



The Belltower Beacon

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

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WAITING WITH PURPOSE

As the chill of winter slowly settles over us, we begin to notice the shorter days and the trees slowly becoming bare. Nature is inviting us to slow down, to pause and to wait. We are now in the season of advent with the spirit of waiting, watching and preparing.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Liturgical Year of the Church. The word Advent comes from the Latin word “Adventus,” which means coming or arrival. And who is it that is coming? None other than Jesus, our Redeemer. Advent is the time given by the Church to help us prepare ourselves for the glorious coming of the Messiah. During this season, we do not only await the commemoration of Christ’s first coming at His birth which is Christmas, but we also look forward to His second coming at the end of time.

But the question is, are we ready for the coming or return of the Lord? Most likely, many of us would answer, not yet. There are still things within us that need cleansing and renewal. There are still relationships that need healing,

and actions and habits that need to be set right. That is precisely why the Church gives us this season of Advent, as an opportunity to cleanse, reconcile, correct, and renew our lives. These four weeks are meant to be a time of spiritual preparation, not just of outward celebration.

Therefore, Advent is not a passive waiting, but a time for action. Let us not waste the opportunity that God has given us. Let us do our best to show love and kindness to one another, for this is what gives true meaning to Christmas, and this same love will also prepare us for the Lord’s second coming.

So let us ask ourselves: What are the things in our lives that need cleansing, healing, or renewal this Advent? How can we express our love to others, especially to those most in need, as a sign of your readiness for the coming of Christ?

Our parish is offering opportunities to take action during Advent including a book study and evenings of prayer.

Fr. Lito Clemen

ADVENT BOOK STUDY

One practical way that our parish is focused on learning to slow down from our busyness during Advent is by reading Matthew Kelly’s book, “Slowing Down to the Speed of Joy.” This book was distributed a week before Advent as our gift to you. Book discussion sessions are taking place in the Prayer Room during the day from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Mondays 12/1,

12/8, 12/15, 12/22) and in the evening from 6:30-7:15 p.m. (Tuesdays 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/23). This is an opportunity to connect with others and gain different perspectives from the book. The agenda for each session includes an overview of key concepts, discussion questions and an action challenge.

WOMEN AND THE WORD – ADVENT

The women on our pastoral staff are leading three evenings of prayer and scripture reflection on Tuesdays (12/2, 12/9, 12/16) from 7:15-8:00 p.m. The program each evening includes

an Opening Song, Welcome Prayer, Sunday Gospel Reading, Gospel Reflection, Prayers of Intercession, Closing Prayer, and Closing Song.

Marianne Brooks

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FR. JOHN'S POLAND RETREAT



As I shared in the weekly bulletin, I had the opportunity to be part of a group of 11 priests from our diocese for a retreat in Poland from September 30 to October 6. Centered on the theme of "In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II," we stayed at a Holiday Inn in Krakow, very near the old city square. From there each day we traveled by bus to a different location with a local guide who spent the week with us. He provided background

and history of the different places we visited. Prior to dinner each evening, we met together for Evening Prayer and a time of reflection on where we had been that day. It was a very open time of sharing by all of us and how each place affected us personally.

Wednesday, our first full day together, was spent in the old city area. The bus took us to the furthest point, and we made our way back on foot. Our guide pointed out various historical places, and we visited a couple of churches. We had some free time on our own as we made our way back. All of us noticed a bakery on the way with my name above the door! In Polish, my name means bread. It was worth a picture! We returned earlier than expected to the hotel and decided to venture out on our own as a group. We hopped a trolley that took us to the Schindler's Museum. This was once the factory that Oskar Schindler used as an ammunition factory where he employed and helped save 1,200 Jewish people during WWII. It inspired the 1993 movie *Schindler's List*.



Thursday, we went to Czestochowa to visit the Basilica of the Holy Cross and the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is known for the famous icon of the Black Madonna to which miraculous powers are attributed. We had a guided tour of the Jasna Gora Monastery, learned about the history of the place, and celebrated Mass in a side chapel in the Basilica.

Friday, we traveled to Auschwitz, well known as a concentration camp during WWII, where over one million people died. We had a detailed guided tour which included the cell where St. Maximilian Kolbe was imprisoned prior to his death. The candle in the cell was placed there by John Paul II. We celebrated Mass in a Franciscan Friary nearby before returning to the hotel. The day provided profound sharing that evening as this was the most moving experience of the retreat.

Saturday, our journey took us to the Shrine of the Divine Mercy and the home of St. Faustina who is the person responsible for promoting this very popular devotion. We celebrated Mass in the convent chapel where Faustina is entombed and visited the huge Shrine Church, dedicated by John Paul II on his last visit to Poland in 2002. That same day, we visited the Wieliczka Salt Mine. Although it is no longer active, it is Europe's largest salt mine and listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. It is famous today for the unique world of underground chambers and chapels carved out of salt. It is a testimony to the faith of the Polish workers who labored there.



Sunday, our final day, took us to a Marian Shrine dedicated to the Passion of Christ, that was a favorite place for John Paul II to visit throughout his life. That brief stop was on our way to Wadowice where

John Paul II grew up and to the church where he was baptized. The place where he lived, next to the church, is now a museum with many artifacts nicely displayed in a self-guided tour. The church is an active parish. We saw the font where he was baptized, and it is still used today. We celebrated Mass in a side chapel and saw several areas in the church that were reminders of his presence there in his earlier days.

The week passed quickly but the memories and images remain. It was an excellent place for a retreat as well as a place to visit. Places of history, insights into the life of John Paul II, and a deep respect for the people of Poland provide much food for thought and reflection.

Fr. John Chlebo



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



On October 5, we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis, with our annual Blessing of the Pets, organized each year by Sharon Armstrong and our PSR Students.

We started our service by gathering with our pets in Centennial Park

singing “All Creatures of Our God and King.” After a brief opening prayer, our students read one of the Genesis creation stories followed by my brief reflection offered with my dog in my arms and several other animals paying careful attention. Our PSR students offered prayer-petitions for the earth and for pets present and past and we honored all of creation praying that we might be better stewards of the Earth and all God’s creatures.

Each pet then received an individual blessing with Holy Water. We blessed about 80 dogs, four cats and a bearded dragon! Our PSR Students offered each pet a bag of dog or cat treats.

My own dog, Vito, is always so excited to come to the Blessing each year and I’m always amazed at how calm all of our pets are at the event. Likely, the calmness that we exude in our prayer is sensed by our animals and allows them to feel the peace that God gives us in this community.

So let’s continue to pray for and with our pets who reveal a bit of God’s love to us in their loyalty to us as their faithful companions. May all of our pets lead us to heaven!

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 2025. 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 99 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 a chance to give 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 (2024 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 2025 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 2025 Ohio tax form with the tax credit receipt that will be mailed to you from the Diocesan Catholic Community Foundation.

During 2024, we are grateful to the nearly 200 parishioners and friends of St. Christopher School who designated \$205,650 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.

Remember, this action directs

your State of Ohio tax dollars directly to St. Christopher School. You can direct any questions to the St. Christopher Business Office, by calling (440) 331-4255 x101 or emailing me at jchlebo@stchrisparish.com.

Thank You for your support!

Fr. John Chlebo

J+WALKERS LOOK TO CARLO ACUTIS FOR MODEL LIVING

As leaves change and snowflakes begin to fall, members of J+Walkers Youth Ministry have enjoyed a plethora of fun opportunities. The highlight of our autumn was the Carlo Acutis canonization party. Drawing over ninety students, teens were able to enjoy a video game truck, Italian-themed food, and a beautiful Mass to celebrate the church’s newest saint. St. Carlo Acutis represents

how all people, regardless of age, are called to live a life of holiness.


Following in the footsteps of St. Carlo Acutis, J+Walkers continues to complete work on a dedicated youth ministry space: the St. Carlo Acutis Youth Room. The former classroom has undergone extensive renovations, including the removal of lockers and blackboards, drywall repairs, painting, and new flooring. Additional

work is set to be completed in the coming months, including furnishing and new light fixtures. A special thanks to John Yakim, Mike Mural, the Caserio family, and all of those who have assisted with the transformation of the room. We look forward to demonstrating the contributions this dedicated space can make to our parish in the near future.

Logan Feldkamp



POVERTY SIMULATION



APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
DILEXI TE
 OF POPE LEO XIV
ON LOVE FOR THE POOR

“This is not a matter of mere human kindness but a revelation: contact with those who are lowly and powerless is a fundamental way of encountering the Lord of history. In the poor He continues to speak to us.” These are words from Pope Leo’s recent pastoral letter, *Dilexi Te*, in which we are reminded of the inseparable link between our Catholic faith and love and concern for the poor.

On November 8 members of St. Christopher Parish participated in a simulation of poverty with members from St. Ladislav, St. Raphael, St. Joseph, and Holy Trinity Parishes. During this experiential learning opportunity, the participants were divided into families and navigated the daily complexities of living in poverty for a month. With the help of community resources and social services families were challenged to maintain their basic needs, such as rent, food and transportation on a very limited income. Participants left the experience with a better understanding of the systemic barriers, stress and difficult choices required to survive in poverty.

This program was facilitated by the Diocesan Social action Office of Catholic Charities and hosted by St. Ladislav Parish.

Jeanette Nappier

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING EILEEN ELIZABETH KANDA *Who will be 100 years young on December 3*



When asked what she considers her legacy, Mrs. Kanda puts her children at the top of that list. She explains that her six children (the oldest being 76 and the youngest 66), continue to make her very proud. Though most of them reside in other parts of the country, they are still a close-knit family and are involved in ensuring that her daily needs are met. They are successful in their careers and communities while being devoted parents and grandparents. Mrs.

Kanda is also proud of her 15 grandchildren. She now has 13 great-grandchildren with number 14 on the way. In addition, Mrs. Kanda is proud of her many years at St. Christopher, 68 to be exact, and the countless ways that God used her to serve the larger Rocky River community. For example, she was instrumental in making the original Ladies Guild grow and flourish. She was also active in the early years of our Social Concerns Committee (now Social Outreach) and contributed to the Rocky River Senior Center for some time. She has always valued her relationship with St. Christopher Parish and our priests, and is happy to say that she was here long before and after Fr. Prendergast was pastor.

Eileen was raised in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood. After graduating from John Marshall High School, she began working in a bank. In 1947, she married William "Bill" Robert Kanda, who received his engineering degree from Case Institute of Technology (now named Case Western Reserve University). His training and career took him to Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co., from where he retired. During those years, Mr. Kanda also served on Boards of Trustees for different organizations. When they started their family, Eileen stayed home to care for the children. The couple had six children in ten years. William Robert, Jr., was followed by four sisters (Marilyn, Patty, Beth, and Carol), before the youngest child, Robert, was born. Mrs. Kanda tells the amusing story of Bill wanting a baby brother for their first son, but had four girls in quick succession instead before the next boy came. Mrs. Kanda stayed in the same home on Erie Road until seven years ago, when she moved into an apartment at The Normandy.

While in high school, Mr. Kanda was known for his athletic ability, excelling at football, track and baseball. He died in 1992. Some of their children and grandchildren have followed in Bill's footsteps by pursuing careers in engineering.

After her husband died and her children were grown, Eileen began travelling around the U.S. and Europe. She is forever grateful that she was able to see so many of America's beautiful sites and monuments. At the age of 80, her family travelled with her to

Ireland, where she kissed the Blarney Stone. She considers this one of her most memorable adventures. Throughout these many years, St. Christopher has been where she raised her children, prayed, worshiped, celebrated success and mourned loss. It is also the place where she socialized, volunteered and left a significant mark – past, present and into the future. To seal their deep appreciation for St. Christopher, Bill and Eileen Kanda have a dedicated brick at Centennial Park, on the walkway leading to the playground. She is grateful that St. Christopher is still her home church. She is also grateful that she has friends from St. Christopher who are now her neighbors at The Normandy. She believes the secret to aging gracefully includes a daily dose of milk, prayers, chocolate, and staying active. This has caused her to live life well and to have "no trouble sleeping."

A big part of Eileen's legacy involves her volunteer work at the Senior Center, at one point earning her a Volunteer of the Month award. She was recognized for her work in their Gift Shop, helping with The Quill newsletter, and sewing handmade cancer pads. In her early years at the Senior Center, Eileen started a Bridge group for couples named Bridge Arama, which she enjoyed for many years. Moving to The Normandy did not interrupt her passion for Bridge, as she continues to be one of their top Bridge players to this day. Eileen is also proud to have been a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels. She has always been dedicated to Lakewood's Beck Center.

Perhaps Eileen's vibrant personality, positive outlook, and passion for helping others is her greatest legacy. Upon meeting her, one would note that she looks and sounds much younger than her stated age. We would be remiss if we failed to mention her cookies, other baked goods and overall cooking expertise. The family honored their parents' legacy as extraordinary parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents by dedicating a red maple tree and a park bench at Rocky River City Park, near the upper deck. They are both easily found by their monogrammed plaques. In addition, the family presented her with a picture book containing her favorite recipes as well as photographs of special occasions with Bill, family, and friends. Needless to say, the family will come together to celebrate Eileen's 100th. Part of the celebration will take place at St. Christopher during a Mass on December 3. The community of St. Christopher wishes Eileen good health, memorable celebrations, and a blessed birthday.



Carmen Everett DeHaan

BIGHEARTED BLOOMS VASE COLLECTION

The Board of Directors and volunteers of BigHearted Blooms (BHB) would like to thank the parishioners, clergy and staff of St. Christopher Parish for their thoughtfulness and generosity during the vase-collection drive the weekend of September 20-21.

Parishioners donated nearly 600 vases and jars to BHB, a non-profit that repurposes flowers, that would otherwise be discarded, into bouquets. These bouquets are then delivered to lift the spirits and boost the emotional health of individuals battling many different life challenges in care facilities across the greater Cleveland community. More than 50,000 bouquets have been created and delivered since its founding in 2018.

Fr. John says, “BigHearted Blooms is well-named for what it does for others. Thank you BHB for inviting us to share in helping you reach your goals and fulfill your mission.”

“The generosity of the St. Christopher community doesn’t surprise me,” says Maureen Hrehocik, parishioner and BHB volunteer. “Each donated vase represents an act of kindness that makes an immediate difference in someone’s life. For many recipients, our bouquets are the first they’ve ever received in their life. On behalf of BHB, our deepest thanks.”

Additional vase donations can be dropped off at the rectory or in the black container on the west side of The Bank, a hair salon at 20000 Detroit Rd., Rocky River. For more information, go to bigheartedblossoms.org. Join us and “be a part of delivering joy!”

Maureen Hrehocik



RAISE YOUR SPIRITS

Imagine an elegant gathering set in the beautifully decorated school atrium with warm, ambient lighting and high-top tables. This describes the scene this past October 2 at “Raise Your Spirits,” the Ladies Guild social with over 40 women in attendance. Stylish decor 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 beautifully arranged charcuterie board by Lake Road Market featured an assortment of premium cheeses, cured meats, and a plethora of accompaniments. Guests also 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.



Lori Alexander



FIRST ANNUAL ALL SAINTS FAMILY NIGHT

On November 1, Parish families gathered to celebrate a holy day in the Catholic Church, All Saints Day. Prayer, dinner, games, activities and crafts kept over 25 children learning and entertained all evening. The 22 junior high students from the Confirmation Program and the “Way” helped the younger students play games and taught them crafts to increase their knowledge of the Saints.

This gathering will continue to be a tradition at St. Christopher Church every November.

Join us for Advent Family Night, Saturday, December 6 from 6-8 p.m. and Lent Family Night, Saturday, February 21 from 6-8 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sharon Armstrong



The St. Christopher App is Back – Redesigned and Refreshed!



A quick tap on the home screen opens the app's most-used features.

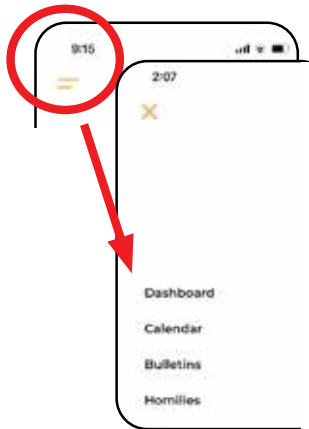
The St. Christopher app has been on pause for a couple of years, but it is back with an all-new look that keeps you up-to-date with the tap of the screen.

Whether you sign in to the app as a guest or log in with your account, the buttons on the home page offer access to livestreams, the Catholic Mass app, online giving and a form to submit prayer intentions. To login, enter your cell phone number. You may have to enter additional information (email address or birthday) to confirm your identity. You will receive an access code that will allow you to login to your account.

- **Livestreams:** Tap the Livestreams button to access the Livestream page on stchrisparish.com to watch the 8:30 am Sunday Mass and Funeral Masses at St. Christopher live or on-demand.
- **Catholic Mass App:** Links to the Catholic Mass App. Download this app to find Mass Times and Confession schedules of nearby Catholic Churches anywhere in the world.
- **Online Giving:** Log into your St. Christopher Parish account and give securely in just a few taps.
- **Don't Lose Hope:** Submit your prayer intentions. Your personal prayer intention will be included in the prayers for First Friday Adoration. You can keep your intention private by checking the "private" box when submitting the intention.



Catholic Mass Times button opens a separate app that helps you to find Mass and Confession times nearby or anywhere in the world.



Two horizontal bars at the top left of the screen open a menu to access the calendar, recent bulletins and homilies. Tap the "X" or Dashboard to return to the home screen.

The two horizontal lines at the top-left of the screen ("hamburger") offers additional options:

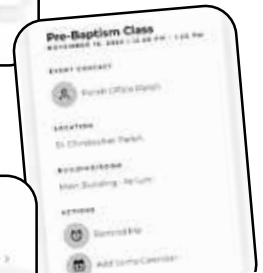
- **Dashboard:** Returns you to the home screen of the app.
- **Calendar:** Opens the St. Christopher Events Calendar. Tap on any day to find out what is scheduled that day. Use the filters on top of the calendar grid to filter by Event Type or Ministry.
- **Homilies:** Accesses a library of homilies from Fr. John, Fr. Lito and Deacon Mike.

For information, go to the website at <https://stchrisparish.com> or contact Colleen McKenna, Communications Coordinator at 440-331-4255, email at cmckenna@stchrisparish.com



The calendar grid on the Events screen. Tap on a day to find events and times.

Tap on an event for room location and an "Add to Calendar" option.



Tap on Event Type or Ministry filter to filter events to include only that Event Type or Ministry.

The app is available on the App Store and Google Play.

Download today!

App Store (iPhone)

Google Play (Android)

ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL ANGELS

The Angels Program has been very active this year! Our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders are paired with their 6th, 7th, and 8th grade “angels” to share faith, learning, and fun together. Kindergartners and 6th graders kicked off the year by making delicious apple-themed edible crafts. First graders teamed up with their 7th grade angels to write and illustrate creative pumpkin stories. Meanwhile, 2nd graders and 8th graders came together to learn about and pray the Rosary.

The Angels Program is one of the hallmark traditions of Saint Christopher School—building friendships across grade levels and helping make our school such a special, faith-filled community!

Mary Meler



SAVE THE DATE: LENTEN RETREAT DAY FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

On February 7, 2026, we are hosting a day of reflection for our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Hospitality/Ushers. The focus will be on preparing our hearts for the Lenten Season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This will be a wonderful opportunity to grow deeper in faith and understand the importance of each ministry. We thank all our Liturgical Ministers for their continued dedication to serving each week.

Marianne Brooks



LITTER PILGRIMAGE

Gray November skies and intermittent rain didn't stop members of the Social Outreach Committee and PSR students from participating in the annual Litter Pilgrimage in the St. Colman neighborhood. After a prayer for our earth, the group walked the streets around St. Colman Church picking up litter. Twelve large bags of litter were collected. Much of the litter was single-use plastic, which does not biodegrade, but rather breaks up into microparticles which contaminate our air and lake. The pilgrimage resulted in a significantly cleaner neighborhood, appreciative neighbors, and reduced environmental damage from the plastic.

Jeanette Nappier

A NEW LOOK FOR THE MONTHLY YOUTH MASSES

St. Christopher started a monthly Youth Mass during the 2019-2020 school year. Our goal was to offer a Mass that would attract students and families to increase participation, led by students and for students.

Lectors, hospitality/ushers, servers, and music would be led by students in grades 6-12 on the first Sunday of the month, which would get the entire congregation involved. This year's first Youth Mass was October 5, and had a slightly different look. We added the Michelle Romary Trio as the Liturgical musicians for the Mass. Her group adds a more contemporary sound with percussion and guitar.

We appreciate Michelle's group and the much-needed boost to our Youth Mass.

Join us the first Sunday of the month at 11:30 Mass. Our next Youth Mass is December 7.

Sharon Armstrong



TRUNK OR TREAT

On a crisp Thursday evening in October, the St. Christopher Parish parking lot was turned into a venue for unicorns, goblins, ghosts, princesses, aviators, minions and more for Trunk-or-Treating. This annual event coordinated by the PSR and School is always something special that the children love! Kris Koch, DJ extraordinaire, offered music for the Dance Party and Costume Contest in Centennial Park. A huge thank you to Emma Krejci for coordinating this fun event. Enjoy the pictures!

Mary Meler







ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

KNIGHT AT THE RACES



SATURDAY
FEB. 28 2026
6PM - 10PM
SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, **February 28th 2026**, St. Christopher's PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students) is hosting its annual fundraiser. This year, we are racing toward a brighter future transforming our Parish Center for **A Knight at the Races**.

Join Us

for a fun night of **horse races, raffles and premier silent auctions**.
Dinner, desserts and an open bar are included with your ticket.

All event proceeds will directly benefit the educational initiatives of St. Christopher School.

Capacity will be capped at 300, so be sure to buy your tickets soon. Corporate sponsorships are available, and would provide great exposure within our community.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this February to support a quality education at St. Christopher and enjoy an evening of celebration and fun!

Please direct any questions regarding the event or sponsorships by emailing:
knightattheraces26@gmail.com
or by contacting Maureen Turner 216-316-0387
or Allison Briscoe 513-258-6086



Scan the QR code
to purchase tickets!



Or visit the website:
<https://givebutter.com/q0Zaod>



Join us for an evening of food, drinks and races!



CHURCH CHATTER

BIRTHDAY WISHES

We extend birthday greetings and well wishes for the upcoming year to **Fr. Tim Daw** (December 2), Director of Music Ministry **Mayumi Naramura** (January 12), Preschool Director, **Mary Kramer** (February 8) and **Deacon Mike Hayes** (February 9).

APPOINTMENT

We are happy to report that our very own **Deacon Mike Hayes** was appointed to serve as director of Chaplaincy Services and Outreach to active Permanent Deacons. This appointment is in addition to his appointment as delegate for Ecumenical and Interfaith Activities and his pastoral appointment as Deacon at St. Christopher Parish. We continue our prayers to you in your ministries.



ATTORNEY AT LAW

Congratulations go to **Maddy Bartsche**, as she graduated magna cum laude from Cleveland State University College of Law and passed the Bar examination. She is also a graduate of St. Christopher School, Magnificat High School, and the University of Dayton. After years of hard work, study, and determination, she now has Esquire after her name. Chuck and Deb Bartsche are her proud parents.

SEMINARIANS

In September, Auxiliary Bishop Michael Woost formally accepted eight first-year theology students at St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology as candidates for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood. The newly admitted candidates for the Cleveland Diocese include our own parishioner, **Thomas Byrne**. Please keep him and his classmates in your prayers.



SCHOLARSHIP

Emmett O'Donnell, son of Michael and Whitney O'Donnell, received a Martin T. Galvin Scholarship Award from The Lawyers Guild of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. He is one of two Catholic High School students who received the award this year. The O'Donnell's are St. Christopher parishioners and Emmett attends St. Edward High School.

GIRL SCOUTS

Did you know that over 9,000 adult members and volunteers of the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio serve over 19,000 girls across 18 counties? They believe every girl has the power to lead, achieve, and make a lasting difference. **Cindy Skelton-Becker** is one of those dedicated volunteers. She has served on the Board of Directors for seven years and as its secretary since 2020. Cindy also chairs the Property Committee, which oversees the maintenance and development of all properties. A St. Christopher parishioner for over 20 years with her husband, Kevin, Cindy is a lector at Mass and has served on the Ukrainian Welcome Circle.

CENTENNIAL

One of Rocky River's most cherished landmarks, The Westlake, celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. You might know it better as The Pink Hotel or The Pink Palace. At the October gala, parishioner and Rocky River Historical Society President **Ginni Going**, accepted an award on behalf of the organization for its documentation of the storied building. **Fr. Tim Daw** provided the podium for presenters to share stories of famous occupants, and **Mayor Pam Bobst** read the city's Proclamation recognizing The Westlake's importance to our community.

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, 8, 15, 22** ADVENT BOOK STUDY DAY SESSION
- December 2** SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOPPE
- December 2, 9, 16, 23** ADVENT BOOK STUDY EVENING SESSION
- December 2, 9, 16** ADVENT WOMEN AND THE WORD
- December 4, 11, 18**
January 8, 15, 22, 29
February 5, 12, 19, 26 WALKING WITH PURPOSE
- December 5** EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- December 6** ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT
- December 9** JESSE TREE WORKSHOP
- December 10**
January 14, 28
February 11, 25 MORNINGS WITH THE WORD
- January 2** EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- January 9** SCHOOL RECONCILIATION RETREAT
- January 11** PSR RECONCILIATION RETREAT
- January 17, 20** FIRST RECONCILIATION
- January 25–30** CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
- January 25** SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

- February 6** EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
- February 7** LITURGICAL MINISTERS RETREAT
- February 21** CONFIRMATION SERVICE SATURDAY
- February 21** LENTEN FAMILY NIGHT
- February 28** PATHS KNIGHT AT THE RACES
- March 1** PRE-CANA DAY

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 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.*

Thursday, 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

Wednesday, December 31 5 p.m. in Church

Thursday, January 1 11 a.m. in Church

* Also livestreamed.

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*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.*