly basis, and altar coverings, which are cleaned as needed. We pick up the dirty linens on Sunday or a day or two later. Clean and ironed linens are returned by the following Saturday afternoon before the weekend Masses.

Contact:

Eileen Kiefer [eileenmaykiefer@gmail.com](mailto:eileenmaykiefer@gmail.com)  
(Wilde Lake Interfaith Center)

Rosemary Wissing, [r2wissing@comcast.net](mailto:r2wissing@comcast.net)  
(Oakland Mills Interfaith Center)

### Liturgy Committee

Our mission is to support and promote the spiritual development of the worshipping community. Our members work closely with other ministries that are involved in various aspects of the worship experience. We recruit liturgical ministers, offer training and orientation for new ministers, promote our video-streaming service and help find technicians. Planning for Christmas Eve/Day Masses and the Palm Sunday and Triduum services is overseen by our committee in close cooperation with the parish priests, who are committee members. The worship experience is enhanced by the decorating of the worship spaces. We are instrumental in recruiting people to decorate and undecorate for major feasts and seasons and for special events.

Contact:

Mike Buckley [michaeljbuckley@verizon.net](mailto:michaeljbuckley@verizon.net)  
410-992-8948



## Liturgical Ministers

Our altar servers, eucharistic ministers, lectors, sacristans and ushers all contribute to the worship experience of our liturgies. We train volunteers for these assignments. Parishioners serve on a rotating schedule each week as liturgical ministers at our English-speaking weekend Masses and some of the eucharistic ministers visit the homebound, individuals in senior living facilities, and patients at Spring Grove Hospital. Our ministers serve bravely during the pandemic at our streamed and outdoor Masses and other liturgies.

Contact:

Associate Pastor Ferdinand Ezenwachi  
fezenwachi@sjerc.org

Contact for altar servers: Philip Poletti  
philippoletti@hotmail.com



## Liturgical Tech Support Team

Our team livestreams various liturgies. We prepare and project song lyrics and various videos that are supplied by the staff and parish groups. Our goal is to help spread the Gospel of Jesus through the use of technology. In addition to Masses, we supported other liturgies that went online during the pandemic, including the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration after selected weekday Masses, the Parish Family Mission, Easter sunrise service, Mother's Day Masses, baptisms, funerals, and PenteCAST, the Music Ministry's virtual Pentecost program. In addition, we support other ministries by videotaping their events and posting them to the parish website to increase the reach of those activities. We invite young people — especially those preparing for confirmation who need service hours—to consider working with this team.

Contact:

Al Sorrell alsorrell@yahoo.com



## Music Ministry



Our adult and children music ministers work to provide meaningful and spirit-filled liturgies and events for our parishioners. Close coordination with the celebrants and staff ensures that music is carefully chosen to add to the understanding and celebration of the Word. Our music ministers consist of singers, instrumentalists, and volunteers who help with sound and other support functions. Our ministers can be heard at Mass, in our Christmas and Palm Sunday concerts, at senior living facilities, and other events. During the pandemic, this ministry found ways to add music to virtual gatherings with live performances, video and audio recordings, and a virtual choir. We adopted a five-year plan in 2019 that will bring more energetic and beautiful music to celebrate the good in each other and comfort those in time of need.

Contact:

Chris Youstra [cyoustra@aol.com](mailto:cyoustra@aol.com)



Wilde Lake Interfaith Center  
10431 Twin Rivers Road  
Columbia, MD 21044



Oakland Mills Interfaith Center  
5885 Robert Oliver Place  
Columbia, MD 21045

410-964-1425 (Office Phone)  
240-400-0339 (Priest's Emergency Phone)  
410-730-9253 (Fax)

<http://www.stjohnscolumbiamd.org> (Parish web site)  
<https://app.Flocknote.com/sjerc> (Subscribe to online messages)  
<http://www.stjohnscolumbiamd.org/streaming> (Watch online masses)  
<https://www.givecentral.org/location/501/> (Donate by electronic funds transfer)  
<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnEvangelistColumbia> (Parish Facebook page)