



St. Pius X Regional School News Notes

September 12, 2019



HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING



The first Home and School General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 16th in Nelson Hall at 7:00pm. Remember that every MEETING we have a Partial Free Tuition Drawing for parents who attend that particular meeting. You MUST sign in at the entrance table when you enter the meeting. Volunteers will be available to help you sign in. Please be on time to the meeting and we hope you will make it a priority.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 12

- *3rd Grade Math Scantron 8:30-10:30 am
- *Back to School Night Grs PreK-4 7pm

Friday, September 13

- *6th-8th Reading Scantron 8:30 - 10:22am

Monday, September 16

- *Home & School Association Meeting 7pm Nelson Hall

Tuesday, September 17

- *4th Grade Math Scantron 8:30-10:30 am
- *Room Parent Meeting 7pm Library

Wednesday, September 18

- *Opening School Mass for Grs 1-8 10:30am

Thursday, September 19

- *5th Grade Reading Scantron 8:30-10:30 am
- *High School Information Meeting for Grs 7-8 only 7pm Nelson Hall

BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ



Welcome back to St. Pius X Regional School for the 2019-2020 school year!

All families are invited to join us for our annual back to school BBQ on Friday, September 20, 2019 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm in the school's back parking lot. Celebrate the start of the new school year by enjoying music, free hamburgers, hotdogs, and fun. New families are encouraged to attend as these events are a great way of making new friends and meeting other parents. Please park in the front of the school as the backlot will be closed for the event. Please bring your own drinks and sides. RSVP on the Sign-Up genius link below. You can also sign up to help and start earning your VSP hours! Hope to see everyone there!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a82aa1fe3-back2>

PRIME PARKING SPOT RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

Only a few days left to purchase your Prime Carpool Parking Spot Raffle Ticket. Be the envy of carpool and pick up your child in front of the Middle School building and leave before carpool begins. Raffle tickets are \$100 each. Drawing will be held September 16, 2019 at the first HSA meeting. To purchase your ticket, please contact Faith Proctor at faithproctor@yahoo.com.



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Many of the St. Pius School families include a non-Catholic parent and we want to assure you that we deeply respect other faith traditions to which you may belong. However, we also know that in many cases, the decision to have your child attend a Catholic School often causes non-Catholic parents to consider Becoming Catholic themselves. Perhaps one of these statements apply to you?

- I have a hard time answering my child's questions about religion and/or sacraments.
- I feel like I never learned enough about Jesus/God/Prayer/etc and I want to catch up to my child.
- I'm already Christian, but I want to know what is different about being Catholic.
- My family doesn't understand why we decided to send the kids to Catholic School, and I feel uncertain about how best to respond to them.
- I'd like to receive the Sacraments with my child.
- I've been thinking about becoming Catholic for a while, but I have never found the "right time."

Each year we offer a process for adults who would like to know more about the Catholic faith and/or are considering Becoming Catholic. Our process at St. Pius, which meets on Sunday mornings beginning September 15 at 10 AM in the Rectory Office, allows adults to explore the Catholic faith, and if they are interested, to prepare them to enter the Catholic Church. There are no strings attached - if you begin the process and discover that you are unable or no longer interested in continuing, you are not obligated to finish. If you are interested, or would like more info, please contact Jen Mayer at jmayer@stpiusbowie.org.

PIZZA DAY ORDER FORMS



Please look for the Pizza Day Order Form that was sent home. We have six pizza days scheduled throughout the school year where students may order slices of Papa John's cheese pizza for their lunch. October 16 is the first pizza day. Order forms are due back to your child's teacher by Friday, September 27. Please contact spxpizza@gmail.com if you have any questions.



CHICK-FIL-A ORDERS

The first Chick fil-A Day is Wednesday, October 2nd. The last day to order October Chick fil-A is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. Please order at <http://stpiusxschool.h1.hotlunchonline.net>. The online ordering instructions were sent home on Thursday, September 5th. If you have an existing account, please make sure you select the correct classroom for your child(ren). This will ensure food is delivered to the appropriate class at the appropriate lunch time. You may order now for the whole year.

If you have any questions, please e-mail spxhotlunchonline@gmail.com.

LUNCH TIME-ORDER NOW FOR OCTOBER

The open ordering period for October Lunches is until 9/15. If you are interested in ordering from Main & Market, you will need to register online at <https://mainandmarket.boonli.com> with our school password of CAVALIER22.

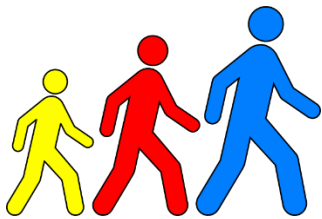
Lunch order deliveries began on September 3rd for those who had ordered. More details are available on our website. If you have questions, you should call Main & Market at 1-800-381-6511 ext. 1 or email them at support@boonli.com.

LATE PICK-UP POLICY: Families whose children are not picked-up from school by 3:30pm on a regular dismissal day will be charged a fee of \$1.00 per minute per child for each minute beyond 3:30pm. On Half Days, students not picked up from school by 1:30pm will be charged a fee of \$35 (ESP Drop In Rate). The fees will be charged through TADS. This policy will go into effect on Monday, September 9th. (updated info)

LATE DROP OFF POLICY: UPDATED If a child arrives late more than 2 times per quarter, they will not be allowed to be considered for perfect attendance.

ATTENTION WALKERS

WALKER'S PASSES will be required for those students who walk home (or to caregivers).



Students who do not live in a surrounding neighborhood will not be issued a Walker's Pass and are expected to be picked up and dropped off on school property (translation—you may NOT park your car in a surrounding street and have your child meet you there). These rules apply to everyone and are enforced to keep children safe. Walker's Pass applications were sent home the first day of school and passes will be required on September 28th.



UNIFORM EXCHANGE

Our Uniform Exchange is open and running. If you need gently used uniforms, please contact Andrea Bramwell at andream.bramwell@gmail.com or 202-276-2436 or Damali Martin at 240-353-2816.

Sticky Faith

Ever wonder if, when your kids are grown, they will love their faith as much as you love yours? Research has shown that parents are the most influential factor in helping kids stay with faith into adulthood, but it takes work. On Tuesday September 24 at 7 PM in Library, Jen Mayer, Adult Discipleship Coordinator, will present 4 factors that were found to be needed for kids to stay with faith into adulthood, and then lead a discussion

of some things you can do in your home now to help your kids later.

HEALTH ROOM NOTES



ATTN ALL NEW FAMILIES

If you have been contacted by the Nurse, Mrs. Benson, please turn in your required Health Forms. If an Immunization record for your child is not received by the morning of September 16th your child will not be permitted to attend school until this document is received. You may email (mbenson@stpisbowie.org), FAX (301-805-8875), upload to your TADS account or send in a copy with your child. If you have any questions please contact the nurse.

News from the School Advisory Board

Welcome New Board Members

The School Advisory Board would like to welcome 2 new members. Kelly Foster and Jim Cooney are St. Pius X Regional School parents and parishioners at St. Edward's. They are also long-standing members of our Catholic community and bring valuable experience to the Board. We are very excited to have them join the Board.

School Advisory Board Vacancies

We still have 3 additional vacancies on the Board. Parents or guardians of currently enrolled SPX students who are interested to serve on the Board can email Board President at rssellan@gmail.com or call 301-651-2027 for more information. For email, please use subject line SAB Open Positions.

Expectations of Board include attendance at monthly SAB/ HSA meetings, committee participation, and support of our school and Administrative Team. Please note that open positions require candidates to be an active member of the indicated parish.

- 2 open seats – Ascension Parish
- 1 open seat – Sacred Heart Parish

Parent-Administration Coffees

Attention New Parents: Mark your calendar for our first Parent Coffee.

The first Parent Coffee is for new parents from any grade and will be October 8th from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM in the School Library. This is a time for parents to sit down with the school administrators and representatives from the School Advisory Board to ask questions and discuss topics of interest related to the vision of the school and our children's education.

Please do not bring children as childcare is not provided. Concerns related to your individual child(ren) should be discussed with teachers or administrators in another setting.

Coffees for the 2019-20 school year are scheduled for:

- October 8th – New Parents
- October 29th – Grades 6-8
- November 12th – Grades PK – 1
- February 11th – Grades 2 – 3

ST. EDWARD'S MUSIC MINISTRY PRESENTS:

Stretto Chamber Music Series and Evangelization Outreach featuring a Solo Piano Recital by Allison Freeman and a brief talk by Fr. Scott on music and the spiritual life on Sunday, September 15th, at 3pm in the church. Q&A to follow. All free-will donations will be greatly appreciated.

ALL ABOUT VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

At the time of enrollment and re-enrollment through TADS, each family agreed to the terms of our Volunteer Service Program (VSP). This requires families to either work the required number of volunteer hours (20 hours for a 2-parent household, or 10 hours for a single parent household), or make a monetary payment for the required hours. If you chose to work the required hours, you must submit volunteer hours electronically on our volunteer website called Track it Forward. All new families will need to create one account per family. Returning families can still use their current account. We would like to streamline the accounts to just one per family, so feel free to edit your first name to include both volunteering family members (ex. Mary and Joseph +last name) and delete your second account. Please remember to log your hours as soon as you complete them. Create an account here:

<https://www.trackitforward.com/site/st-pius-x-regional-school?type=register>.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel West at rachelnes@yahoo.com. Details about family VSP requirements can be found on pages 24—26 of the 2018-2019 Parent-Student Handbook.

If you wish to volunteer at St. Pius X School (field trips and other classroom activities), you must be compliant with the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Policies, called VIRTUS. To begin the process, complete the Volunteer Application (available at the Front desk with Mrs. Bechtel), and register for an account on VIRTUS at www.virtus.org. Return the completed Application to Mrs. Bechtel (in the main office) and next schedule your fingerprinting appointment. The final step is to register for a Child Protection Workshop class. We are hosting a Workshop Training on September 30th, 2019 starting promptly at 6:30pm in Nelson Hall. Please register online via www.virtus.org.

A PROGRAM AND SERVICE OF
THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC RISK RETENTION GROUP, INC.

 VIRTUS[®] Online



Cross Country: It's not too late to join the St. Pius Cross Country team! Kids in 1st-8th are welcome to sign up. Please contact Megan Bogley @ m_bogley@hotmail.com or go to www.stpiusbowiecyo.com and click SPORTSPILOT to register. Registration fee is \$75; this includes a jersey that runners will keep at the end of the season. The first meet will occur September 8th.

Soccer: St. Pius X CYO Soccer registration is almost complete. We still have openings for 3-5th grade girls for our 10U girls soccer team. We also have openings for 7-8th grade boys for our 14U boys

soccer team. If you are interested, please contact the Commissioner, Megan Bogley @ m_bogley@hotmail.com. Go to www.stpiusbowiecyo.com and click SPORTSPILOT to register. Registration fee is \$135. Games start this weekend for many of our soccer teams – check out the schedule and come cheer on your fellow CAVS! [2019 ADW Soccer Schedules](#)

Basketball: Registration will open in just one week. Keep an eye out for next week's News Notes for an announcement to claim your spot on the team!

CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) is a volunteer organization and we can't do it without you! Please consider coaching one of our many teams or contact us if you'd like to get involved! It's a great experience! <https://stpiusbowiecyo.com/contact-us/>

EARLY DISMISSAL POLICY

The release of a child for an early dismissal needs to occur before 2:30pm except in the case of an emergency. After 2:30pm it is disruptive and complicates our regular dismissal. Only a parent may pickup his or her child unless express written permission has been given to the school. If someone other than a parent is picking up a child we **MUST** have a note signed by the parent stating the name of the person picking up his or her child (even if the person is listed as a contact in case of an emergency) and the date and time of the early dismissal. We will also ask for proper identification. No child will be



released unless the School is certain that it is in accordance with the wishes of the parent.

It is very helpful to the teacher if a note is sent indicating that an early dismissal is necessary. This will cause less disruption and will allow for your child to be dismissed more quickly. Excuse pads will be given to each family for this purpose.

No early dismissals before holidays or last day of school. Also, no siblings will be released early when field trips return.

EMERGENCY CLOSING/ DELAYED OPENING

In case of an emergency or severe weather, we will follow the decision of the Prince George's County Public Schools. However, if Prince George's County Public Schools begin late (whether one or two hours) on a scheduled half-day, St. Pius will NOT dismiss at 1:00 P.M., but at 3:00 P.M. Whenever school closes early, all after-school activities and meetings are cancelled. ESP (after care program) will operate on a modified schedule. For example, if school closes two hours early due to severe weather or other emergency, ESP will close two hours earlier than the normal time of 6:00 P.M.



Please listen to television and radio reports for all school closings or late openings. We recommend that you check www.wtopnews.com, if possible, during inclement weather since WTOP's website typically has the most complete list of closing information. You may listen to WTOP on the radio at 103.5 FM. Also, you may check School Announcements on our website. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.** If school closes early for any reason, please wait until the announced dismissal time to pick up your children. It is very disruptive to the teacher and other students when numerous children are being called from the classrooms for early dismissals.

CELL PHONE ALERT FOR SCHOOL CLOSINGS: There is a service allowing you to receive emergency notifications directly on your cell phone anytime an alert is posted by the public school system. This is for the county public schools, but we do follow the decision of Prince George's County Public Schools in case of an emergency or severe weather. You may sign up at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/PGCPS/subscriber/new> There is a cost to receive text message alerts, but email notifications are FREE. This is a very convenient and reliable way for you to receive emergency alerts and you won't need to call the school to check if we are closing.

*Since St. Pius X Regional School is air-conditioned we will NOT close for excessive heat even if the Prince George's County Public Schools closes.

YOU SHOP AND WE GET PAID - HELP US EARN \$\$

Your shopping can help St. Pius X earn money! These fundraisers bring in thousands of dollars to our school each year and don't cost you a cent. Thank you to those families who participate in these fundraisers now. Your efforts are much appreciated! Thank you in advance to those families who will follow the simple steps below to begin participation.

AMAZON SMILE REWARDS PROGRAM: You probably already shop online at Amazon, and now you can help support SPX simply by using the special link here. [Shop on Amazon.com](#). Our unique School Rewards link will take you directly to Amazon, where you can browse and shop just as you normally would. Each month, Amazon will pay us 5% or more of all purchases made by shoppers who reached Amazon through our link. Please support us by bookmarking this [link](#) in your internet browser - then making it the first link you click each time you shop at Amazon. And be sure to pass it on to your friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances, and anyone else who might like to help us raise funds by shopping at Amazon.



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: This program allows our school to collect box tops/labels of food and household products and redeem them for cash. Simply check the items you buy at the grocery store/ Target/Wal-Mart for Box Tops for Education labels. You will find the labels on dozens of different types of products like: food/drink, paper products, office supplies, cleaning supplies, food storage, tableware and many more. Once purchased, please cut the labels off and return them to school. Don't forget to check the expiration date, as we cannot get credit for expired labels. We will earn 10¢ for every label. St. Pius X can also earn cash from Bonus Certificates, which can be found primarily in stores on specially marked packages and at checkout printed on a receipt. These vary on value based on the promotion. Bonus codes begin with the letter A. Also look for eBox Tops Codes, which are a 16 digit eBoxTops code that is printed on the product. You would be surprised at how many products you buy every day carry a Box Tops for Education label.



HARRIS TEETER'S TOGETHER IN EDUCATION PROGRAM: This program translates your spending at Harris Teeter to rewards for SPX. We need YOU to register and it's easy and it's FREE. Simply give the cashier our code, 4154, and your VIC card when you check out and your card will be linked for the entire school year. That's it! You only have to link your VIC card once each school year. Once your card is linked, St. Pius X Regional School will receive a percentage of your Harris Teeter brand (Harris Teeter, H.T. Traders, Harris Teeter Organics, HT Farmers Market and purchases in the HT Pharmacy) purchases credited back to our account. This program does not interfere with your VIC savings or cost you any money! Don't forget to link your VIC card to our account code next time you are shopping at Harris Teeter.



Your purchases at Amazon Smile, Box Tops and Harris Teeter this holiday season (and all year long)

will directly support our school! Thanks in advance for your help.

Science Lab Aides Needed

If you have completed the Archdiocese of Washington's Child Protection Program and want to earn VSP hours as a science lab aide, please read over the following information. Check the activity in which you are interested and return this form either to your child's homeroom teacher or to me in the science lab. The more volunteers we have, the better we are able to assist the students in the lab. You do not have to pick your child's lab time. If you sign up for an activity, a letter will be sent home after Sept. 16th providing more details. If you have any questions, please contact me at: msparks@stpiusbowie.org. Thank you for any help you may be able to provide! Mrs. Sparks ♦

I can assist with occasional (around once a month) labs on a rotation schedule. (You will receive credit for the time you are here.) Please check your preference(s) of the following times below:

- KA - will attend lab every full day Friday from 8:30 – 9:15. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- KB - will attend lab every full day Friday from 9:20 – 10:05. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- 1A - will attend lab every full day Wednesday from 11:30 – 12:15. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- 1B - will attend lab every full day Wednesday from 2:00 – 2:45. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- 2A - will attend lab every full day Wednesday from 8:45 – 9:30. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- 2B - will attend lab every full day Wednesday from 9:45 – 10:30. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- 3A - will attend lab every full day Tuesday from 8:45 – 9:30. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.
- 3B - will attend lab every full day Tuesday from 2:00 – 2:45. The times on early dismissal days will be different from the full day times and will be sent home with the volunteer schedule.

♦ I can clean lab station counters and sinks on the last school day of each week. I understand that I will need to come in every week for the third and fourth quarters. (Each week for the two quarters earns 20 VSP hours – anytime from 1 to 5 PM on Fridays.)

Please fill out the following information in print, neatly and clearly, and return the form as stated above no later than Monday, September 16, 2019.

Class: _____ Child's Name _____
Parent's Name _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____
Email Address _____

(I will communicate with you mostly by email so please include one that you check regularly ☺)

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS WANTED!



An SPX Service Hours Opportunity!

Please consider volunteering in the school library if you are in need of service hours. Training sessions will be available for new and veteran volunteers. Please double check that you are in compliance with the Child Protection Policy. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Ms. Feronti at eferonti@stpiousbowie.org. Any help that you can give will be greatly appreciated!

ART CLUB FOR 8TH GRADE

Art Club is back and for 8th grade only.

Sign up will be OPEN for registration starting on September 13th at 7:00pm.

Our first meeting will be September 24th - after school from 3:00 to 4:00 pm in the Art room.

Link to sign up on Sept 13th : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a82aa1fe3-artclub1>

'Patriot's Pen'

The 2019-20 theme is: *What Makes America Great?*

The VFW is dedicated to promoting patriotism and investing in our future generation. If you are a patriotic middle school student interested in winning \$5,000, this scholarship may be for you.

Each year more than 132,000 students in grades 6-8 enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest. The national first-place winner wins \$5,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. The first-place winner from each state competes for national awards totaling \$55,000, with each first-place state winner receiving a minimum of \$500 at the national level.

The Patriot's Pen program is open to students in grades 6-8 who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. All student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by *midnight, October 31, 2019*.

If you would like to apply, please contact Senior Vice Commander Megan Bogley, VFW Bowie Memorial Post #8065, Bowie, MD 20715. Her email is m_bogley@hotmail.com or (301) 974-2676. She will provide the rules and eligibility requirements and the nomination form. Note, you can also view this information at the VFW website:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

'Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award'

VFW annually recognizes the nation's top certified/licensed elementary, junior high and high school teachers who teach citizenship education topics regularly and promote America's history and traditions effectively. Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism are prime candidates for this award.

For example, do you know a teacher who plans field trips to city hall or organizes community volunteer projects? Maybe you know an instructor who invites veterans into the classroom to discuss their military experiences. Perhaps you are familiar with a teacher who fosters the development of democratic values and beliefs through special projects. If you know of such a teacher, honor him or her today with the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award.

Based on the nominees submitted, VFW local chapters, called Posts, will recognize one outstanding teacher in grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Posts then submit these winners' names and required documents to their District-level judging, who will forward their winners to the Department (or state) level. After judging, each Department then forwards the names of its winners to VFW National Headquarters for consideration in the national awards contest.

Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Awards include the items below:

- A national \$1,000 Past Commander-in-Chief John Smart award for each of the top K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 teachers for professional development expenses.
- \$1,000 award for each winning teacher's school.
- Plaques for both the winning teacher and school.
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the VFW National Convention.
- Top 10 high school teachers invitation to attend a summer Graduate Seminar at Freedoms Foundation in Pennsylvania.

In 350 words or less, describe why you feel your nominee should be selected. Describe the teacher's innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his or her dedication to education. Please submit your completed nomination form and signed essay to your local VFW Post.

All Post-level nominees, if they win, should provide a one-page resume as a minimum and up to five pages as a maximum of documentation of their teaching experience (references, news articles, etc.) and a head-and-shoulder photo of themselves. These items will be forwarded on to the District with the Post Teacher Entry form, nomination form and essay.

If you would like to nominate a teacher, please contact Senior Vice Commander Megan Bogley, VFW Bowie Memorial Post #8065, Bowie, MD 20715. Her email is m_bogley@hotmail.com or (301) 974-2676. She will provide the rules and eligibility requirements and the nomination form. Note, you can also view this information at the VFW website:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year>

All student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by *midnight, October 31, 2019*.

ACRONYM GLOSSARY

Are you new to St. Pius X and unfamiliar with our acronyms? Here is a quick list of our most used abbreviations:

ADW - Archdiocese of Washington

CFA - Chick-fil-A

CYO - Catholic Youth Organization
ESP - Extended School Program (before and aftercare)
HSPT - High School Placement Test
SSC - Student Support Center
VSP - Volunteer Service Program

HSA - Home and School Association
FSO - Fundraising Support Obligation
SAB - School Advisory Board
TADS - Tuition Management Company

NO LUNCHES OR FORGOTTEN ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF DURING THE SCHOOL DAY. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO GO DIRECTLY TO A CLASSROOM. ALL PERSONS ENTERING THE SCHOOL BUILDING MUST SIGN IN AND OUT AT THE RECEPTION DESK.

Our Regional Parishes:

St. Pius X Catholic Church
14720 Annapolis Road Bowie, MD 20715 301-262-2141
<http://www.spxbowie.org/>

Sacred Heart Parish
16501 Annapolis Road Bowie, MD 20715 301-262-0704
<http://www.sacredheartbowie.org>

Ascension Catholic Church
12700 Lanham Severn Road Bowie, MD 20720 301-262-2227
<http://www.ascensionbowie.com>

St. Edward the Confessor
1940 Mitchellville Road Bowie, MD 20716 301-249-9199