

Stephanie Serna Klinger, shown with the inspiration for her volunteer work at St. Raphael School. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia



Trifecta! St. Raphael School's ninth annual Angels on the Run 5K and 1-miler pivoted to virtual as runners participated via the JustMove app for the distance of their choice. "At the Quiros home, we had first place (Daniel, kindergarten), second place (Isabel, SRNS 4's), and third place (Mariel, future SRNS student)," said St. Raphael parents Cynthia and Jaime Quiros. "It was so much fun participating in this event. Thank you for this great idea!"

SRS Announces Volunteer and Business Partner of the Year

By Teri Dwyer

Each autumn, the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County celebrates a volunteer and a business partner from each school. This year, we congratulate and thank Stephanie Serna Klinger as our St. Raphael School Volunteer of the Year and Roger Pardo and Viper Unified Communications as our SRS Business Partner of the Year. Both were recognized at CBN's annual Gala on Dec. 3.

In a school with many generous helping hands and fabulous volunteers, Stephanie Serna Klinger stands out. School events, Stephanie is there. In the middle of the action, Stephanie is planning setup, organizing fun, and making it come together. Surrounded by her husband and friends, she gets the job done. As president of our Home & School Association, Stephanie recruited and collaborated with our roster of class representatives, orchestrated regular communications with parents and staff, and ensured that our calendar was filled with events to punctuate each season for our students. From a school year opening day to SpringFest at the end, we applaud Stephanie for a job well done. Not even COVID has stopped Stephanie or dampened her efforts. With her phenomenal technology skills, she has made SRS online initiatives come to life.

A huge thank you to our 2020 volunteer of the year, Stephanie Klinger!

During the month of August, Roger Pardo's company, Viper Unified Communications, donated 23 Cisco TelePresence Codec systems to St. Raphael School for video collaboration, 12 of which were integrated into mobile carts for each classroom. During summer and fall, one could find Roger at St. Raphael in the middle of the night and on weekends as he made his generous donation take shape. The Codec systems integrated with the existing Cisco phone system. Cisco Expressway Core and Edge devices were deployed on the network to allow for secure video communication to the Webex cloud-conferencing environment.

This new way to adapt during the pandemic has helped facilitate a crucial connected learning and teaching experience for the St. Raphael School and Nursery School communities. Through Roger's generous work transforming our communication abilities, we were able to pivot to virtual during a time of rising COVID-19 numbers. But Roger's work doesn't end there—he continues offering 24/7 professional development and support to our teachers. The difference between our spring virtual learning and now is night and day. We cannot thank you enough, Roger!

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Roger Pardo—with his wife, Natalie, and their children—was instrumental in equipping SRS to provide virtual instruction during the pandemic. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia



OUTDOOR

Con't from page 20

doors made him imagine how Jesus taught the Gospel to his followers in the outdoors. Others have echoed that sentiment, and reflect that the experience of attending mass outdoors has brought a deeper appreciation of being part of our faith-filled community.

Safety precautions are taken. Everyone keeps a physical distance, wears a mask, and sanitizes their hands to receive Holy Communion. Father Robert and the Eucharistic ministers also wear a mask and

hand sanitize prior to distributing Communion. Those who prefer to remain in their cars turn on their headlights to signal that our Eucharistic ministers should bring communion to them.

Holy Cross Church plans to celebrate outdoor mass when the weather permits until coronavirus restrictions are lifted. If there is rain, snow, or wind, Holy Mass will be offered inside the church, with limited seating in keeping with all coronavirus guidelines. Those who will wish to remain in their cars during inclement weather will be able to listen to the mass through an outdoor speaker system, but

we are currently exploring other options such as a radio broadcast. Eucharistic ministers will continue to distribute Holy Communion to those remaining outside, on the church landing or to an individual's car.

All are welcome to participate in our outdoor mass on Sundays at 9:30 am. As with any outside event, remember to dress warmly!

For more information about Holy Cross Church, and all the ways we are continuing to connect as a community and celebrate our faith, please visit our website at www.hcrosschurch.org.

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NEWS & NOTES

Con't from page 22

friendly competition. A Christmas Car Lights Tour is planned for December 18. Families that want to show off their holiday décor can sign up. A route of homes will be provided, so that all can enjoy a night of festive fun as they drive past the displays.

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At right, students enjoyed a fun night playing virtual bingo News & Notes



Upcoming Events

- SRS and SRNS Christmas pageants (virtual): Dec. 16-17
- SRS and SRNS double open house (virtual): Jan. 11
- SRNS registration opens for 2021-22: Jan. 15
- Catholic Schools Week: Jan. 31-Feb. 5.

For more information, visit www.straphaelschoolmd.org.

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