



The Belltower Beacon

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

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DIOCESAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Diocesan Campaign	1
Jeanine Surace	2
Faith Sharing Group	2
Ladies Guild	3
Molly Fuerst	3
Robin Seedhouse	4
Soup Supper	5
Prayer Shawl Ministry	6
Jesus Day	6
Ministries of Care	7
A Flourishing Apostolic Church	8
Youth Ministry Room	9
Mary's Way of the Cross	10
Lament Stations	10
Outdoor Stations of the Cross	11
Holy Thursday	12
Good Friday	13
Easter Vigil	14-15
Knight at the Races	16
Confirmation Retreat	17
Confirmation	18-19
First Communion	20-21
Ukraine Welcome Circle	22
Senior Servers	22
SCP Weekend	22
Church Chatter	23
Upcoming Events	24



In the March issue of the Belltower Beacon, I introduced that the Diocese of Cleveland would be conducting a Capital Campaign throughout the parishes of the diocese. The theme of the Campaign is *Called to Flourish, Our Church for the Future*. This effort is seeking a diocesan goal of \$200 million to support four strategic priorities: PARISHES – WORSHIP – EVANGELIZATION – SERVICE.

St. Christopher Parish is one of nine pilot parishes in the diocese who began the Campaign in December. Our parish goal is \$1,565,000 and we receive 50% of that total which equals \$782,500. When we surpass our goal, we will receive 80% of anything over our goal of \$1,565,000. I am happy to report that we have indeed passed that total and have raised our parish goal to \$2,500,00. Pledges continue to come in and will now net our parish an 80% return. I am grateful for the generosity shown thus far and encourage those who have not yet made a pledge to please consider doing so. If you need more details or how to make the pledge, go to the homepage of our website, stchrisparish.com, and you will find what you need, including a video (see QR Code below) describing some of the needs. As of May 18, our pledges are at \$2,236,635.

The money we receive will be set aside to use to replace roofs on our buildings as the need arises. Most of the roofs were new or replaced,

including the church roof, when we built the Parish Center 25 years ago. Today's cost to replace them is around \$800,000.

Another suggestion that I have received from parishioners is to replace our church pews and kneelers with new ones. They are the original and were refurbished 18 years ago. Expanding on needs in the church, the nave of the church has not been painted since 1999, and we are seeking bids for this work. Painting with the pews removed would be easier and less expensive. The LED lighting is more than 10 years old. A lift is needed to replace them and, again, easier to accomplish without the pews in the way. Our goal is to address these needs in the church and schedule the work for July 2027. During that time, we will be able to use the Parish Center as our worship space.

The 2026-2027 school year will be the 100th anniversary of our day school. There are some updates that we are considering making in the coming year as we continue to care for our school building and its changing needs. Most of these changes involve furnishings and equipment. 100 years is also cause for celebration!

These are some of the goals we have set or have been suggested to me. There will be more updates and information as the campaign moves forward in the coming months. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know in advance. I appreciate your prayerful consideration and support and look forward to sharing more details in the weeks ahead.

Fr. John Chlebo



MEET AND WELCOME NEW OFFICE MANAGER JEANINE SURACE



As a parish community, please welcome Miss Jeanine Surace to the very important position of Office Manager. She can be found just inside the Parish Office greeting visitors, answering phones and directing the flow of people that pass through the office asking for assistance – perhaps wanting to enroll in the parish,

or planning a sacramental celebration like a baptism, wedding or funeral. In some instances, an inquiry is made about becoming Catholic. Sometimes a passerby is in need of information simply because they are new to the area. St. Christopher Church stands prominently as a visibly safe place to stop and ask. Among her many important duties, Jeanine is the gatekeeper for our priests, pastoral staff, and parishioners. As one can only imagine, her new role requires a multitude of talents, abilities and skills. Jeanine is very excited about her new career and has already developed a fondness for our St. Christopher community. She states that everyone has been very helpful and supportive. She developed a fondness for St. Christopher when she began attending weekday Mass here. Describing it as “a vibrant parish,” she found the priests and those in attendance to be friendly and enthusiastic about their faith. She states that, “St. Christopher is a lovely parish. Even before working here, I enjoyed attending Mass at St. Chris when I was in the area. I always experienced a positive feeling. Fr. John, Fr. Lito and Fr. Tim, the staff and parishioners made me feel very welcome; the positive feeling continues!”

Jeanine is a life-long, devout Catholic raised in an active Catholic family. Like her parents (now deceased), she feels most at home serving and giving back to the Church. She stated, “Faith was an important part of our family. In addition to my two older sisters and I receiving a Catholic education (she received her bachelor’s degree in marketing from Iona University, a Catholic university about 20 miles north of Manhattan), both of our parents volunteered at our parish. Although our parents are deceased,

we each continue their tradition of giving back to the Church and volunteering at our parishes.” Jeanine and her two sisters are originally from New Rochelle, New York. Jeanine and her father moved to Avon, OH, in 2007. One of her sisters and her family also live in the area. She explains that “my family and I are very close; we enjoy spending time together. I cherish the time with them, especially with my goddaughter. She and I share many interests, including photography, art and theatre.”

Jeanine comes to St. Christopher after teaching religion and literature at St. Theresa in Bronx, NY, and then teaching for ten years at Metro Catholic in Cleveland. She has also been a catechist and held various volunteer parish positions throughout the years. In the private industry, Jeanine worked in client services and event management for a computer consulting firm. Most recently, she was a SilverSneakers instructor and freelance business development manager. She has a Master of Elementary Education and a Master of Business Administration.

Jeanine has many hobbies and interests that keep her very busy. In addition to photography, art and theatre, she enjoys painting, embroidery, reading, baking and tennis. Her painting includes florals, seascapes and cityscapes as well as sketching. She is an experienced freelance writer, having produced social media and marketing posts upon request. In her new role as Office Manager, Jeanine looks forward to contributing in ways that will maintain our vibrant faith community. She hopes to utilize her academic, professional and personal experiences in order to participate more fully in the life of the parish. Jeanine appreciates that in her role, she must be aware of the sensitive and confidential nature of her duties. She is aware that she may be the face of the parish for visitors and strangers alike. Jeanine does not take lightly that she has been given a unique opportunity to touch the lives of those who have contact with the office of a very large and dynamic parish community. There is no doubt that Jeanine Surace holds a valuable and vital position here at St. Christopher. Please make it a point to meet, greet and welcome her to our faith community.

Carmen Everett DeHaan

BISHOP’S LETTER FAITH SHARING GROUP

As a follow-up to our Liturgical Minister’s Retreat, six participants joined a small faith sharing group to discuss the Bishop’s Pastoral Letter in more detail. The group started meeting monthly in March after the daily Mass to read the letter together and discuss group reflection questions. The group enjoys the discussions and the opportunity to grow deeper in faith together. We anticipate meeting a total of seven times to cover all sections of the letter.

There will be another opportunity to attend a retreat focused on the Bishop’s Pastoral letter on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The follow-up for this retreat will also include forming a faith-sharing group from the participants. Please contact Marianne Brooks (mbrooks@stchrisparish.com) if you are interested.

Marianne Brooks

LADIES GUILD

Since the earliest centuries of Christianity, the Church Year has enabled believers to experience the intersection of time and eternity through its special seasons. In *Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time*, Dorothy Bass writes, “specific days make manifest the mystery of God’s active presence with and for the world, with and for us, as each fast or feast invites us into this mystery in a different way.” Throughout the Church Year, the Ladies Guild offers opportunities for the women of the parish to deepen their spiritual life and sense of community with other women of faith. During Lent, the Guild led Mary’s Stations of the Cross (see pictures on page 10). This deeply moving and prayerful version of Jesus’ Way of the Cross through Mary’s eyes has become a much-loved tradition in the parish. Afterwards the women enjoyed time for fellowship and refreshment in the Gathering Area.

In celebration of the Easter Season, the Ladies Guild offered a Sunday Mass in thanksgiving for the living and deceased members of the Ladies Guild. It is through the Eucharist that we are most closely united with all those women who have gone before us in faith. Coffee and muffins were served afterward.

After the Feast of Pentecost, the Liturgical Calendar turns to Ordinary Time. Enlivened by the Holy Spirit, this is a time to deepen our Christian witness through prayer and service to the Gospel. Theologian and writer Laurence Stookey says, “Because of what has been made known in Christ, no time can be regarded as ordinary in the sense of dull or commonplace. What we deem ordinary, God has transformed into the extraordinary by His divine grace.” The Ladies Guild has several prayerful and social events planned for this summer to remind us that through Christ’s resurrection all of time has been sanctified. Come join us! All are welcome.

June 24 at 7 p.m. Summer Solstice Tai Chi and Social in Centennial Park. Celebrate the start of summer with a prayerful Tai Chi exercise led by parishioner Mary Holtz. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

July 23 at 7 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service and Potluck in Centennial Park. Experience the beauty and peace of Taizé, an ecumenical worship combining musical chants, scripture, fire and silent contemplation as we honor creation. A community potluck will take place after the service.

August 4 at 7 p.m. Evening Prayer Walk at Clague Park. Walk with us as and enjoy the beauty of nature on a summer evening while spending time in quiet moments of prayer. Frozen treats and socializing to follow.

Nancy Sullivan



CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. MOLLY FUERST



Beginning July 1, 2026, Mrs. Fuerst will serve as the Assistant Principal of Saint Christopher School.

In March 2026, she also assumed the role of Preschool Director while continuing her responsibilities as Technology and STREAM Teacher/Coordinator. Since joining Saint Christopher School in August

2012, Mrs. Fuerst has demonstrated exceptional dedication and leadership. Over the past 14 years, she has been instrumental in developing and leading our state-of-the-art technology and STREAM programs.

Mrs. Fuerst has also used her talents as a writer to secure numerous grants that have funded many of the ActivPanels and Chromebooks used throughout our school. She is constantly on the move, assisting both teachers and students with the daily needs of school life.

Her leadership has extended to launching the Announcement Club, where students in grades 4 through 8 greet classrooms virtually each day, lead daily scripture and prayer, and share important school updates. Mrs. Fuerst has also played a key role on the Ohio Catholic Accreditation Team, helping Saint Christopher School successfully maintain its accreditation every five years.

Mrs. Fuerst leads with grace, faith, and a deep commitment to Catholic education. She is an inspiration to both faculty and students, and we are grateful for the leadership, vision, and care she will bring to her new role as Assistant Principal.

Mary Meler

MRS. SEEDHOUSE RETIRES



After many outstanding years of faithful service to St. Christopher School, we celebrate the retirement of Mrs. Robin Seedhouse, a teacher whose dedication has shaped countless young lives. Her work has been a daily witness to the words, “Well done, good and

faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21). With gratitude for her steady presence, her gentle guidance, and the love she poured into every classroom moment, we honor her as she steps into a well-earned season of new possibilities and new beginnings.

Mrs. Seedhouse began her teaching career at St. Christopher School as an intervention specialist, bringing compassion, patience, and a deep commitment to helping every child grow. Her dedication to supporting students academically, socially, and emotionally made her a natural fit to then begin teaching second grade. Robin’s love for her profession and for her students has always been evident in her thoughtful lessons, her joyful presence, and the lasting success of both current and former students.

The highlighted student memories of Mrs. Robin Seedhouse can be captured in three simple words: spaghetti, grit, and justice. For students from second through eighth grade, “spaghetti” became her lighthearted way of saying, You’ve got this—your question has been answered, and now it’s your turn to think, try, and problem-solve, with Mrs. Seedhouse always ready to guide you as long as you took

the lead. “Grit” was her constant reminder that nothing is too hard or out of reach when you’re willing to work, persevere, and believe in yourself. And “justice” brings to mind the unforgettable mock trial at the Municipal Court House with parishioner Judge Brendan Sheehan, a beloved St. Christopher tradition. The script, crafted by Mrs. Seedhouse herself, was tailored to the unique personalities and strengths of every second grader blessed to be in her classroom. Mrs. Seedhouse holds a special place in the hearts of the St. Christopher student body, who always felt seen, supported, and genuinely cared for under her guidance.

Robin Seedhouse not only guided her students with patience and purpose, she guided her colleagues with that same steady grace. Her door was always open, and she freely shared her wisdom, offering thoughtful suggestions shaped by decades of experience and a genuine desire to help others grow. Among the teachers of St. Christopher School, her insight, her calm steadiness, and her wonderfully dry wit created a sense of camaraderie that will be deeply missed.

As Mrs. Seedhouse begins this new chapter, we send her forward with our heartfelt gratitude, our warmest good wishes, and our prayers for the journey ahead. May God bless her with joy in the quiet moments, purpose in the new opportunities that await, and peace in knowing how deeply she has shaped the lives of children, families, and colleagues. We wish her every happiness in the years to come and trust that God will continue to guide her steps with the same grace she has shared so generously with all of us.

Mary Meler



SOUP SUPPER

Our annual Soup Supper and Basket Raffle took place on March 8 and was a wonderful success. Two delicious soups were offered, and with the generous help of Bob Gallagher, Ennis Court donated chicken noodle soup for the more than 70 people who attended, as well as for 25 takeout orders.

Confirmation and “The Way” students played an important role in the evening. They assisted the chefs, waited tables, and helped with setup and cleanup. The students also collaborated with the Social Outreach Committee to prepare and sell tickets for six gift baskets, which were raffled during the event.

We were honored to welcome Fr. Lito as our guest speaker. He shared about the Balay sa Kabos (House of the Poor) Foundation in his home diocese in the Philippines. His presentation gave meaningful insight into the impact of this program, which builds homes for low-income families whose houses have been damaged or destroyed by storms and the effects of climate change. Each home costs \$2,158 to build.

It was truly a great evening of community, service, and generosity. Proceeds from the Soup Supper and Basket Raffle will support the Balay sa Kabos (House of the Poor) program in Fr. Lito’s home diocese of Tagbilaran, Philippines. The combined event raised a little over \$5,000 for this important cause.

Additional donations may still be made to St. Christopher Church for the House of the Poor through the parish website.

Sharon Armstrong



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This new ministry is off to a great start with the completion of over 20 shawls and blankets in just three short months! Each time a new shawl or blanket is finished, we are in awe at the beauty of the colors and unique stitches chosen to create the masterpieces. A tag is attached to each finished item that reads, "Prayerfully made by St. Christopher Parish."

Our first blessing of shawls and blankets was on May 3 at 11:30 Mass. This was a Youth Mass which gave the students who participated in the ministry an opportunity to be part of the blessing. The finished items were displayed in the sanctuary and blessed after communion. These are being distributed to homebound and nursing home parishioners or others in need of comfort.

Meetings continue the first Wednesday of each month in the Prayer Room at 11:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. For questions or more information, contact Marianne Brooks (mbrooks@stchrisparish.com) or Sharon Armstrong (sarmstrong@stchrisparish.com).



Marianne Brooks

JESUS DAY

Our second-grade students had the opportunity to attend the Jesus Day Retreat in April. It was a joyful day of learning and celebration! The highlight of the day was bread making—always a favorite activity. With the support of many parents and teachers, students also participated in crafts and activities that helped deepen their understanding of the Eucharist.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a meaningful and memorable experience for our students!

Sharon Armstrong



MINISTRIES OF CARE SPOTLIGHT



(l-r) Lorraine Coyne, Lauri Nagele, Carol Szabo, Ken Szabo

There are two care facilities located in our parish boundaries, Normandy and Bloom (formerly called Bickford). Our dedicated teams of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion visit the Catholic residents in these locations on a regular basis.

The Normandy team is led by Bonnie Twitchell and includes Mary Pat Burnes, Terry Holthaus, Lauri Nagele, Lorraine Coyne, and Ken & Carol Szabo. The team is divided into two groups – one assigned to the second Sunday of the month and the other to the fourth Sunday of the month.

They arrive at 10 a.m., meet in the lobby, and verify the Catholic residents list. They divide the list into three areas and proceed to visit the residents. During the visit they catch-up, pray, and distribute Holy Communion.

Bonnie Twitchell described visiting the residents as a privilege that gives her unexpected joy. She also commented on the joy that she sees on the faces knowing that they are receiving Jesus. It renews her gratitude and awareness of her blessings.

The Bloom team is led by Robert Gallagher and includes Sylvia Profenna, Meg Hildebrandt, Dave Michael and Paula Greene. They each take a week per month and visit the residents every Thursday. Their visits include bringing a current list of the residents which they follow and any changes are noted. For St. Christopher parishioners, they spend more time updating them on parish activities providing them bulletins and prayer books when available.



Paula Greene

The first area visited is the memory unit which requires an assessment of each resident to determine if they are able to receive communion. There are two additional floors with residents to visit.

Each resident visit typically consists of an introduction followed by asking if they would like to receive communion. The prayers at minimum start with the sign of the cross and include the Our Father. Additional intercessory prayers are sometimes offered depending on the situation. They also offer to pray with non-Catholic residents which is well-received.



Sylvia Profenna

Our wonderful group of volunteers are dedicated to their ministry which results in a sense of fulfillment and belonging for the residents. They each bring joy, kindness, and faith to warm the hearts of the residents. Their dedication includes providing a post visit email to the team with a visit summary and any changes for the team's awareness.



Meg Hildebrandt

Robert conveyed a sense of fulfillment and spirituality in this ministry. The residents consider him someone special, and he is humbled by their life stories. The look in their eyes gives him gratitude, peace and comfort at the end of each visit. He also feels blessed to be part of a parish that offers this ministry to those who no longer can come to church to receive the most Holy Eucharist.



Bob Gallagher

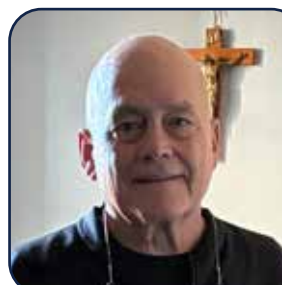
Marianne Brooks



Terry Holthaus

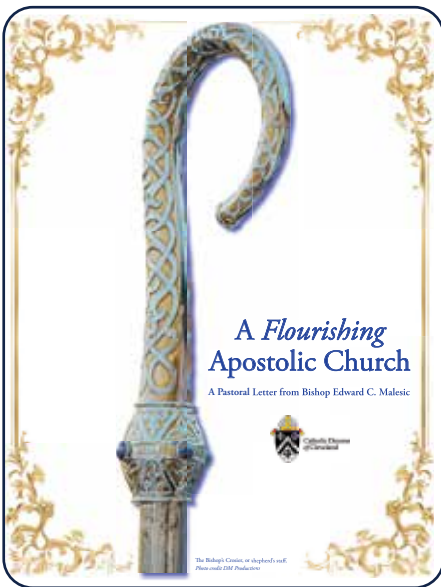


Mary Pat Burns



Dave Michael

A FLOURISHING APOSTOLIC CHURCH 3 PILLARS OF FOCUS: WORSHIP, EVANGELIZATION, SERVICE



Our Parish Pastoral Council studied Bishop Malesic's letter, "A Flourishing Apostolic Church" and decided to focus on his vision for the three pillars of worship, evangelization and service. Their approach was to form three sub-committees to evaluate each area and identify areas of growth for our parish.

The Worship pillar subcommittee is led by Kathy Rohn

with Fr. Lito as their staff liaison. The members include Mary Horvath, Cheryl Selak and Ken Szabo. The goal of the Worship Pillar Subcommittee is to foster the spiritual growth of our parish community by prayerfully discerning ways to enrich and strengthen our worship life. At the heart of this mission is the desire to help every parishioner encounter Christ more deeply, especially through the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments.

The subcommittee, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, reflects on our current liturgical practices and then recommends and suggests improvements to the Pastor and the Parish Pastoral Council. The hope is to help all who gather to participate fully, consciously, and actively in worship. It also seeks to inspire and invite more parishioners to share their gifts by ministering during liturgical celebrations, recognizing that vibrant worship is the fruit of a community working together in faith.

The Evangelization pillar subcommittee is led by Sarah Rish with Deacon Mike Hayes as their staff liaison. The members include Al Melton and Jim Moran. Their initial meeting was focused on

reviewing research on evangelization to understand what it means and how to implement it at the parish. A few themes surfaced including empowering parishioners to be disciples, listing ideas to improve evangelization efforts, encouraging others to join the mission, developing parish goals to be more welcoming, accepting and inviting to all people.

The team will work to visit other parishes to experience how welcome they feel as a visitor and note best practices along with what to avoid. They want to determine what to include in a Parish Visitor Book and visitor follow-up practices.

The Service pillar subcommittee is led by Julie Mallet with Pastoral Associate Marianne Brooks as their staff liaison. The members include Bill Blough, Christopher Rosati, and Bonnie Twitchell. They first reviewed the themes from the Bishop's letter to summarize his vision for service at the parish level. These include identifying spiritual gifts to better understand a call to service, integrating prayer into service, engaging in surrounding community, making it easier for people to serve, fostering relationships and collaboration, and serving with love to include being authentic and inviting.

They also reviewed some of our current parish service opportunities which include St. Colman church in the city partnership, Walking with Moms in Need, Social Outreach committee, Prayer Shawl ministry, Communion to homebound parishioners and nursing home residents. The discussion concluded that we need to better market our current ministries and make the volunteering process easier.

Three goals were identified to address these conclusions and ideas: first, update our parish website to clearly communicate our service-related ministries; second, identify and implement an application to easily manage volunteers for events and service projects; third, offer a "Called by the Spirit" retreat created by the Diocese to identify spiritual gifts and provide guidance on areas to best serve using those gifts.

Marianne Brooks

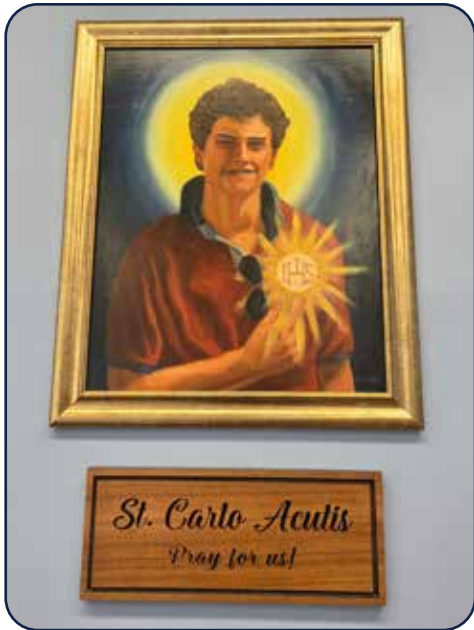
O Blessed Mother, you proclaimed the greatness of the Lord: inspire us to remember the transformative love of Christ in our own lives and teach us to boldly tell the Good News of your Son to all nations.

O Blessed Mother, when the wine ran short, you did not hesitate to bring this need to Jesus: we ask that you bring all of our needs to your Son and help us to hear His Word and do whatever He tells us.

O Blessed Mother, as you stood at the foot of the Cross, you continued to trust in the Lord's abundant goodness: in our darkest hour, comfort us with your maternal love, and grant us the grace to surrender to the will of your Son, believing in His faithfulness and clinging to His everlasting mercy.

O Mary, Blessed Mother of the Church, help us to believe that what is spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE ST. CARLO ACUTIS YOUTH MINISTRY ROOM



If you look up the word “home” in a dictionary, you will find several definitions that all seem equally necessary for the meaning of the word. “A place of residence/ origin,” “A familiar setting, a congenial environment,” “The social unit of a family.” All these definitions hold true for our new St. Carlo Acutis Youth Ministry Room. The Acutis

Room provides an exclusive, welcoming environment for our youth ministry program at St. Christopher. This dedicated space provides a meeting area for teens to call their own and fosters a comfortable environment for young people to encounter Christ and one another. After several months of renovations in the second half of 2025, the Acutis Room began hosting youth group events in December of last year. It has received some finishing touches throughout the spring and is ready for its Belltower Beacon debut!



The Acutis Room provides our students with a renovated space that is frequently described as a family room. It features a large, “U-shaped” couch, TV, dry kitchen, and table area. The environment

is highly adaptable for casual talks, formal presentations, or a group game. With large windows and a “cosmic blue” color scheme, it provides a calm and cozy presence for all who enter.

Two special artifacts make their home in the Acutis Room, the first being a special icon of St. Carlo Acutis painted by Monica Skrzypczak. This 24x30 oil paint icon was a custom piece created for the new youth room in conjunction with the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis last year. The first millennial saint, Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 and died in 2006 at the age of 15. Known for

his deep love of the Eucharist and care for the poor of Milan, Italy, Carlo enjoyed many of the same pleasures of today’s modern teens, including sports (particularly soccer), video games, and filming silly videos with his friends. He serves as an ideal example of how sainthood can be achieved by even the youngest members of our faith community.

The second dedicated space of the Acutis Room is in memory of the late Deacon Tom Long and his wife, Kathy Long. Faithful members of the St. Christopher community for decades, both Deacon Tom and Kathy had a particular call to serving the youth of our parish. In his later years, Deacon Tom would often have “Deacon Tom’s Coffee Chats” with students at youth group, sharing stories and bits of wisdom from his many years on earth. In celebration of those precious moments, the dry kitchen of the Acutis Room has been affectionately dedicated “Deacon Tom’s Coffee Corner” with a memorial plaque honoring him and his wife Kathy.

This place of prayer and fellowship could not have been done without the physical and financial support of so many people. Mike Mural Builders completed significant drywall repairs in the room. Parishioner Michael Caserio provided new LVP flooring. Pastoral Minister Logan Feldkamp and members of the facility team, including Joe Machesky, Ed Mijalk, and John Yakim handled painting, minor repairs, and furniture assembly. School Principal Mary Meler and Intervention Specialist Linda Sladky offered gracious accommodations. Most importantly, our deepest appreciation extends to the St. Christopher community who supported the youth group in our 2023 We Give Catholic campaign. These funds were instrumental in financing this new space. We look forward to many years of fun, faith, and fellowship in the St. Carlo Acutis Youth Room!

Logan Feldkamp



Mary's Way of the Cross



Lament Stations of the Cross



“When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock.” (Matthew 27:57-60) “Joseph was bold. Open our hearts and eyes to learn from the actions of bold and wise creation care activists. Let us see what is needed for those who are suffering due to climate crises all over the world.”

These words were part of the March 20 Lament Stations of the Cross. About 80 parishioners and guests gathered in the church to reflect on the final suffering of Jesus and the current suffering from environmental degradation. Students from The Way joined adult leaders in guiding everyone through the reflections.



The reflections reminded us of God’s instructions to “cultivate and care” for our mother earth (Genesis 2:15). They also reminded us that the most severe impact of failure to care for God’s creation falls on those most in need and our children and grandchildren. A final prayer gave joyful thanks for the gifts of God’s creation and for blessing us together in prayer.

This event was sponsored by the West Side Creation Care Team and was hosted by the St. Christopher Social Outreach Committee. Refreshments following the prayer service were a zero-waste event. A Rustbelt Riders bucket was available to collect disposable service items for composting.

Jeanette Nappier

Outdoor Stations of the Cross



On Good Friday, April 3, more than 200 people gathered on the front steps of the church at noon to take part in one of St. Christopher Parish’s favorite traditions: The Outdoor Stations of the Cross.

Led by Fr. Lito and Pastoral Associate Logan Feldkamp, the group walked through the streets of Rocky River. The group stopped at designated landmarks, where a volunteer read a Station of the Cross and its accompanying reflection. Along the way, small children eagerly “helped” to carry the cross.

As they continued, families and friends walked and prayed together. Some completed the entire route, while others joined the procession as it passed through their neighborhoods.

Colleen McKenna



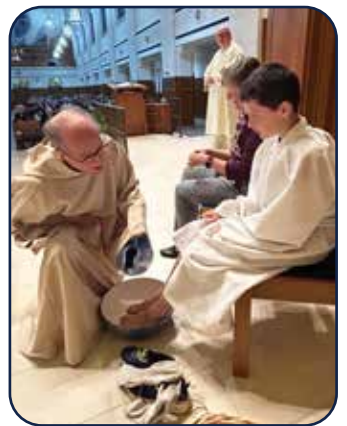
Holy Thursday

The Paschal Triduum, the most sacred period in the liturgical year, began with the evening Mass on Holy Thursday—a remembrance of the night Jesus gathered with His disciples for the Last Supper and gave us the precious gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Lito and Fr. John followed Jesus' example from the Last Supper by kneeling to wash the feet of parishioners who came forward during the Mass.

At the conclusion of the Mass, the Eucharist was carried in solemn procession to the Parish Center, recalling Jesus's journey to the Garden of Gethsemane. The Parish Center remained open for Adoration and personal prayer until 10:00 p.m., offering parishioners a quiet space to keep watch with the Lord.

Colleen McKenna



Good Friday

Good Friday is the only day in the liturgical year on which Mass is not celebrated; instead, the Good Friday liturgy is a solemn service commemorating the Lord's Passion and death.

The service began in silence. When Fr. John and Deacon Mike arrived at the altar, they lay prostrate in reverence. The liturgy then included the Passion according to John, Solemn Intercessions chanted by Deacon Mike, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion using hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Colleen McKenna



Easter Vigil



Easter Vigil



KNIGHT AT THE RACES

A heartfelt thank you to Maureen Turner, Allison Briscoe, Abby Dolenc and Kari Miketo, chairpersons of this year's Knight at the Races, whose leadership, along with the dedication of their incredible committee, created a truly memorable and successful evening for our parish and school community. From the moment guests arrived, the beautifully decorated venue set the tone for a festive night filled with excitement, fellowship, and school spirit.

The energy throughout the evening was contagious as guests cheered during the always entertaining Horse Races, explored the fabulous raffle baskets, and tried their luck at the popular bourbon pull. Throughout the week, families also enjoyed bidding on special school auction items, adding even more fun and friendly competition leading up to the main event.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of everyone who participated, Knight at the Races generated significant funds that will allow PATHS to continue supporting the many programs and opportunities that make St. Christopher School such a special place for a child's Catholic education. Whether attending in person or supporting the event through online bids and donations from home, our community came together in support of our students.

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Knight at the Races a wonderful celebration of faith, community, and generosity.

Mary Meler



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

All 61 Confirmation candidates attended their retreat on Saturday, March 21. The day was filled with engaging activities designed to deepen their understanding of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to strengthen their life of prayer.

Students also had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the retreat and concluded the day by attending the 5 p.m. Mass with the parish community.

It was a meaningful and joyful experience, helping to prepare them for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sharon Armstrong



Confirmation

St. Christopher Parish celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, May 6, with Bishop Malesic and 64 candidates. The Confirmation Team prepared 61 students, along with three adults who were formed by parish staff.

The liturgy was especially prayerful and uplifting, thanks to the beautiful music provided by Mayumi Naramura, Music Director, and Pat Walsh, cantor.

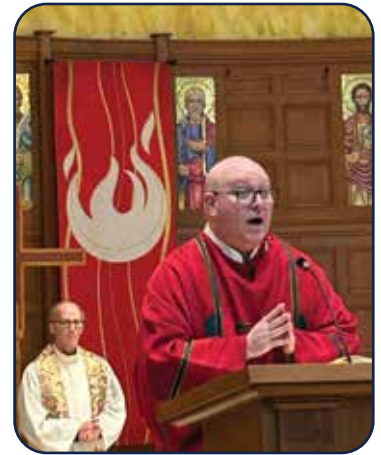
Following the celebration, newly confirmed students, their sponsors, and guests were invited to a reception in the Parish Center, where they had the opportunity to take photos with the Bishop.

The entire evening was a proud and joyful moment for our pastor and our “young Church.” We extend our heartfelt thanks to the students, sponsors, parents, and the entire Confirmation Team for making this day such a success. Congratulations to all!

Confirmation Team

Sharon Armstrong Marilu Norena Ken Szabo
Nector Castro Sidney McLain Kate Anderer-DiMichele

Sharon Armstrong





First Communion

We celebrated 81 First Communions over the first three weekends in May. Each Mass included between two and seventeen students, allowing for a personal and meaningful experience for every child and family.

The weather cooperated for most of the celebrations, allowing us to begin with an outdoor procession before Mass. Each celebration was a special and joyful occasion for our parish community.

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they continue to grow in their faith and receive the Eucharist in the months ahead.

A heartfelt thank you to our second-grade team for their dedication, hard work, and compassion. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

First Communion Team

Robin Seedhouse, Marilu Norena, Amy Williams, Brendan Barker, Bob Bove and Bob Gallagher

Sharon Armstrong







On Sunday, April 26th, at the 10 a.m. Mass, Fr. Tim, our Ukraine Welcome Circle, and the congregation helped Dmytro, Valeriia, Dariush and Aniela Kushnyr celebrate their 3rd anniversary of life in the U.S. They have recently become Legal Permanent Residents. We wish them many happy years of living the American dream.



SENIOR SERVERS

Thank you to our young parishioners who have served during Mass and beyond. We especially acknowledge our two graduating high school seniors, Caitlyn Castro and Katie Goodman.



Caitlyn serves as a lector at St. Christopher Parish and teaches kindergarten PSR. Her family, parents, Nector and Mary Castro, and two younger siblings, Carmen and Nicholas, moved to the parish about four years ago. At Magnificat High School, she serves as a lector, the student leader of the broadcasting club, and is active in many social justice opportunities. Next year, she will attend John Carroll University to study Adolescent/Young Adult Education with a focus in History.



Katie has been a parishioner of St. Christopher her whole life thanks to her parents John and Peggy Goodman. Her three older brothers, Nathaniel, Matthew, and Benjamin, were altar servers, which led her to follow in their footsteps and become a server in 5th grade. She is a four-time state qualifier in swimming, along with a two-time Athletic All-American and Academic All-American. Outside of school and athletics, she volunteers regularly at Youth Challenge, a non-profit that works with kids with disabilities and she attends Youth Group here at St. Christopher. After graduating from St. Joseph Academy, she will attend Xavier University in the fall to study nursing and swim as a Division 1 athlete.

Roberta Trutko

SCP WEEKEND 2026



St. Christopher Parish Weekend returns August 28–30! Now in its fifth year—launched during our 100th anniversary celebration in 2022—this beloved event continues to bring our community together for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and celebration.

The festivities kick off on Friday evening, August 28th, with live entertainment, a beer garden, and carnival games and inflatables for the kids. Don't miss our weekend "world-famous" hamburgers and hot dogs, grilled by Chef Bob.

Saturday begins with the Kids Fun Run at noon at the Middle School track. Registration is free and includes a complimentary lunch afterward.

Carnival games and inflatables open at 1 p.m., with live music and other entertainment prior to the 5 p.m. Mass. The

celebration continues after Mass with live entertainment from 6-10:30 p.m.

There will be plenty of activities for all ages on Friday and Saturday, including a water balloon toss, bingo, trivia, a cake walk, cornhole tournament, basketball tournament, hula hoop contest, limbo contest, and more.

The weekend concludes on Sunday with an outdoor Mass under the tent at 11:30 a.m., followed by an amazing breakfast generously donated by a parishioner. Freewill offerings will be accepted.

We are still in need of volunteers for the planning committee and for help during the event. If you are interested in getting involved, please visit our website at stchrisparish.com/scpw.

There's truly something for everyone—come join us!

Sharon Armstrong

CHURCH CHATTER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Birthday wishes go out to Pastoral Minister, **Logan Feldkamp** (June 6), School Principal, **Mary Meler** (June 12), Director of Religious Education, **Sharon Armstrong** (August 3), and Communications Coordinator, **Colleen McKenna** (August 12). Happy Birthday to all!

MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE Earlier this year, parishioner **Thomas Byrne** was instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte. Thomas is currently a student at St. Mary Seminary. Please keep him and his fellow classmates in your prayers for vocations.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL St. Christopher parish joins with Rocky River Presbyterian Church on June 15-19 to hold **Vacation Bible School**. Please visit stchrisparish.com/vbs-2026 for more information, volunteer opportunities, and to register.

PATRIOTISM **America 250** is a huge celebration, which Rocky River will celebrate with fireworks and an old-fashioned community picnic in September. The exact date and location is yet to be determined. The Rocky River Historical Society is spearheading the event, with two of our parishioners leading the effort: **Ginni Going** as President and **Rob Spademan** as Committee Chairperson. Contact the Historical Society or this columnist to get involved.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND We all know that Rocky River has an outstanding public library, but are you aware that some of our parishioners are on the Board of the Friends of Rocky River Public Library? Recently voted in for the 2026-27 year are **Nancy Ryan Seryak**, President; **Vid Lutz**, Vice President; **Roberta Trutko**, Secretary and Event Support Chairperson; **Craig Rimlinger**, Treasurer; and **Mary Horvath**, Membership Chairperson. Keep up the good work!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW **Fr. Anthony J. Marshall** was recently granted permission to serve as a Catholic chaplain for the Cleveland Heights Division of Police. This is in addition to his current assignment as pastor of Communion of Saints Parish. **Fr. Damian J. Ference** was appointed chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council 733. As you may know, **Fr. Richard Bona** is the pastor at St. Emeric in Cleveland. The writer of this column recently had the opportunity to tour this gem of a Hungarian church and facility. St. Emeric is the patron saint of youth. Prayers to all in their leadership efforts.

THE FEST **The Fest** is moving to the west side! This Catholic family festival will be held on August 15 at ForeFront Field (home of the Lake Erie Crushers) in Avon. The Fest features live music, games, activities, and much more! The day ends with Mass and fireworks. It is an opportunity to come together as a people of faith, celebrating the wonderful things God has done in our lives and in our world. Visit www.thefest.us to learn more and to purchase your \$10 ticket.

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

June 3	KINDERGARTEN PROMOTION	July 11-12, 18-19	CHRISTMAS IN JULY COLLECTION
June 3, July 1, August 5	PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY	July 23	TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE
June 4	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	July 25	ST. CHRISTOPHER FEAST DAY OUTDOOR MASS AT 5 P.M.
June 5, July 3, August 7	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION	August 4	PRAYER WALK AT CLAGUE PARK RAIN DATE: AUGUST 5
June 10, 24, July 8, 22, August 12, 26	MORNINGS WITH THE WORD	August 26	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
June 13 & 14	ANOINTING OF THE SICK ALL MASSES	August 28-30	ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH WEEKEND
June 15-19	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL		
June 21	FATHER'S DAY		
June 24	LADIES GUILD TAI CHI		



*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.*