

# St. Charles Borromeo Church

*Celebrating 173 Years as the Catholic Community in the Heart of Pikesville*

## Mission Statement

Saint Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church is a Christian Community bonded by faith and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and action through prayer, education, evangelization and service.

**FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**  
*Second Sunday of Lent*



101 Church Lane ● Pikesville, MD 21208 ● 410-486-5400 ● Fax: 410-486-5421 ● [www.ourstcharles.org](http://www.ourstcharles.org)  
[Facebook.com/SCBPikesville](https://www.facebook.com/SCBPikesville) ● Office Hours: 9:00am – 3:00pm ● Email: [charlesst@comcast.net](mailto:charlesst@comcast.net)

## STAFF CONTACTS

Rev. Gerard Francik, *Pastor*  
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[jeanette.pearl.pn@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.pearl.pn@gmail.com)

## Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00PM (~~Traditional Choir~~)  
Sunday: 8:30AM, 11:00AM (Contemporary Choir)  
Monday-Friday: 7:30AM & Wednesday: 7:00PM  
Holy Day: 7:30AM, 12:10PM, 7:30PM  
Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays, 8:00AM-9:00AM

## Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:15PM-3:45PM; Wednesdays 6:00PM-6:55PM;  
or by appointment

## Infant Baptism

Congratulations to all parents and parents to be. Baptism Preparation sessions for parents and new godparents are led by Deacon Steve once a month following the 11:00AM Mass. Contact Deacon Steve Roscher to register for a session and to arrange for the celebration of your child's baptism.

## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

RCIA is for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ as they journey toward full initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation) into the life of the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon Steve Roscher.

## Marriage

We rejoice with engaged couples, and ask them to contact Deacon Steve Roscher at least 6 months prior to the date of marriage, in order to schedule an appointment to begin marriage preparation.

## Additional Sacramental Preparation

Families wishing to prepare their children for Reconciliation or First Eucharist, please contact Fr. Canisius. High School youth who are interested in Confirmation should contact Sue Lea.

## Care for the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office when a parishioner is homebound, in the hospital, or in a healthcare facility and wishes to receive a visit, or any of the Sacraments. Whenever possible, please make arrangements for Anointing of the Sick before surgery or hospital admission.

## Faith Formation

Religious Education sessions for children (K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade) are held in the rectory on Sunday mornings from 9:45AM-10:55AM. Our Middle School program is a collaboration with Sacred Heart in Glyndon. Our High School program meets in the rectory basement on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 7:00PM-9:00PM.

DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN: TUESDAY AT NOON

*Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.*

## PRAYER AND WORSHIP . . .

### ✠ A REFLECTION FROM FR. CANISIUS ✠

Dear Parishioners,

God's sacrifice of his Son for us is at the heart of Saint Paul's message to the Romans today. *If God is for us, he says, who can be against us?* God loves us, and this love was made known when God *did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all.* Because of this we have reason to hope, since Jesus *intercedes for us.*

This hope is brought to light in today's Gospel account of the transfiguration of Jesus. A story we hear on the Second Sunday of Lent each year. Accompanied by three of his disciples, Jesus goes up a mountain. While they were there, Jesus *was transfigured before them.* Then Moses and Elijah appeared, and *they were conversing with Jesus.* Overshadowed by a cloud, the disciples hear a voice declaring, *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.* And suddenly they are once again alone with Jesus. The transfiguration of Jesus demonstrated his divine nature and manifested the glory he had always possessed and would return to upon leaving his earthly human body. It is also a prefiguring of the glory we shall one day obtain in our resurrected bodies.

Jesus was there on that mountain. He was ready and willing to sacrifice himself for His Father's plan to become a reality. He would die for the good of all. His sacrifice would lead to the glory of the Kingdom of God. His life, obscure in the eyes of the world, and His death, which the world would view as dishonorable, freed others, freed us, to live and die in grace.

What does all this mean to us? It means that as followers of Christ we also must offer ourselves up for the good of others. When Jesus said that we cannot be His followers unless we were ready to take up our crosses, He was not using symbolic imagery. He meant it. As Christians, we are called to sacrifice ourselves for others.

Lent is a time for us to take a close look at ourselves and consider what we have to do to conquer selfishness and sin in our own lives. The various exercises of Lent help us to dive deeper into our commitment to the Lord. Lent helps us to take those steps we need to be bound to God's plan. If we live and die with Christ, if we do in fact *listen to him*, for he *intercedes for us*; then we shall take our place among our ancestors, as Christ showed on that mountain. We pray today for the grace to be part of the plan, part of the sacrifice, and part of the Glory.

As we continue to be engaged in the **Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries** with the theme this year **Joyful in Hope**, I thank you for your support of the ministries of the Archdiocese and our parish. Many of you did receive

your information in the mail. If you have not yet returned the pledge card, please pray, and consider a gift to the Appeal. Let us celebrate together Joyful in Hope.

God bless,  
~ Fr. Canisius



### ✠ STATIONS OF THE CROSS ✠

Fr. Maurice will lead us in praying the *Stations of the Cross* this **Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at **7:00pm** in the church. The Stations will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 3:15pm-3:45pm and on Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm-7:00pm.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### **Second Sunday of Lent, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 | Rom 8:31b-34  
Mk 9:2-10*

#### **Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Dn 9:4b-10 | Lk 6:36-38*

#### **Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Is 1:10, 16-20 | Mt 23:1-12*

#### **Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

#### **St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin**

*Jer 18:18-20 | Mt 20:17-28*

#### **Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### **St. Casimir**

*Jer 17:5-10 | Lk 16:19-31*

#### **Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a | Mt 21:33-43, 45-46*

#### **Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

*Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 | Lk 15:1-3, 11-32*

#### **Third Sunday of Lent, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Ex 20:1-17 | 1 Cor 1:22-25 | Jn 2:13-25*

The full text of Daily Mass readings can be found at [www.bible.usccb.org](http://www.bible.usccb.org) or on MyParish app.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

*I wish, my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility, and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.*

## DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

DAILY MASS IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC OR CAN BE VIEWED ON OUR ST. CHARLES FACEBOOK PAGE:  
[www.facebook.com/SCBPikesville/live/](http://www.facebook.com/SCBPikesville/live/)

Date	Time	Presider	Mass Intention
Mon Mar 1	7:30am	Fr. Maurice	William H. Gross
Tue Mar 2	7:30am	Fr. Canisius	Mary Seeley
Wed Mar 3	7:30am	Fr. Maurice	Johnny, Leticia, and Judilyn Medina
Wed Mar 3	7:00pm	Fr. Canisius	Anne Brusca
Thu Mar 4	7:30am	Fr. Canisius	Elsie DeLeonardis
Fri Mar 5	7:30am	Fr. Canisius	Sadie M. Gross
Sat Mar 6	4:00pm	Fr. Canisius	People of the Parish
Sun Mar 7	8:30am	Fr. Canisius	Edgar Din
Sun Mar 7	11:00am	Fr. Canisius	Margaret R. Benner

### ARCHDIOCESAN MASS

Archbishop Lori celebrates Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen at 11:00am each Sunday. *It is broadcast live on Ch.24 (MyTV Baltimore); Comcast Xfinity (803); and Verizon (509).* A livestream of the Mass is available online at: [archbalt.org/online-mass/](http://archbalt.org/online-mass/) or on the *myParish* app.

### ONLINE PARISH MASSES

At St. Charles we are praying for you every day!  
 All are welcome to join us "virtually" in our communal prayer at the following times:

**DAILY MASS: Monday-Friday at 7:30am**

**SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00pm**

**SUNDAY MASS: 11:00am**

[www.facebook.com/SCBPikesville/live/](http://www.facebook.com/SCBPikesville/live/)

### CHILDREN'S READINGS & CLOSED CAPTIONS

Martha Yalov, our CLOW leader, posts weekly videos on our Facebook page proclaiming the Sunday readings from a simplified lectionary translation created for children. These videos also contain "closed captions" so they are wonderful for those who suffer from hearing loss or are deaf. They are about 9-10 minutes long. Gather the family and check it out this weekend!

## LET US PRAY WITH OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

*"There is an appointed time for everything,  
 and a time for every affair under the heavens."*

- Ecclesiastes 3:1

### ...a time to heal

Sue Whitcomb; Midge Tobin; Dennis Bowersox; Patricia Cummings; Kevin Roscher; Jeff Bridge; Frank Satterfield; Brian Callahan; Bishop Francis Malooly; Tom Streicher; Lucas Herb; Claris Hosford; Pearl Timothy; Joann Easton; Maureen Browne; Joseph Rossi; Debbie Rossi; John Grimm, Sr.; Desmond Duffy; Joe Prieto; Mary Ellen Gordon; Richard Abbotts; Nancy Abbotts; Hyacinth Davis; Butch Cogle; Paul Singleton; Shep Hogg; Whitney Hamacker; Erika Wright; Erica Estworthy; Helen Bennett; Margaret "Peggy" Howser; Patricia League; Theresa Brophy; Mary Margaret (Gillespie) Payne; Gloria Brennan; Bob & Peggy Moan; Tiffany Brown; Wendy Simpkins; Shelley McThomas; Marie McGinn; Gregory Hannon; Joan Marie Getchell; Tim McNamara; Ed McBride; Carol Jones; Marge Rudie; Andy Moan; Terry Bullinger; Betty Schmedes; Jeanette Cherigos; Herman Milovitz; Steve Haywood; Joan Herion; Lori Roscher; Robert Anthony; Helen Arena; Roger Smith, Sr.; Ann Marie Goddard; Sr. Mary Dee Smith, GNSH; Gina Vespignani; Stephanie Schneider; Paul Gambrill; Christine Isaac; Mashariki Sanyika; Jeff Lohinski; Mary Mosner; Kathy Justice; Mary Beth Himmelheber

*May our Lord and Redeemer give health to their bodies and holiness to their souls.*

### ...a time to die

**Eugene T. Constantino**

**Stanley Dansicker**

**Jean McKim**

**Ellen Peplinski**

**Rev. Philip Snouffer**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord*



**The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
APOSTLESHP OF PRAYER UNITED STATES

### **MARCH 2021 - POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

This month, please remember in your prayers the request of Pope Francis, that we might pray...

***"That we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God."***

[popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)

### Days of Fast & Abstinence

The current regulations concerning Lenten fasting and abstinence for Roman Catholics in the United States generally are as follows:

**Abstinence from all meat** is to be observed by all Roman Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.

**Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Roman Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 60.

*For Roman Catholics whose health or ability to work would be negatively affected by fasting and/or abstinence, the regulations above do not apply.*

Current Canon Law requires that on the days of fasting, **Catholics may eat only one full meal during the day. Additionally, they may eat up to two small meals or snacks. Church requirements on fasting only relate to solid food, not to drink, so any amount of water or other beverages may be consumed.**

### Fr. Ray's Prayer-Poem for February 28<sup>th</sup>

#### **Part I...in the words of the Gospel of Mark 9:4-6**

“Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses,  
and they were conversing with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply,  
“Rabbi, it is good that we are here!

Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses,  
and one for Elijah.”

He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified.”

#### **Part II...in another's words, a prayer-poem – terrified!**

one speaks  
causing a rupture  
in the movement  
beyond the fear  
to the strangely new

let silence reign instead  
with its soul-quieting  
so the transfigured “familiar”  
can fully emerge  
to transfigure

and to love  
to be loved...

[a quieted “amen”]

- fr. Ray

## **FAITH FORMATION . . .**

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Lent has arrived! Are you wondering how you are going to make this holy season transformative for you? Help is available! Short, pithy, challenging but supportive texts and/or emails to help you observe Lent more like the way you want to believe you will, and better than it usually happens. All you have to do is make sure you are “signed up” for Flocknote. If you have been receiving the *Weekly News & Updates* Friday Flocknote with links to our Bulletin and Worship Aids, you are already half-way there. Just login to Flocknote, click on “Adult Faith Formation” on the left menu, then click the green “join this group” button in the upper right corner and you are all set!

Not yet registered on Flocknote?

Just text OURSCB to 84576 or visit us online at:

[www.flocknote.com/ourstcharles](http://www.flocknote.com/ourstcharles)

*Do remember to join the Adult Faith Formation group!*



**BAPTISM PREPARATION** can be held via ZOOM or in person and private Baptisms can now be scheduled. To learn more, please email Deacon Steve at: [steve.roscher@archbalt.org](mailto:steve.roscher@archbalt.org)

### CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

#### **An important message for all religious education children AND their parents:**

Fr. Canisius and I would like to meet with all the children and their parents who are enrolled in the parish's Religious Education Program. We are planning this meeting for **8:00am on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>** in the church. In this meeting I would like to address the following topics:

- ♦ Touching base with parents to see if the children are understanding and following the weekly lessons
- ♦ Explaining the Program for Family Life/Child Safety mandated by the Archdiocese
- ♦ Explaining the importance of parental involvement for the religious education of your child(ren)
- ♦ Emphasizing the importance of religious education in the faith life of the child(ren)

This is a very important opportunity for me, especially, to connect names with faces as well as get to know the children and their families better. I encourage all of you to take the opportunity to attend this meeting. Thanks so much for you involvement!

Bro. Patrick Wildgen, O.SS.T  
*Coordinator of Religious Education*

Videos are posted on the parish's Facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/SCBPikesville/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/SCBPikesville/videos/?ref=page_internal)



Are you someone, or do you know someone, who...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation or Eucharist?
- Was baptized into another religion, but never received any formal religious education?

Do you find yourself in any of the above or know someone who does? If so, then RCIA is right for you and others. Due to the coronavirus, meetings will be held online at this time. For more information contact Deacon Steve Roscher at [sroscher@verizon.net](mailto:sroscher@verizon.net) or leave a message for him by calling the parish office.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST



For information about preparing your child to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, please email Brother Patrick Wildgen at

[brpatus@yahoo.com](mailto:brpatus@yahoo.com) or call him at 410-218-8705.



*Our Inter-Parochial Catholic Elementary School*

OUR SCHOOL YEAR IS PROGRESSING BEAUTIFULLY for both our remote and in-school learners! Sacred Heart School is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and academically rigorous educational experience for our students by offering both an on-site (5 full days) and virtual instructional option for our families. We are now enrolling for the 2021-2022 academic year! Kindergarten and Middle School spaces are limited.

WE HOST "Virtual Welcome Wednesday" Admission Chats at 9:30am on Wednesdays throughout the year. To attend, please go to [www.shgschool.org](http://www.shgschool.org) and click on the "RSVP Event Calendar" link, fill out an inquiry and register for one of the dates provided to learn more about our school. Hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact Mrs. Stacey Aisquith, our Director of Admissions, at 410-833-0857, ext. 114, or via email at [saisquith@shgschool.org](mailto:saisquith@shgschool.org).



### WHAT IS FORMED?

FORMED is "The Catholic Faith. On demand."

Similar to Netflix, FORMED gives you access to thousands of Catholic movies, programs, audio books, radio talks, studies, podcasts, and more—instantly—to help parishes, families, and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Thousands of movies and other materials can be viewed directly from your computer's browser or from any mobile or connected device. Faith-filled, engaging content can also be enjoyed in your living room with Roku, Apple TV, and Chromecast, among others. To register, simply go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup) and search for Sacred Heart Parish (using the zip code 21071). You will use your email address to sign up...and it's FREE to all Sacred Heart and St. Charles parishioners.

### STEWARDSHIP . . .

– *What I Do With What I Have Been Given When I Believe in God* –

FEBRUARY 21 <sup>ST</sup> , 2021	WEEK 3	FEBRUARY
Offertory – Envelopes	\$5197	\$16,178
Offertory – Loose	\$356	\$947
Maintenance / Utilities	\$1076	\$2839
Lenten Sacrificial Giving	\$538	\$638
<b>TOTAL PARISH OFFERTORY</b>	<b>\$7167</b>	<b>\$20,602</b>
Over / Under FY2020 Offertory Budget of \$7700/wk	-\$533	-\$2498
Retired Priests	\$0	\$25
Sacred Heart School Support	\$60	\$85
Church in Eastern Europe	\$644	\$679
Poor Box (St. Vincent de Paul)	\$62	\$181
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>WEEKEND ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>297</b>

**YOUR POOR BOX DONATIONS SUPPORT OUR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OUTREACH TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED**



**GIANT Gift Cards: \$100 ♦ \$50 ♦ \$25**

Use them for your regular shopping; or to buy your prescriptions; or give them as gifts. St. Charles makes 5% on every card sold! Purchase your cards with cash or check in the parish office, 9:00am–3:00pm, Monday-Friday.

### SPECIAL MARCH COLLECTIONS

In March we will have the following special collections:

- March 7** Maintenance Fund
- March 14** Catholic Relief Svcs/Latin America
- March 21** Utility (Heat) Fund
- March 28** Lenten Sacrificial Giving

Thank you for your generosity. *We will have a special collection box available in the back of church for your offering, or you may give online by selecting the fund name listed above.*

### ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO ONLINE GIVING

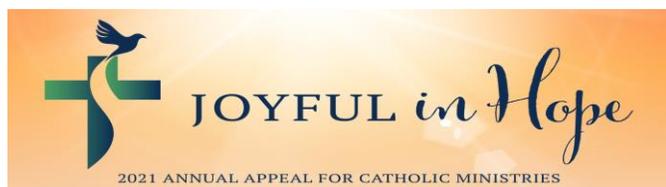
- No need to write checks or remember envelopes
- Contributions can be scheduled regularly--or give on an a la carte basis, giving when you choose
- Choose which Second Collections to support
- Contribute to the Poor Box
- No need to make up missed contributions
- A credit card or debit card can be used instead of a checking account, if you wish

Online giving is not meant to replace the traditional Sunday offertory collection; it is meant to enhance it.

*For more information email the parish office:*

[charlesst@comcast.net](mailto:charlesst@comcast.net)

**Or go to [www.ourstcharles.org](http://www.ourstcharles.org) and click on **DONATE** at the top of the homepage.**



***Rejoice in Hope, Endure in Affliction,  
Persevere in Prayer***  
*(Romans 12:12)*

The 2021 Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries is off to a wonderful start here at St. Charles. With **\$8,535** already pledged, we are \$19,142 away from our 2021 goal of \$27,677! The early outpouring of generosity sustains the important ministries that help St. Charles and 135 other parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Thank you to all who have already made a pledge or gift. If you have yet to make a pledge or gift to the 2021 Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries, please do so by completing and returning your in-pew envelope, or give online at:

<https://www.archbalt.org/appeal/give/>

**Please make sure to select St. Charles Borromeo as your parish when making your pledge/gift.**

*Thank you for your prayers and generous support!*



### **Lenten Alms Change Lives**

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Pick up your Rice Bowl in the rear of church or visit:

<https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

### **OUTREACH & MINISTRIES . . .**

#### **RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY**

##### **FACING A SEVERE OR FATAL PRENATAL DIAGNOSIS?**

Help and support for families facing a severe or fatal prenatal diagnosis is available through the following pro-life ministries: [www.isaiahspromise.net](http://www.isaiahspromise.net) and [www.benotafraid.net](http://www.benotafraid.net)

##### **HEALING AFTER ABORTION**

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Visit [www.HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://www.HopeAfterAbortion.org).

##### **MATERNITY COUNSELING/ADOPTION**

Maternity counseling and adoption services are offered by Catholic Charities at 667-600-2400

**Pregnant, Need Help? 1-800-ANGEL-OK**

#### **OUR DAILY BREAD**

*"For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food"*

##### **NEXT DELIVERY DATE:**

**Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

*Frozen casseroles can be dropped off at the parish office during normal business hours. Pans w/ recipe may be picked up at the parish office or in the rear of the church. Store-bought party-sized (90+ oz.) Lasagna and Mac & Cheese casseroles are also gratefully accepted.*

ODB has also requested the following additional items: **Heavy Duty 10" Paper Plates; Plastic Forks and Spoons; Paper Napkins; 8oz. Hot Drink Paper Cups; Capri Sun® Drinks; and Bottled Water.** We are happy to store these items at the rectory if you would like to make a donation.

## **GRIEF MINISTRY**

If you are troubled by the tragic loss of life in Baltimore City, and wondering how you can help, please consider volunteering for a ministry the Archdiocese has created to offer support and healing to families in Baltimore City who have lost a loved one to violence. In conjunction with other agencies and nonprofits, the archdiocesan Grief Ministry offers a way for parish communities to provide assistance, such as prayers, sympathy notes, food, baby items and other support as needed to families. Volunteer training will be provided. To learn more or to sign up, go to [www.archbalt.org/grief-ministry](http://www.archbalt.org/grief-ministry), or contact Mary Ellen Russell at [mrussell@archbalt.org](mailto:mrussell@archbalt.org).

## **IN THE COMMUNITY . . .**



Visit the Archdiocese's Lenten page for resources to help celebrate the 40 days of Lent. You'll find their fish fry directory, spiritual guides, reflections, a guide to making a confession, links to listen to Lenten hymns, articles about Lent and much more:

<https://www.archbalt.org/lent/>

## **THE RESOURCE EXCHANGE**

The Social Action Committee at St. Vincent de Paul Church operates a Resource Exchange which provides useable household items and furniture to previously homeless individuals as they move into apartments. Members of the Social Action Committee pick up donations of gently used furniture on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. If you, or someone you know, is looking to donate used furniture or household items please visit their website at [www.stvchurch.org](http://www.stvchurch.org) and click on "Resource Exchange" under "Justice and Service" for a list of acceptable items. A contact number is provided to schedule a pick up.

## **BALTIMORE COUNTY CHRISTIAN WORKCAMP**

Baltimore County Christian Workcamp (BCCW) is an ecumenical group whose mission is to provide "home repair and assistance for the needy by volunteers of all ages." BCCW is trying to identify individuals living in Baltimore County who may be in need of home repairs. Repairs are free and completed by volunteers. For more information, please e-mail [bcchristianworkcamp@comcast.net](mailto:bcchristianworkcamp@comcast.net) or contact Dante Scancellia at 443-902-7158.

## *Celebrating February as* **Black History Month**

### **St. Joseph Society of the Sacred Heart, Fathers and Brothers (aka the Josephites): Another Chapter of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Story**

*By Very Rev. Thomas Frank SSJ, Vicar General*

From its beginnings Josephites established parishes, schools and high schools because education was considered the primary key to social and economic opportunity and the overcoming of racism. Throughout the South during the segregated Jim Crow years after the Civil War, Josephites preached the Gospel, lived out the spiritual/corporal works of mercy, and with parishioners established food pantries and church credit unions, helped found the Knights of Peter Claver, participated in the Civil Rights movement to overcome segregation, engaged in community organizing efforts against bank red-lining, discrimination by labor unions, unequal funding of public schools, and for voting rights, and equal housing. Josephites participated in Black Lives Matter efforts on behalf of the still unrealized goal of racial equality.

The Josephites hosted the National Office of Black Catholics until the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) established a National Office. Bishop John Ricard, SSJ, former Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, played a major role in the establishment and growth of the National Black Catholic Congress and Pastoral Plan. The National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice (NCCIJ) was hosted at St. Joseph Seminary for many years. The Josephites established the Josephite Pastoral Center 50 years ago to support African American pastoral needs and leadership. By 1970 they were one of the American Catholic Church pioneers that started the Permanent Diaconate Formation programs for the Archdioceses of Baltimore and Washington, DC and the Diocese of Richmond, VA., initiated to foster African American Pastoral Leadership by training and seeing ordained African American Permanent Deacons. In addition, for the past 40 years the Pastoral Center produced Josephite African American Catholic History and Arts Calendar. An enduring contribution was the founding in 1951 of St. Augustine High School for African American young men in New Orleans, LA. Alumni spread all over the nation have distinguished themselves in Ministry, Law, Higher Education and Public Service, Medicine and Music, Professional Athletics and Business.

In the last 20 years, the multi-racial Josephites have become international and added members from West/Central Africa, especially Nigeria after a lengthy relationship with the Missionaries of St. Paul whose ministry they initially sponsored in the United States. From five founding American Members in 1893 to the current 60 members, Josephites continue their relevant missionary service to, with and for the African American Community from Baltimore, MD to Los Angeles, CA. May God grant us the blessings of vocations to the Josephites in the years to come until the day there is no need.