



# The Belltower Beacon

*A publication to inform, welcome and inspire the spirited community of St. Christopher.*

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September 2021

## ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH – THE EARLY DAYS

*As we celebrate our parish centennial in the coming year, we will use The Belltower Beacon to look back at some of our history. This first article in the series will cover the early days that correspond to the pastorate of Fr. Patterson.*

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In 1922 the rural community of Rocky River looked very different than it does today. In fact, much of this area west of the Cuyahoga was farmland. Nevertheless, Archbishop Joseph Schrembs saw the potential for growth and named five new parishes: Our Lady of Angels, St. Christopher, St. Clement, St. Luke and St. Vincent de Paul. The archbishop named his secretary, Fr. Richard Patterson, as our first pastor. The early twenties saw the advent of the automobile as a popular mode of transportation. This made it easier for people to begin to move farther west from Cleveland. Fr. Patterson had this in mind when he chose the parish name, St. Christopher, the patron saint of travelers.

The first Masses in the new parish were celebrated on May 14, 1922 at 8 and 10 a.m. in the Rocky River Town Hall. Tartine Bistro occupies that space today. There were 41 families on the initial list of parishioners. The diocese acquired seven acres of land in August on Detroit and a dirt lane that later would become Lakeview. An old farmhouse, that once had been a schoolhouse, stood on the property and became the rectory. In October the diocese approved \$55,000 to build a church. On March 18, 1923, Fr. Patterson celebrated the first Mass in the new church, with 65 families counted as members. Tragedy struck in November 1925 when a fire

destroyed the church roof. Masses moved across the street to the Rocky River High School, now the Middle School, until the roof was repaired in time for Christmas.

By September 1926 a four-room school was opened with four grades taught by two Sisters of the Humility of Mary and staffed by another as principal. Two more classrooms were added by 1930 as the enrollment grew to 140 students in seven grades taught by four Sisters. The late twenties brought a popular tradition to the parish of blessing automobiles. It took place on the last Sunday of July close to the feast of St. Christopher which was celebrated on July 25. By 1934, 1,000 families called the parish their home, enrollment in the school topped 200 and the parish was sent their first assistant priest, Fr. Bernard Stalder. The parish was a meeting place for social events, a welcome respite from the depression days of the 1930s.

In 1941 a four-classroom addition to the school was built to house the 237 students. This was followed by the building of a new rectory, a Gregorian-style house costing \$25,000, that is still part of the rectory today. The war years followed and the parish CYO group started a newsletter called, The Traveler, to keep in touch with parishioners serving in the armed forces. Parishioners continued to socialize and help each other and the parish during these times. The popular, Canteen, began in these days as a place for young people to gather on Saturday nights for food and dancing. The year 1947 would mark the parish 25th Anniversary. Unfortunately, Fr. Patterson did not live to see it as he died on March 3 at the age of 60 following an illness of several months. This kind and understanding man was much loved in his years of service to the people of St. Christopher in those early days.

*Fr. John Chlebo*

## SCS ANGELS HELP THE NEWEST KNIGHTS EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

A new school year is upon us and the SCS community welcomed its latest kindergarten class, the class of 2030, to our parish school. There are challenges for any child starting at a new school. For kindergartners, who are attending school for a full day for the first time, this is especially true. To help with this transition, St. Christopher School has implemented the Angel Program. Each kindergarten student is paired with a sixth grade student. The sixth grader serves as mentor, guide, and friend to the kindergartner throughout the school year and in the years to come.

The sixth grade Angels support their kindergarten charges in a variety of ways. This includes greeting them on the first day of school and helping them find their classroom, periodically eating lunch with them, and “hanging out” and enjoying time on the playground. They also visit and interact with the kindergartners during class time. Sixth graders often read to the kindergartners and will in turn listen to them read as the kindergartners literacy skills begin to develop. The older students will also assist the younger students with classroom assignments, participate with them in Faith Family and Faith Sharing activities, and team up with them for service projects like Operation Christmas Child. This relationship continues for two additional years as the kindergarten students transition into the first and second grades and the sixth graders into grades seven and eight. A real connection and friendship develops between the individuals. It's not uncommon for both individuals to exchange birthday and Christmas gifts. Last year, every second grader was present at the eighth grade graduation parade, cheering and waving goodbye to their Angel and wishing them the best as they began their transition to high school.

The efforts of the sixth grade Angels help the newest Knights to become comfortable and confident in their new school, feel like a valued member of the SCS community, and ultimately experience greater success in school. The Angels are enriched by the experience too, becoming more responsible, empathetic, and understanding. Mentoring and leadership skills are developed as well. The Angels Program is just another example of how St. Christopher School seeks to develop the entire child, providing opportunities for spiritual, social and moral development, in addition to those for academic growth.

*Scott Raiff*





## ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH CAMPAIGN UPDATE

It has been over eighteen months since we launched our New Century of Service Capital Campaign. I want to thank those who have contributed for your generosity and offer an update of our progress.



### Pledges/Collections

We have received pledges totaling \$2.3 million. Although very generous, we are short of our goal of \$3 million. If you haven't pledged, please consider supporting our parish vision as we anticipate a new century of service. A Capital contribution envelope is in the monthly envelope mailing for you to use.

We have collected just under \$1.8 million in campaign contributions against our pledges. These funds have gone a long way towards supporting the projects as outlined in our Campaign documents.

### Status of Projects

Over the last two years, we have had \$1.7 million in capital expenditures, which represents most of the funds collected to date. Some of the major projects, either in progress or completed, are:

- **Centennial Park**, a place to pray, play and gather, was completed last year. We have used it for outdoor classes, concerts and the celebration of Mass. This year was a focal point for our annual Block Party. Total cost was approximately \$660,000.
- **Parking lot** resurfacing was completed this summer as well as many sidewalk and curb replacements. We were able to expand the curve leading into the Northview entrance, making it easier to enter and exit the campus from that street. Still to come are new entrance gates and signage entering off Lakeview and Northview. In addition, the retaining wall in front of the gymnasium will be replaced. Total cost was approximately \$750,000.
- **Mary's Room** was refreshed as we replaced the flooring and ceiling tiles, purchased new appliances and shelving for the kitchen and painted the room. This has brightened up the room and it is being used. Total cost was approximately \$38,000.
- **Streaming cameras** were purchased and installed prior to last Christmas to provide parishioners and friends with access to Mass during Covid-19. We continue to livestream Mass for

those who are not comfortable or unable to return to Mass. Total cost was approximately \$25,000.

- **School classroom carpeting** was replaced in the kindergarten and second grade classrooms as well as the library. We replaced old, worn out carpeting with VCT flooring. The resulting look is impressive. Total cost was approximately \$22,000.
- **LED lighting** was installed throughout the campus. Although this project has a strong financial benefit as it reduces our electric energy consumption by roughly 25%, it also was completed in support of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* encyclical. By completing this project, we will positively affect the environment in the following ways:
  - » Annual reduction of carbon emissions by 297,814 lbs.
  - » Annual reduction of sulfur dioxide emissions by 1,169 lbs.
  - » Annual reduction of nitrogen oxide by 574 lbs.
  - » Coal burning avoided by 63 tons per year
  - » Atmospheric mercury contamination avoided by 3,006 mg per year
  - » Equivalent acres of forest added of 37 acres
  - » Equivalent number of cars removed from the road of 26 cars



As we enter our new Century of Service, we are blessed to have such caring and giving people within our Parish Community. These and other projects are made possible through your continuing support of both our daily operations as well as our major projects. Should you have any questions or wish to inquire into how you may continue to provide financial support of the Parish, feel free to contact myself or Joe Williams, our Business Manager, for other giving opportunities.

*Fr. John Chlebo*



## BIBLICALLY SPEAKING WITH FR. ANTHONY

Starting this autumn, St. Christopher Parish will launch a new opportunity to discover the riches of the Word of God, the Bible. “Unlike a ‘bible study’ this initiative will focus on specific topics such as care for creation, thanksgiving, and even Jesus’ family tree.” Fr. Anthony is coordinating the monthly program called *Biblically Speaking*. “It will be an opportunity for the parish to grow in our love for the Bible and re-discover the riches of God’s word.”

*Biblically Speaking* will be offered on the first Friday and Saturday of each month beginning on September 3, following the 11 a.m. Mass, and September 4 after the 5 p.m. Mass. The first topic to be presented is the formation of the Gospels. “I thought this would be a good starting point,” said Fr. Anthony, “since often I found myself wondering why just four gospels and why these particular ones and not others. For instance, what process was used in deciding upon Matthew, Mark, Luke and John?” Fr. Anthony hopes to explore these questions and more in the upcoming series. Parishioners are encouraged to submit their own questions for future topics to Fr. Anthony as well.

The idea for the *Biblically Speaking* series at St. Christopher was born in response to the Pope Francis’ recently established Sunday of the Word of God, which is commemorated annually on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the Apostolic Letter that formally instituted the Sunday of the Word of God, the Pope wrote, “The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers, and Sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth.”

“Regular reading of Sacred Scripture and the celebration of the Eucharist make it possible for us to see ourselves as part of one another,” continued Pope Francis. “As Christians, we are a single people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us.” In addition to the annual liturgical commemoration which the Pope established, the *Biblically Speaking* series offers the parish another way to feast on the rich fare of the Bible.

Each session of *Biblically Speaking* will include a brief presentation, followed by a lively discussion. Light snacks will be available at the first Saturday sessions. Details for each session and topic can be found online on the parish’s website by clicking the “Parish” tab and then on the “Upcoming Events” button. Registration is requested for the Saturday sessions to plan for the snacks. Guests are always welcome. There is no reading to prepare beforehand, but participants are encouraged to bring their Bible along with them.

“I hope our parish family finds these topics interesting and informative,” said Fr. Anthony. “It is an opportunity for us to grow into our role as missionary disciples who know more about our faith and can live the Gospel with joy.”

Fr. Anthony Marshall

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE WELCOMES MARILU NORENA



Marilu Norena calls her new position as an assistant in the Religious Education Office a well-timed gift. Marilu and her husband Moises, and their three children, followed his career to Ohio two years ago, just prior to the pandemic. Having always been involved with religious education,

Marilu quickly became a catechist at St. Christopher and in her first two years here helped to prepare our second-grade students and families for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. When the position in the Religious Education office became available, it was a natural fit.

Working in religious education “is what makes my heart sing,” says Marilu. She first became a catechist 16 years ago and was trained in the Montessori Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This catechetical approach is centered in helping children to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, encourages fuller participation in the liturgy, helps children to develop a deeper understanding of scripture, and is based on the educational philosophy of Maria Montessori. “I’m excited to work more fully with our students preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation,” says Marilu.

Marilu and her family are residents of Rocky River, a city which she says immediately impressed them with its kindness, even in the midst of a pandemic. The three Norena children will be busy this fall at Purdue University, Cleveland State University and Rocky River High School. And Marilu’s husband Moises happens to be a talented painter and photographer – check out his portfolio at [donmoi.com](http://donmoi.com).

Beth Van Horn



## YOUTH GROUP SUMMER FUN!



This summer provided many opportunities for our teens to have fun together and get to know each other a bit. We had a park day near Rocky Reservation (complete with a hike and touch football game), a Centennial Park outdoor movie night on the big screen, fire and s'mores night and more.

Last summer we were still sticking to Zoom meetings and online content; what a blessing to be in person again. These are trying times for all of us but, through it all, God is in control and it's encouraging to think of the progress we have made. Even something as simple as an in-person gathering is a huge blessing; especially after so much time apart.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move into the fall and continue growing together.

*Eric Perusek*



## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

We welcomed Rebecca Garazatua and her husband Christopher, daughter Adriana and son Gavin at Mass on Saturday, July 17 as Rebecca was received into the Catholic Church. Fr. Tim presided at the sacraments of initiation with Sr. Jeanne assisting.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming Catholic, contact Fr. Anthony at the Parish Office.

*Gayle Cilimburg*



## WELCOME TO KERRY FIORITTO



St. Christopher is fortunate to welcome Kerry Fioritto to our custodial staff. Kerry and her husband Steve, high school sweethearts who recently celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary, live in Westlake, have two grown children and are members of St. Brendan Parish.

They met in marching band while she attended St. Augustine, and he was a St. Edward Eagle. Very much at home on the west side, Kerry grew up in Ascension Parish. Welcome, Kerry!

*Beth Van Horn*

## FRED AND JOANNE MCGUNAGLE – HONORING A ST. CHRISTOPHER LEGACY

As we begin to celebrate our parish centennial in 2022, we recognize that our vibrant history is due to the active involvement of countless long-time parishioners like Fred and Joanne McGunagle. The McGunagles have established an extraordinary legacy of service to our parish, to their professions, and to the needy of the greater Cleveland area. Their contributions and their stories are crucial not only to the history of our parish but

also to where we are today. Mr. McGunagle has been a member of our parish since early childhood and graduated from St. Christopher in 1946. He then graduated from St. Ignatius High School before enrolling at John Carroll University where he earned a degree in English. His wife joined St. Christopher in the 70s when they married. She is a graduate of St. Benedict grade school and Hoban Dominican High School. About the McGunagles, Fr. John Chlebo states: “As longtime members of St. Christopher, their love and support of the parish is a blessing. Fred has a particular love for the history of the parish, and I have greatly enjoyed his story telling of past people and events.”

Mr. and Mrs. McGunagle met over 50 years ago while working at The Cleveland Press, he as a writer and she in advertising. They have been married 48 years and raised two sons: Mark has a law degree and provides legislative counsel to the U.S. Senate; he is married to Karen, an engineer. They have two sons, Liam (13) and Finn (10), and reside in Falls Church, VA. Michael is an IT specialist and is married to Maiko, who teaches Japanese culture and language to children. They reside in Westlake. They also attended St. Christopher School and St. Ignatius. Joanne and Fred describe a parenting journey which included actively supporting their sons’ many activities. Fred recalls that one of his favorite roles was being a “server taxi” for his sons, driving them to and from their Mass duties.

particularly fond of our parish social events, especially the outdoor Mass and picnic. She hopes to return to some of these activities post-pandemic when it is safer to do so. Michael and Mark describe the Mr. and Mrs. McGunagle as “loving parents and ardent parishioners.” They recall that “St. Christopher was like our second home.” Their priorities always included Church, serving others and raising a loving family.



Fred retired in 2005 after half a century of reporting and writing about the Cleveland area – its government, economy and people. From 1957 to 1980, he was a reporter, editor and editorial writer for the Cleveland Press. During these years, he won many awards, including first place in the prestigious 1977 Media Awards for Economic Understanding (with a prize of \$5,000) for his coverage of Cleveland’s economic and demographic changes during the 1970s. He was also awarded the Brotherhood

Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews for his series on Cleveland 10 years after the Hough Riots. Later, as a freelance writer, Fred wrote a 100-part series for the Cleveland Plain Dealer on the city’s 20th-century history that was published as a book. He also wrote Press Club award-winning columns for the Elyria Chronicle. His work has appeared in national publications from USA Today to the Chronicle of Higher Education. From 1983 to 1986, Mr. McGunagle was the only media critic on radio in the United States. In addition, his influence reached audiences through television when he was a panelist on Channel 25 and their North Coast Report. Fred McGunagle is a member of the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame.

The blessings that Joanne and Fred treasure most are the opportunities to be actively involved in St. Christopher parish life. Four years ago, health concerns caused them to stop. Fred

“AS LONGTIME MEMBERS OF ST. CHRIS, THEIR LOVE AND SUPPORT OF THE PARISH IS A REAL BLESSING. FRED HAS A PARTICULAR LOVE FOR THE HISTORY OF THE PARISH AND I HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED HIS STORYTELLING OF PAST PEOPLE AND EVENTS.” ~FR. JOHN

While her children were young, Mrs. McGunagle’s full-time vocation was raising them. During the school year, she volunteered as room mother, lunchroom helper, recess monitor, tutor and other roles as needed. She graduated from Hoban Dominican High School before going on to college. After raising her sons, Joanne had a career outside the home which included working at Westlake Library. In her spare time she enjoyed traveling, socializing with friends, and reading biographies and historical fiction. She was

reflects on that point in his life as follows: “It wasn’t until I had to stop driving that I realized I missed being active. It was fulfilling and rewarding, something bigger than myself.” In addition to their involvement in our parish school, they served as Eucharistic Minister (Joanne) and Lector (Fred); Marriage and Life; the Renew Program (now RENEW International); and Sunday services at Normandy Manor, to name a few. The couple agrees that they have received so much more from their church involvement than they





put in. They are grateful to Fr. John Chlebo and all the pastors that came before them for allowing them to serve.

Looking back upon those very active years, the McGunagles agree that sometimes the blessings can go “unnoticed” because they are “too close” to us (i.e. spouses, children, faith-sharing opportunities, parishioners). Though they find our new online Mass very impressive and informative, they miss worshipping with others in Church, receiving the Sacraments, and being actively involved. They appreciate the great work that went into making Mass available to all those who are unable to attend in person. Fred and Joanne see the liturgy as “the work of the people” and church as “all about the people.” They appreciate that Fr. John and our priests speak and preach from the heart. They are pleased with the positive changes that continue to occur in our Catholic traditions and practices – they see the Church as more forgiving, more approachable and more personal. They believe that returning to community-based faith-sharing groups and increasing opportunities for parishioners to get to know each other are beneficial for all.

Fred and Joanne McGunagle leave us with a reminder that “it is not only what you give, it’s what you get out of it – active involvement leaves you feeling so good.” They stress that we are the ones who lose out by not getting involved. At St. Christopher, their names have been synonymous with Christian generosity, service and kindness. With such a great need for assistance with our many parish programs, they have a strong message for parishioners of all ages: “GET ACTIVELY INVOLVED!”

*Carmen Everett DeHaan*

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY EXPANSION CONTINUES



This past summer St. Christopher joined St. Luke, St. Angela, and St. Mark parishes to form the Near West Side Young Adult Pod. Our summer line-up was a great success, drawing large and diverse crowds to a wide variety of events. BBQ and Brews in Centennial Park, an Indian’s watch party at St. Luke, and After Work Exposition (A.W.E.) at St. Mark’s highlighted our summer events. This partnership has provided parishes with the ability to offer thoughtfully designed

events on a regular basis for young adults in our area. As we move past the dog days of summer, we are excited to announce our fall event line-up!

In addition to our work within the Near West Side Pod, a few dedicated parishioners came forward with the vision for a new ministry at St. Christopher that targeted our large population of young families. **We are proud to announce the formation of the St. Christopher Young Families Ministry!** This ministry is a group for all caretakers (parents, grandparents, guardians, nanny’s, etc.) who care for children five and under. Our meetings, called “playdates,” offer an opportunity for caretakers to enjoy quality time with peers to share tips, comradery, and playing time for their little ones! Play dates are held every Wednesday at 10:45 a.m. in Centennial Park (Mary’s Room during inclement weather). We are also in need of toy donations to keep our little ones busy! If you are interested in receiving email updates about our ministry for young families or would like to donate toys, please contact Logan Feldkamp, Pastoral Minister, at [lfeldkamp@stchrisparish.com](mailto:lfeldkamp@stchrisparish.com).

*Logan Feldkamp*





## Outdoor Masses - June 19 & July 25





## GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



Frank and Linda Gollinger with Fr. John after celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary with their family and friends at Mass on Sunday, August 15.

## PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY



Paul and Anne Wagner celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary at Mass on Sunday, August 22.

## NEW DIACONATE

Congratulations to parishioners Michael and Marion Hayes! Mike was accepted as a candidate in the diocesan diaconate program recently where he will prepare for potential ordination as a deacon in three years. His wife, Marion, is a significant part of this preparation. Pictured are Marion and Mike with Bishop Malesic and with Fr. John and Logan Feldkamp.



## WELCOME, CARDINAL!

Recently we welcomed Cardinal Patrick D’Rosario from Bangladesh to our parish, the first time a Cardinal has been here at St. Christopher. He was here for the wedding of a niece in our parish and stayed to preside at our 11:30 Mass on Sunday, August 29.



## OVER \$10,000 DONATED TO THE EDNA HOUSE FOR WOMEN

Generous St. Christopher parishioners gave the gift of hope in this year's "Christmas in July" fund-raiser sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee. Over \$10,000 and needed supplies were donated over two weekends in July for The Edna House for Women. Located in the former St. Colman convent and school, Edna House is a haven for women struggling to emerge from alcohol or drug addiction.



A 6-month program of structured and communal living gives women a safe, sober place to live while learning skills to maintain 12-step based sobriety for a lifetime. Over 1200 women have successfully graduated back to their families and communities since 2004. One of those women, Sarah Murphy, now serves as Advancement Coordinator for the program that saved her.

On July 18, Sarah spoke at all the Masses at St. Christopher. Her testimony was a heartfelt, personal tribute to the success of the Edna House philosophy. It was a privilege to hear her story which obviously touched the hearts of many parishioners.

Christmas in July is sponsored each year by the St. Christopher Social Concerns Committee. For more information on what we do, contact John Hosek at [jjudehosek@gmail.com](mailto:jjudehosek@gmail.com) or please check out the Social Concerns Committee Facebook page for timely information on volunteer opportunities and social concerns issues.

Jane Berkeley



...women helping women on the path to recovery

August 2, 2021

St. Christopher Parish  
c/o The Social Justice Committee  
20141 Detroit Rd.  
Rocky River, OH 44116

Dear Members of St. Christopher Parish,

Every night at 10pm, it's God's Hour at The Edna House and the whole house falls quiet. Only occasionally can you hear the sound of someone breaking the stillness that has become so central to the serenity of this time. It's a time to be alone, to think, to pray, to reflect. Throughout the house, God's Hour marks one more day away from the madness of addiction. In this hour, one more day has passed and the triumph of that day's sobriety is celebrated. In this quiet time, there is a hope that permeates the air as many who once saw only failures and disappointments now await a new day to share their stories of perseverance and a dedication to a new way of life.

The Edna House has started over 1200 women on the road to recovery since 2004. The major influence behind the principals and practices of The Edna House are Alcoholics Anonymous and Sister Mary Ignatia. We continue their teachings today and provide the opportunity for women to recover from addiction here in one of the only abstinent based programs in the area. Women reside here regardless of their ability to pay knowing their desire to stay sober is honored and nothing more than the willingness to participate is required. By supporting these women, it creates a community of women who can effectively help others by giving back what was so freely given to them.

At The Edna House, LIFE is restored. The mind, body and spirit are healed. *Thank you for choosing us to be the recipient of your Christmas in July project. Your generous donations will help us furnish our new, long term sober suites which will be available in December 2021!* We could not do it without people and faith-based organizations like yours. Alcoholism and addiction are deadly, but life in recovery is miraculous!

With Much Gratitude,  
  
 Jenn Lasky  
 Executive Director

Edna House For Women, Inc. • P.O. Box 6026  
[www.edna.org](http://www.edna.org)  
 A 501 (c)(3) C



Sarah Murphy  
accepts over \$10,000  
in donations and  
supplies at Edna  
House Chapel.



## MICHELLE ROMARY TRIO



The rain may have forced a change of venue for the Michelle Romary Trio on Thursday, July 15, but it certainly didn't dampen the enthusiasm of either the band

members or the audience. The Trio was playing as part of the parish's outdoor concert series being held in Centennial Park this summer, but thunderstorms forced them to relocate inside to the parish center. Thankfully, despite the rain, the audience was still able to enjoy both the ninety-minute performance by the trio, as well as the food offered by Cocky's Bagels food truck which parked right outside the parish center doors to help its patrons avoid getting too wet.

The Michelle Romary Trio, as the name implies, includes Michelle Romary, who you likely know as a cantor at St. Christopher, Efraín Hernández and Jimmi Chance. This very talented group has been together for many years, and play at wedding receptions, music venues, festivals and private events in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. In addition, Michelle often assists at wedding ceremonies and funerals as a cantor/soloist in the Cleveland area.

Michelle is the trio's primary vocalist, but both Efraín and Jimmi sang songs as well. Michelle commented that she enjoyed the songs in which they all sang lead. In addition to vocals, Michelle played a melodica during some of their songs. For those unfamiliar with this

instrument, the melodica sounds much like a harmonica but has mouthpiece and keyboard. Jimmi played the acoustic guitar, and Efraín played a percussion instrument called a cajón. After the show Efraín received many questions about this instrument that looks much like a simple wooden box. He was very gracious, explaining the instrument's origin and demonstrating how it works.

The trio's performance in the parish center was a mixture of their original songs and cover songs. Some cover songs included very well-known classic hits such as *Jolene* by Dolly Parton, *La Bamba* by Ritchie Valens and *Fire* by the Pointer Sisters. They also played more contemporary songs such as *Ho Hey* by the Lumineers, *Little Talks* by Of Monsters and Men and *I Will Wait for You* by Mumford & Sons.

The group also mixed in many of their own original songs. Some of their original songs included *Home*, *Rose Garden*, *Perfect Timing*, *Enough*, *I Will Carry You*, *Remind Me Again*, and *Good Luck*. One enthusiast fan requested an encore of *Rose Garden*, and the trio graciously obliged.

Several of the group's CDs were available for a good-will donation after the performance. More information about the Michelle Romary Trio, including their performance schedule, can be found on their website: [michelleromary.com/trio](http://michelleromary.com/trio). In addition, you can hear their original music and see their music videos on their YouTube channel by searching for Michelle Romary.

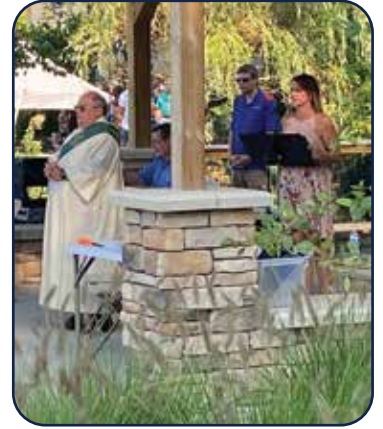
The St. Christopher Parish Community is blessed to have Michelle as a cantor, and to have had the Michelle Romary Trio play as part of our Summer Concert Series.

Colleen McKenna





## Block Party









## RAFFLE WINNERS!

**Beverly O'Toole**  
\$3000

**Denise McDonald-Curry**  
\$2000

**Tom Barrett**  
\$1000

**Kleinsmith Family**  
\$1000

**Tommy Melton**  
\$1000

**Barb Henrich**  
\$1000

**John Petrenko**  
\$1000

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will start at the 10 a.m. Mass on September 19!

The program is offered for children ages 5-10 to help them participate more fully in Sunday liturgy by listening and reflecting on the Sunday readings at their own level. Children can choose to participate that day. No registration is required.

Teams or individuals facilitate the program which begins after the Opening Rite of Mass. Before the first Scripture Reading, the presider will announce that children participating in CLOW should come forward. Children are led to the Gathering Area by the adult leaders who proclaim the readings adapted for children and guide the children in reflecting on them. Children return to the community gathered in the pews during the Offertory through the conclusion of Mass.

We need volunteers to lead CLOW on Sunday mornings at the 10 a.m. Mass. The process depends upon faithful volunteers like you. Youth (7th grade and older), parents, and grandparents are welcome to lead.

Training is provided and you will have a mentor to help you through the process until you are comfortable being on your own.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this important ministry for children, please reach out to Sharon Armstrong at [sarmstrong@stchrisparish.com](mailto:sarmstrong@stchrisparish.com) or (440) 331-6226 ext. 402.

*Sharon Armstrong*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's Vacation Bible School was the last week of July. We had a great time with songs, games, crafts, and a special mission project. Thank you to our volunteers who helped make our program possible. Our own staff members Logan Feldkamp and Eric Perusek were two of our talented storytellers at camp, as well as Abby Anderton, Marilu Norena, Anna Norena, Diego Norena, and Laura Armstrong from our Parish. Many of our teens came forward to help with the monumental task of organizing 60 kids. Thanks for a great week!

This year's mission collection for VBS was for a nationwide organization called "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." The local chapter on the west side is located in Olmsted Falls. It was founded to build beds for children who do not have their own bed to sleep in on a nightly basis. Donations collected by individuals and corporations fund the building of the beds, the cost of the mattresses, and all the bedding needed for these kids. Each bed costs \$250 to build and deliver. Our Bible School kids collected enough to build two beds for local children. Congratulations for helping the least of our brothers and sisters!

*Sharon Armstrong*





## CHURCH CHATTER

### THE CHOSEN

Parishioner **Chris Rosati** was looking for a good Christian show to watch with his family on TV and found "The Chosen." It is the first-ever multi-season show about Jesus. Producer Dallas Jenkins, has taken great care to follow the Bible, while providing a historical and modern depiction of life during the time of Jesus. This series is funded on a crowd funding model (no money or influence from Hollywood), meaning that viewers may watch for free or choose to pay-it-forward, to enable others to watch for free. You can watch "The Chosen" on [www.thechosen.tv/app](http://www.thechosen.tv/app) or with ads on YouTube. The app provides the best viewing experience and resources. Thanks, Chris for your insightful review.

### BIRTHDAY WISHES

Remember to wish the following St. Christopher staff members a happy birthday: **Joe Williams** (Business Manager) on September 2, **Scott Raiff** (Principal) and **Bob McMurray** (Music Director) share an October 10 birthdate, and **Fr. Anthony Marshall** on November 27.

### SUNSET SOCIAL

Join the Ladies Guild on Thursday, September 16 at 7 pm. in Centennial Park for a sunset social! Bring your own beverages and snacks and reconnect with the ladies of St. Christopher. All ladies of the parish are welcome. Feel free to bring a friend too!

Share your joyous events with us! Please forward submissions for Church Chatter to Roberta Trutko at (440) 263-7894 or [roberta32red@hotmail.com](mailto:roberta32red@hotmail.com).

## Save the Date

### LADIES NIGHT OUT WINE SOCIAL

Thursday, October 7  
at 7 p.m.

This fun annual event  
supports the Moriah House.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE THIS FALL

Many of our programs and activities will soon be in full force at St. Christopher. Everything is planned for in person. We have many programs that start up soon, but we need volunteers like YOU to help make them happen. There is a dire need for PSR teachers, especially in grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 for both the 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. sessions. If we cannot train teachers by September 12, then we will start a waiting list of students who registered after August 2 and classes will be unable to begin until teachers come forward. There is a limit as to how many students we can assign to each teacher.

The deadline for PSR for grades K-8 was August 2. We need ALL students registered BEFORE September 12. We will not be able to accept registration on the first day of classes, but students will be placed on September 19 if there is availability in their particular grade.

Confirmation for grades 8-12 started on August 30-31. Our second class is September 12. We cannot accept registration after September 11. Please call the Religious Education Office with any questions at (440) 331-6226.

This year is shaping up to be as close to "normal" as possible. I'm hoping we will see you again soon!

*Sharon Armstrong*



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 3, October 1, November 5	MORNING BIBLE STUDY	September 24	SOCIAL CLUB LUNCH
September 4, October 2, November 6	EVENING BIBLE STUDY	October 3	PET BLESSING
September 12	PSR BEGINS	October 7	LADIES NIGHT OUT
September 16	LADIES GUILD SUNSET SOCIAL	October 10	PSR DONUT SUNDAY
September 18 & 19	CATECHETICAL SUNDAY	October 28	TRUNK OR TREAT
September 19	BLOODMOBILE	November 2	EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE
September 19	CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD BEGINS	November 14	PSR DONUT SUNDAY
September 19	PSR DONUT SUNDAY	November 16, 23, 30	ADULT ADVENT PROGRAM
September 19	YOUTH GROUP BEGINS	November 21	BLOODMOBILE
September 20	RCIA BEGINS	November 21	PRE-BAPTISM CLASS
		November 21	THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
		November 28	ADVENT BEGINS

*We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church, a Eucharistic community of faith  
dedicated to ... Welcome, Celebrate, Care, & Grow ... in the image and likeness of Jesus.*