



The Belltower Beacon

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

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SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR PARISH MISSION: 60 MINUTES FOR JESUS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Parish Mission	1
Lenten Retreat	1
Advent	2
Pet Blessing	3
Angel Scholarship Fund	4
Litter Pilgrimage	5
Raise Your Spirits	6
J+Walkers	7
Altar Servers	7
Walking with Purpose	7
Donut Sunday	8
Meet and Greet	9
School Residency Program	10-11
Trunk or Treat	12-13
PATHS Fundraiser	14
Religious Education	14
Church Chatter	15
Upcoming Events	16



I am delighted to tell you about our Parish Mission, which will be held in our church from Sunday, February 2, until Tuesday, February 4, from 7-8 p.m. Fr. Jim Sichko

will lead it. He is a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY, and has been an internationally known preacher, evangelist, and motivational speaker for over 25 years. In 2015, Pope Francis commissioned Fr. Jim as a Papal Missionary of Mercy in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee Year. He is known for his presentation entitled, "60 Minutes for Jesus." His parish missions are geared toward every member of the household, from youth to adulthood, and anyone, regardless of religious affiliation. Known as "the best opening act ever" by Dolly Parton, Fr. Jim uses real-life experiences, personal stories, and humor to motivate any audience to recognize the good within themselves and others while challenging them to make the world a better place. He

ties those experiences into the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Speaking themes include kindness, trust, and leadership. You'll laugh, cry, sing, and be inspired. I can attest to this because I attended his presentation a few years ago and left feeling overjoyed and inspired. The key takeaways from his presentation are practical tips for living a better life, a deeper understanding of your purpose, and skills to better discern Divine Providence. Fr. Jim began production of Miss Marie's Spaghetti sauce in 2018 in honor of his late mother, Marie. Created using her secret Italian recipe, the sauce is a Kentucky Proud product, bottled and packed at Bluegrass Superior Foods in Louisville and distributed by Lexington-based Box Stop. You will have the opportunity to purchase spaghetti sauce. He is the author of *60 Minutes for Jesus and Encountering God*; the books will be available for purchase. I encourage you to bring your family, friends, neighbors, and most importantly, an open heart and notebook to write down his pearls of wisdom. I want to close with one of his quotes: "Without dreams, we reach nothing. Without love, we feel nothing. Without God, we are nothing."

I hope to see you there.

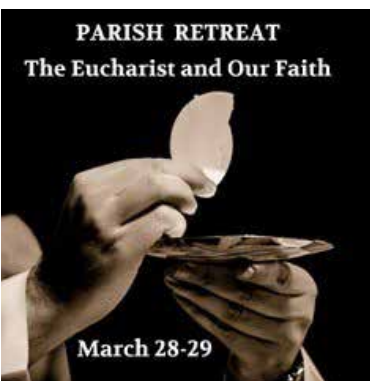
Melissa DiFini

SAVE THE DATE! PARISH LENTEN RETREAT *The Eucharist and Our Faith* | March 28 & 29, 2025

Join Deacon Mike Hayes as we reflect on the loving presence of God in the Eucharist. Rediscover, or see for the first time, why, as Catholics, we truly believe that the Eucharist is Christ himself, present in a true, real, and substantial manner: body, blood, soul, and divinity. Together, we'll learn how to deepen our spiritual awareness of the Eucharist in our daily lives.

Look for registration information coming in February 2025.

Deacon Mike Hayes



ADVENT: A SEASON OF ACTIVE WAITING AND HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

We are just beginning the new liturgical year in the Church's calendar, which always starts with the Advent season. By that time, it will also mark my first-year anniversary of coming, arriving and being here with you as part of this parish community. In the same way, the word Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival." Since I arrived here, I've had many exciting first-time experiences – anticipating my first Christmas here, my first Holy Week, my first parish weekend, my first Thanksgiving, and my first experiences with the Guardians, Cavaliers, and Browns games. I've also experienced anticipating my first full-blown winter, spring, summer, and now autumn.

Advent feels much like this. It's a season of anticipation, where we wait and prepare for something meaningful and new, just as I have done with these "firsts" in my journey with you. But what exactly are we preparing for in the season of Advent, and who is coming?

In Advent, we celebrate the coming of Christ in three distinct ways: His coming in history over 2,000 years ago as a baby in Bethlehem, His coming into our hearts daily, and His future coming in glory at the end of time. So, Advent is a time of recognizing Christ's constant presence in our lives while also anticipating His glorious return. This season is not just a time to reflect on the past or imagine the distant future, more importantly it's a time to prepare ourselves spiritually and practically for Christ's presence among us today. Days from now we will witness lights in the streets and homes, the decorations in the church, and the gatherings of family and friends, all will help create an atmosphere of expectation. But Advent is more than just a festive mood, it's an invitation to active waiting.

The idea of waiting often evokes passivity. We might picture waiting as sitting idly, hoping for something to happen like sitting down in Cleveland Hopkins International Airport's pre-departure area waiting for my boarding time or sitting down inside Sport Clips Haircuts for my turn. But Advent calls us to a different kind of waiting, an active, engaged, and purposeful waiting. We are

not simply waiting for Christmas day to arrive; we are preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ.

Advent is a time to deepen our prayer life and reconnect with God. Through the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. This might look like setting aside more time for personal prayer, attending an Advent retreat, or participating in the parish's reconciliation services. Active waiting also means looking outward. As we prepare for Christ, we are reminded of His call to love and serve others, especially those in need. The Gospel teaches us that when we serve the least among us, we are serving Christ Himself. Our parish's outreach programs, like Church in the City, Christmas in July, Lent soup supper, Thanksgiving food drive, the annual Christmas G.I.F.T., and many more acts of kindness are not just social obligations; they are ways to encounter Christ as we wait for His coming.

Christ is not just coming in the future; He is already here, knocking at the door of our hearts. Our waiting is active because we strive to recognize His presence every day in our prayers, in the Eucharist, and in each other. Advent is a time to intentionally invite Christ into our lives, not just on Christmas morning but in every moment.

Ultimately, Advent is a season of hope. It's a time when we are reminded that amid the busyness, stress, and challenges of life, God is coming to us. Christ's arrival, whether at Bethlehem, in our hearts, or at the end of time, brings light into the darkness. Our waiting, then, is not just anticipation but hopeful expectation, knowing that Christ's presence will transform our lives.

As we journey through this Advent season at St. Christopher Parish, may we embrace the active waiting it calls for. May we prepare our hearts, serve one another, and welcome Christ into our lives with joy and hope. Let's make this season not just a time of preparation for Christmas, but a time of transformation for ourselves and our community.

Fr. Lito Clemen



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On the eve of the Feast Day of St. Francis, we gathered parishioners and pets in Centennial Park on a picture-perfect night for the annual Blessing of the Animals coordinated by Sharon Armstrong and her team of PSR students.

Deacon Mike led a brief prayer service as we sang the great Franciscan hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King." Students read from Scripture and proclaimed the petitions for the evening and then each animal was blessed with Holy Water. Deacon Mike or Sharon would also invoke the words: "[Name of the pet] may you be blessed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you and [name of the owner] enjoy life and find joy with the God who created you. AMEN."

In all we blessed mostly dogs of all types. There was a snail, a guinea pig and a stuffed llama that received blessings as well as their human companions.

Deacon Mike's dog, Vito, followed him around all night as he blessed the other dogs and animals. The dogs were remarkably peaceful and very friendly. "It's always a fun night," said Fr. John afterwards, "and one that brings a lot of people out for a nice night. It's easy for us to do, so we're happy to keep this tradition going."

Fr. Lito blessed the children's stuffed animals that week as well – see the pictures below!

Deacon Mike Hayes





ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Turning taxes into tuition

In September 1926, St. Christopher School opened in two classrooms attached to the church building. Staffed by the Sisters of Humility of Mary, the school initially welcomed students in grades one through four. Fast forward to 2024. St. Christopher School now operates out of a beautiful building, dedicated to providing an environment where Catholic values, service, excellence, and community are shared with all by loving God, studying hard, and being kind to each other.

Over these 98 years, St. Christopher School has educated thousands of children in faith formation, sending them out into our community to excel academically, civically and spiritually. The school remains robust today, continuing in the tradition, which began back in September 1926.

In order to continue to provide our children with an opportunity to receive their faith formation and academic excellence through St. Christopher School, we have an opportunity to provide enhanced funding to the school in the form of scholarships.

DID YOU KNOW?

The State of Ohio legislature has enacted a Tax Credit Scholarship program, whereby individuals may receive a 100% tax credit against their Ohio income tax liability, with a maximum credit of \$750 for individual filers (\$1,500 for married couples filing jointly)! All of this is available at NO COST TO YOU!

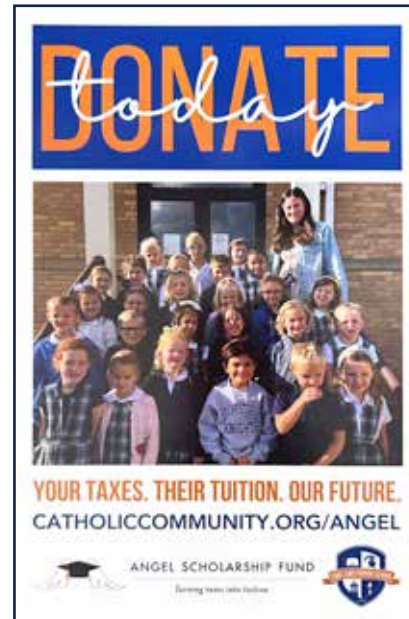
You have the power to fund Catholic education here at St. Christopher School. All students at St. Christopher School are eligible to receive a scholarship from the Angel Scholarship Fund. This fund is being managed locally by the Diocesan Catholic Community Foundation.

WHAT DO YOU DO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

1. Review your tax liability from last year (2023 1040 UT, line 8C) to help estimate the amount of your tax liability. Remember, you can take a maximum credit amount of \$750 for individuals and \$1,500 for married filing jointly.

2. Contribute to the Angel Scholarship Fund in 2024 at www.catholiccommunity.org/angel, or by calling (216) 902-1312. Don't forget to designate St. Christopher School for your Ohio state tax deductible contribution. If your tax liability is less, then you can contribute less.
3. Claim your tax credit on your 2024 Ohio tax form with the tax credit receipt that will be mailed to you from the Diocesan Catholic Community Foundation.

During 2023, we are grateful to the 197 parishioners and friends of St. Christopher School who designated \$186,680 of their State of Ohio income tax dollars for St. Christopher School. These funds went directly to helping our school families through scholarships, which lowered their tuition obligation.



We ask you to please help the St. Christopher School community to continue to thrive by maintaining our educational excellence, both academically and spiritually. Do not hesitate to follow the steps above as it only takes a few minutes and the benefits last a lifetime. You can direct any questions

to Joe Williams, St. Christopher Business Manager, by calling (440) 331-4255 x101 or emailing me at jwilliams@stchrisparish.com. Remember, this action directs your State of Ohio tax dollars directly to St. Christopher School.

Joe Williams

LITTER PILGRIMAGE

A small, but mighty, group of St. Christopher Parishioners met on a sunny cool morning in mid-October on the steps of St. Colman Church. Our Mission was to pick up as much trash around the St. Colman neighborhood as possible. We divided into four small groups to scour the area, in all we gathered 10 large recyclable grain bags full of trash. We not only tried to beautify the neighborhood, but helped in limiting the amount of waste going into our water system. We invite you to join us on our next litter pilgrimage. In the meantime, please consider taking the time to pick up trash in your neighborhood on your next walk or at your local park.

Kate Anderer-DiMichele



RAISE YOUR SPIRITS



Imagine an elegant gathering set in a beautifully decorated Mary's Room with warm, ambient lighting and high-top tables. This describes the scene this past October 10 at "Raise Your Spirits," the Ladies Guild social with over 40 women in attendance. Stylish décor of clear vases filled with wine corks and string lights created a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere.

A table near the center of the room was adorned with a selection of fine wines. Bottles of red, white, and sparkling wines were on display, ready for guests to savor. To accompany the wine, a variety of beautifully arranged charcuterie boards by Lake Road Market featured an assortment of premium cheeses, cured meats, and a plethora of accompaniments. Guests enjoyed

delectable sweets from Kathy's Kolackes Pastry Shop in Rocky River. The women gathered around the charcuterie boards and dessert table, engaging in lively conversations. The event was designed to be a delightful evening of indulgence and conversation and did not disappoint those who attended to celebrate their friendship and being a part of the St. Christopher community. Thanks to Lori Alexander, Mary Mulach, and Maureen McCabe, who organized the event.



Lori Alexander



FALL'S FIRESIDE CHATS

St. Christopher High School Youth Ministry enjoyed numerous fireside chat nights this autumn with a variety of topics, including sacrament, relationships, brokenness, and friendship. Many freshmen have enjoyed their first few high school events, increasing our attendance and providing teens with an engaging group of peers to discuss topics of faith. In the coming months, high school students will discern a unique identity and mission for their group distinct from J+Walkers, our middle school program.

Speaking of J+Walkers, our 7th and 8th grade students spent time exploring the presence of God in nature and sacrament this fall. This culminated in our Halloween party, where all students had the opportunity to decorate two pumpkins: one for homebound parishioners and one for themselves. As we move into the holiday season, our annual Youthgiving and Christmas celebrations will be sure to foster community and place Christ at the center of the holidays.

Logan Feldkamp

ALTAR SERVERS

This autumn, St. Christopher trained 23 new altar servers for service at the parish! This is the largest altar server class in many years. 12 new servers come from our PSR program, while 11 are students at St. Christopher School. Of the 23, 21 students are currently in 5th grade. As you see many of these new volunteers serve their first few Masses, please take a moment to thank them for their contribution to our liturgy at St. Chris! Students in grades 5-12 are always welcome to become altar servers. Parents of interested students can contact Logan Feldkamp at the parish office.

Thank you new servers: Lena B, Keira B, Bailey B, Brooklyn B, Emily B, Leo C, Dylan G, Sammie D, Ella G, Annie G, Emily H, Rafael M, Rosie M, Madeline M, Mary P, Brayden P, John V, Liam B, Megan P, Nolan B, Bobby F, Gretta G, & Chase S.

Logan Feldkamp

WALKING WITH PURPOSE



On Thursday, October 3, over 30 women from St. Christopher Parish gathered in Mary's Room to embark on a journey of faith through Walking with Purpose. Walking with Purpose is an apostolate that offers Catholic

Bible studies for women, aiming to bring participants into a deeper personal relationship with Christ. Through a blend of personal study and small group discussions, the program helps women connect everyday challenges with solutions rooted in the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. The St. Christopher Walking with Purpose program is part of a national initiative that engages over 100,000 women in more than 600 parishes across the United States and internationally. Sara Salupo and Tiffany Barker, the Parish Coordinators, work closely with the national program to offer this experience to the women of St. Christopher.

Currently, the parish is offering "Opening Your Heart: The Starting Point" on Thursday evenings. This study addresses fundamental questions of the Catholic faith and each participant's relationship with Jesus Christ. Throughout the 22-week session, attendees explore essential questions for a meaningful spiritual journey:

- How can one prioritize life according to faith?
- How does a spiritual life connect with everyday experiences?
- How can someone develop a personal relationship with Christ?



Alongside the small group sessions, Connect Coffees offer an opportunity for women from the community to gather for meaningful conversation and view an Opening Your Heart video. All women are warmly invited to attend the next Connect Coffee on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Mary's Room. These sessions are open to any woman interested in learning more about Walking with Purpose.

Additional information about the Walking with Purpose program is available at stchrisparish.com/ministries/wwp/ or by contacting Sara Salupo and Tiffany Barker at wwp@stchrisparish.com.

Tiffany Barker

DONUT SUNDAY PREMIERES

Donut Sunday on October 6 did not turn out quite as planned ... it turned out BETTER than planned!

Unbeknownst to Parish Council while calculating how many donuts to buy, plans were afoot for the St. Christopher Young Families Fall Fest at the same time on the very same day.

Magic happened! Together parishioners of all ages enjoyed coffee and donuts in the Parish Center while our youngest parishioners decorated Halloween pumpkins. Our little artists and their families crafted their creations and drew lots of unexpected attention and admiration.

Something for everyone. Fun for ALL! Join us for the next Donut Sunday with Santa on December 1.

Mary Horvath



PARISHIONER MEET AND GREET

On Thursday, October 17, we held our Parishioner Meet and Greet in the Parish Center.

Our ministry leaders had the opportunity to showcase their ministries to fellow parishioners. Attendees moved from table to table to learn about the various ministries and explore how they could share their gifts and talents with our church family and the surrounding community. Seeing new faces and reconnecting with those we hadn't seen in a while was a pleasure. The room was filled with joyful laughter and friendly conversation. We enjoyed a charcuterie board featuring a variety of meats, cheeses, and crackers and sipped on wine. The cookies were delicious, too! Thank you to all those who helped make it a success. May God continue to bless our parish. If you didn't have a chance to attend and would like to get involved in a ministry, please call the Parish Office at (440) 331-4255

Melissa DiFini



GREAT LAKES THEATER SCHOOL RESIDENCY PROGRAM



Through a generous grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, the Great Lakes Theater School Residency Program came to St. Christopher School for two weeks. Trained actor-teachers used an interactive hands-on approach to expose the students to classic literature from an actor's point of view. The residency program is designed to be hands-on, creative, and interactive. Each day regardless of age level consists of three components: acting, discussion, and theater exercises.

Residency actor-teachers not only performed for the students but directed student performances while working alongside the students to bring literature to life. Each performance was followed by a group discussion to reinforce the pleasure, power, and relevance of classic literature.

Grades K-3 performed scenes based on *The Snowy Day*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Anansi the Spider*, *The Sneetches*, and *The Giving Tree*.



Grades 4-5 covered topics found in classics, such as *Pandora's Box*, *Damon and Pythias*, *The Turtle Who Wanted to Fly*, *The Princess and the Beggar*, plus *The Giving Tree*.

Grades 6-8 explored the themes from *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth*, and *Julius Caesar*.

The reviews from the St. Christopher School teachers and students were grand! Each individual classroom attended one session per day. Using the small groups gave great opportunity for individualized work within the program. The students loved how interactive the daily hour-long program was and how much fun the actors brought to each session. Each student was a part of each story whether being an actor themselves or being in the audience. Even the audience participated in some way making it even more interesting and interactive for the students. Students were able to participate in the "plays" as much as he/she wanted to be involved. As the "plays" unfolded, the students could visualize and interpret the literature in a very meaningful way. The costumes were minimal, yet the students loved donning them. Students enjoyed each day and teachers were able to connect what they were doing in the sessions to what they have been learning in the classroom.

One teacher noted, "I liked how students learned about improv, singing, silent, and script styles of performances. The leaders, Tim and Lindy, were engaging and had the attention of the students. They were able to relate the stories to real life. For example, *The Princess and the Beggar*, Korean Folktale, illustrated the idea of working together in a non-speaking performance. The leaders talked about how the teamwork skills of focus, listening, patience, calmness, volume, and concentration play an important part when interacting with others. Tim and Lindy talked about teamwork and friendship and its application from the program to real-life.

Hopefully, the Great Lakes Theater School Residency Program can continue to be an annual enriching program for the St. Christopher School students.

Mary Meler





2024 TRUNK OR TREAT *An extraordinarily Spooky Event*



On Thursday, October 24, St. Christopher Parish School of Religion and our Day School joined forces to host one of our biggest Halloween events in years. Making good use of the whole parking lot as well as Centennial Park, the space was crawling with creepy things of all kinds – spiders, ghosts, monsters, superheroes and villains (male and female). Also strolling the common areas were countless princesses, unicorns, adorable little witches and colorful butterflies. Trick or treaters were as young as infants in strollers and students of all ages. It was tricky to ascertain who was actually having more fun – the children or the parents. However, it was clear that everyone was being treated to a great time (and a ridiculous amount of candy). Kudos to the planning team and to the parents who put their creative juices to work in costuming the children (and themselves) and decorating their vehicles. The ghoulish schedule included scary music, trunk or treating, a costume contest, best decorated car award, and fun activities on the playground. Assuredly, the youngsters (and the adults) went home exhausted or at the very least in a daze from consuming so much sugar.

Trunk or Treat began over 15 years ago by the school's parent group (PATHS). This year it was overseen by event chair and parent Michaela Pap. It was open to the parish community, and all were invited. As a result, you may find grandparents, family friends and caretakers bringing children to participate. For example, disguised as the Black Panther, our young Ukrainian newcomer, Dariush, also enjoyed this American tradition. It is a festive, fun and welcoming environment. According to school principal Mary Meler and our Religious Education team, Sharon Armstrong and Marilu Norena, this is one of their favorite joint efforts. With a focus on our young families, this is the perfect setting for parents to meet, share ideas and get to know each other better. As an established tradition, they now have an external team they can count on - tech support, entertainment, activities, set-up and clean-up crew. It is an excellent opportunity for our middle school PSR and teen Confirmation students to earn required service hours by helping out. The event has the full support of our priests and pastoral staff (though you may not have recognized them on that evening). Overall it was a spooktacular evening of sharing and fellowship. It was an opportunity for young families and children to see our parish leaders and teachers working together in a relaxed, fun and humorous setting. Colleen McKenna was there to capture the night in pictures. God blessed us with perfect weather and his awesome protection. Thanks be to God!

Carmen Everett DeHaan





JOIN US FOR "A KNIGHT AT THE OSCARS"

On Saturday, February 1, 2025 from 6-11 p.m., the Parish Center will be transformed into a star-studded, Hollywood Theatre.

We are rolling out the red carpet for our annual parish-wide fundraiser held by PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students). Join us for a night of entertainment, raffles and premier silent auctions. Heavy appetizers, desserts and open bar are included with your ticket. Check out the event website to purchase event tickets, learn more about corporate and family sponsorship opportunities, and view underwriting options.

This year, as a nod to the Academy Honorary Award, we are asking for past school families to "nominate" themselves for our SCS Lifetime Achievement Award. We are collecting family names and years of attendance at St. Christopher School and will be scrolling those names on a video board throughout the night. You will need to log on to the website SCOsars.givesmart.com and register to participate. You do not need to purchase a ticket to the event to submit your information. Just create an account and list your family name in any format you would like (The Smith Family, Joe and Sally Smith, Smith kids – Tommy, Johnny, and Billy, etc.) and the years your family attended the school (1983-1999, The 70s, 50+ years, etc.). We are grateful for all the families that have paved the way for our current students.

All event proceeds will directly benefit the educational initiatives of St. Christopher School. Additional funds this year will be used in efforts like supporting the intervention and resource rooms for children that need help outside the classroom and updating technology for their needs.

Capacity will be capped at 300, so be sure to buy your tickets (\$75 a person) soon. Corporate sponsorships are available for \$1,000 (includes two tickets to the event) and Family sponsorships for \$100, and both would provide great exposure within our community. Your company logo/name will be featured online and in print material for the event with a \$1,000 corporate sponsorship or you can buy one or more personal "Walk of Fame" Stars for \$100 that will be featured at the entrance to the event. There are also \$2,500 underwriting opportunities available on the website.

Please direct any questions regarding the event by email or phone to our event co-chairs Kristy Bertke (kscloser1@yahoo.com, (216) 392-5004) or Mary Kay Curtis (henrycurtis@ameritech.net, (440) 823-0677).

Looking forward to seeing everyone this February to support a quality education at St. Christopher and enjoy an evening of celebration, awards and cinematic greatness amongst friends.

Roxann Caserio

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

Exciting things are happening in the Religious Education Department this year. We started off the new school year with 380 PSR students in grades K-8. Our First Communion class has 90 students and the Confirmation class is a bit smaller with 61 students.

Our new Junior High Program "the Way" is in its second year and has started out strong. As part of our program, it is our hope to have our students experience a variety of speakers/teachers on various topics and allow our parishioners to share their knowledge. We hope you may be able to help us! If you are interested and have knowledge in any of the following topics, please contact the Religious Education Office (including, but not limited to): angels, the rosary, popes, Catholic meditation, and making prayer shawls. We would love to hear from you!

Please pray for our 2nd graders as they go on their Reconciliation Retreats in early January to prepare for First Reconciliation in mid-January!

Please pray for our Confirmation students as they spend December 7 serving others on Service Saturday as they prepare for Confirmation in May.

Thank you to all the students and Parishioners who helped with the Thanksgiving Turkey Boxes delivered to the St. Patrick and St. Colman neighborhoods. We appreciate your support!

Our Good Shepherd Program is up and running. Marilu Norena and Sharon Armstrong completed their training for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori Religious Program that teaches a unique relationship between student and Jesus, the Good Shepherd. We have been using the program with the 2nd graders for the past three years and have recently added the kindergartners at St. Christopher School to the program. The 19 kindergartners in Mrs. Klima's room look forward to Fridays in the Good Shepherd room. Soon we will be adding the 4-year olds in our preschool early in 2025. We will have the Good Shepherd Room open during the St. Christopher School Open House on January 26. Stop by to see us!

Sharon Armstrong

CHURCH CHATTER

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Fr. John D. Betters has been reappointed Pastor at St. John of the Cross Parish in Euclid for a renewable six-year term. This appointment is in addition to his assignment as Pastor of Ss. Robert and William Parish, also in Euclid. We wish him well with our thoughts and prayers.

SPECIAL MEMORY Deacon Mike celebrated a "Mass of Thanksgiving" on September 15 at his hometown parish, St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. Marion and Mike were married there and it is the Mother Church of the Paulist Fathers. Thanks for sharing this special memory with us!



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME On October 18, parishioner **Michael Corte**, class of '91, was inducted into the John Carroll University Athletic Hall of Fame. Among those present for the event were Mike's wife, daughter, and mother, Bea. According to his wife, Leah (nee Black), "I am so proud of my amazing husband for being inducted. We are overwhelmed by all the support the JCU family has provided to our family as Mike has begun his battle against cancer. Go Blue Streaks!" Mike was joined by ten of his former teammates after putting together a stellar resume while playing JCU football. He was a four-year letter winner (1987-1990), most valuable player freshman year, and had a string of 30 consecutive starts at left tackle in which the team posted a 24-6 record. He was part of an offensive line that helped the Blue Streaks win their first OAC championship. He went on to earn a master's degree in education from Marygrove College in Michigan and is employed by Cleveland Schools. For additional information, go to the JCU website or search Michael Corte, JCU football. They are active members of St. Christopher, and their daughter attends our parish school of religion. The family appreciates all the prayers and support they receive from our Rocky River/St. Christopher community.

CHICAGO MARATHON Congratulations to the following St. Christopher School grads who recently completed the Chicago Marathon (26.2 miles) in October - **Stephen Alexander, Daniel Alexander, Colin Allen, and Ellie McCabe!**

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





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UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 1** FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
- December 1** PARISH DONUT SUNDAY WITH SANTA
- December 3-5** SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOPPE
- December 4, 18, January 8, 22**
- February 5, 19** MORNINGS WITH THE WORD
- December 6, January 3,**
- February 7** EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- December 7** CONFIRMATION SERVICE SATURDAY
- December 7** ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT
- December 5, 12, 19, January 2, 9, 23, 30,**
- February 6, 13, 27** WALKING WITH A PURPOSE
- January 5** PSR RECONCILIATION RETREAT
- January 10** SCHOOL RECONCILIATION RETREAT
- January 11, 14** FIRST RECONCILIATION
- January 26** SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
- January 26-31** CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
- February 1** PATHS AUCTION
- February 2** PARISH DONUT SUNDAY

- February 2-4** PARISH MISSION
- February 16** PRE-BAPTISM CLASS
- February 20** FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT MEETING
- March 1** LENT FAMILY NIGHT
- March 2** PARISH DONUT SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24 4 p.m. in Church, Parish Center & Gym
6 p.m. in Church*
10 p.m. in Church with
Prelude of Carols at 9:30 p.m.*

Wednesday, December 25 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. in Church

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Feast of Mary, Mother of God – Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, December 31 5 p.m. in Church

Wednesday, January 1 11 a.m. in Church

* Also livestreamed.



*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.*