



# The Belltower Beacon

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

Volume 19: Issue 73

March 2019

## ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL ADDING A PRESCHOOL

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You might be surprised to know that the greatest number of students enrolled in Catholic schools are found at the preschool level. Over the last decade, many Catholic grade schools have begun to offer preschool programs in response to the demand for quality, faith-based, and affordable preschools. The positive experience of these preschools has in turn convinced many parents to have their children continue on in Catholic grade schools. St. Christopher School is pleased to announce that it will have a preschool in operation for the 2019-20 school year.

Currently, a committee consisting of St. Christopher School parents and staff is working on the development of the preschool. It is the school's intention, to begin enrolling students in March. Currently, the plan is to offer a four-day program for 4-5 year-old students and a two-day (with an optional third day) program for three year-olds. Both of these programs would be held in the morning and should there be

enough interest in them, consideration would be given to adding afternoon sessions in the future.

While there are already a number of excellent preschool options in Rocky River, the St. Christopher Parish and School administration team felt the time was right to consider adding a preschool to the school's campus. The preschool will be housed in the Trinity Building which is connected to the main school building via an enclosed walkway. Classes will be held in rooms that were once used by kindergarten classes, but are currently vacant. The facility is perfect for a preschool, offering both plenty of room and natural light. An enclosed playground area and easy access for student drop off and pick up are other advantages of the site.

While there is much work to be done, there is even more excitement surrounding the project and no shortage of volunteers stepping forward to help. The committee is currently considering program needs, organizing an equipment and toy drive, and developing an implementation timeline. The St. Christopher Parish and School Staff are so grateful for the overwhelming support this initiative has received. It is our belief that the preschool will help meet the needs of our community and attract "Future Knights" to our Blue Ribbon School. Along with the Centennial Park Project, it is another indication of the vitality of this parish/school community as it moves towards its second century of service.

*Scott Raiff*

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF ST. CHRISTOPHER CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
A SPIRITED COMMUNITY OF FAITH DEDICATED TO ...

**WELCOME, CELEBRATE, CARE & GROW**

... IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF JESUS.

## LENT: A PERSONAL CALLING AND PRICELESS REWARD

For parishioner John Andrassy, the four years following his wife's death were turned into a journey that he never envisioned. With utter certainty, John knows that he received his calling from God to minister to the villagers of Comayagua, Honduras in God's own perfect timing. The calling came through an Ursuline nun who visited St. Christopher to encourage support of the Cleveland Diocesan mission in El Salvador. At a time when John, newly widowed, was experiencing his worst loss, God sent him his greatest gift. Answering the call, however, was not as easy as one might imagine. After expressing his interest in the El Salvador mission, John (in his mid-70s at the time) was told that he was "too old." However, the kind nun provided John with other Latin American missions that would be happy to utilize his talents and skills. This was the beginning of John's journey to Honduras, where he joined volunteers of a multi-faceted mission managed by a Franciscan priest (who also turned out to be from Ohio).

Channeling his grieving into a positive purpose, John was able to contribute in many ways to the Honduran villagers. Upon his return, he was a changed man of even greater faith – he feels that he answered the Lord in much the same manner that Samuel did when he said "Here am I, for you have called me." [1 Samuel 3:5]. John realized quickly that he could never accomplish here what he did in Honduras, the needs are just so vastly different. While he saw a completely new level of economic/materialistic poverty, he also saw an unfathomable level of pure faith, spirituality and humility. Their worship and gratitude seemed to come from the deepest recesses of their hearts and souls. Their Eucharistic celebrations featured God-given musical talent by natives who had never taken a music or singing lesson in their lives, most of them with high levels of illiteracy and little formal education. Although the amenities were scarce, the families came dressed up and eager to participate. John was impressed that "the children were respectful, happy to be there and singing their hearts out." Lent, Advent and holy days were particularly important, as services became like festivals honoring Christ, the Virgin Mary, the saints and Catholicism. No one missed the processions on foot through city centers. In fact, the town of Comayagua is famous for its handmade Lenten rugs of sand

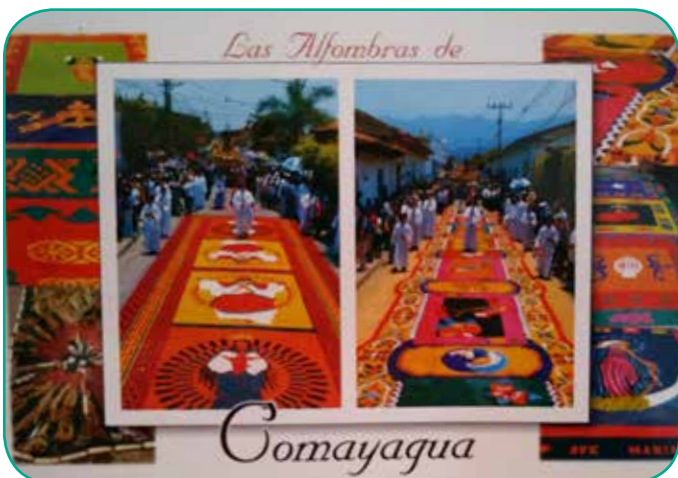
(alfombras) where the procession walked. Again, their natural and humble talent is on clear display in these beautiful works of art, drawing tourists every year from around the world.

In John 2:1-11, at the wedding feast at Cana, Mary tells the servants to "do whatever He (Jesus) tells you." She was displaying the trust she had in her son, Jesus, to answer God's call. These are powerful words that we are to take to heart. When we do whatever Jesus wants, we end up being more like Him. Over the years, John met many interesting people from around the world and from all walks of life who were also answering a call to serve God's children. They were all loving and caring, having come together to lend their talents and resources in making the world a better place. John is humbled and will never forget the outpouring of love, kindness and gratitude he received. One can easily declare that John helped the team to build a City of God where tears were turned into dancing.



While at the mission, English was spoken by missionaries and villagers alike, which made communication easier, but John regrets that he never took the time to learn Spanish while there. This did not stop him, however, from driving high into the mountains upon one occasion (with an interpreter) to rescue a woman and her two children who were stranded there. He could only drive so far up the rugged terrain before going the rest of the way on foot. Upon bringing the family to the mission, the priest baptized the children and John served as their Godfather. Happy to use plumbing and carpentry skills learned from his father, he helped build a large home for them where they could raise their children with modern amenities. The homes are typically made of cinder block with tin roofs. As a result of this, the women were able to start their own businesses from the home and support their children. Homes are surrounded by barbed wire because of the high crime rate.

The mission compound consists of temporary cottage housing for homeless women with school-age children, an elementary school and an orphanage. It is supported through private donations and fundraisers. The goal is to teach the women life skills which include independent living, parenting and money management. One money-making project which is near and dear to John's heart began with noting that the hillsides were covered with bushes (called Job's Tears) that produced a bead-like pod. John planted some and taught the women how to harvest the beads to make rosaries. The women were taught to market the rosaries then use the funds to benefit all the residents. This can only be described as a genuine grassroots initiative. John has nothing but good memories of his years in Honduras, especially the friendly villagers and the cuisine. He does



caution us to prepare well before going: talk to people who have been there, listen to the local experts and be aware of red flags. If you are not careful, you can be easily scammed. Especially upon returning to the U.S. where you no longer see what is going on there, do not be quick to dispense cash or share resources unless a trustworthy, responsible person (liaison) is involved.

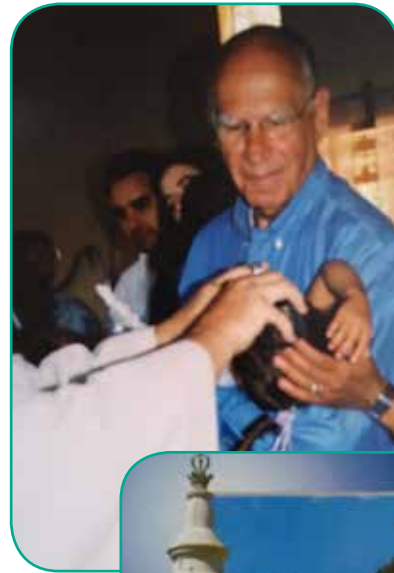
Regardless of the risks and the hard work (truly labors of love), John would return to Comayagua immediately if his aging body allowed (he's a very young 90). He considers it life's greatest blessing that God used him in such a powerful way through such humble means – he recalls cleaning, unclogging and replacing toilets as well as removing sewage and fixing plumbing in the shelters and orphanages. He dug hundreds of feet of trenches and ditches for water lines, he never knew when the showers would stop working, and communication with the outside world was very limited. On top of all this work in the constant sun, he was closely guarded and accompanied by an endless army of ants and scorpions. Immigration officers were also ever present and they came to know him well. In the end, he lost weight, made priceless friendships, became physically stronger and grew closer to God than he ever imagined possible. He states that it is now easier to have faith, put his trust in God and put himself in His care.

Accountant, and retiree from Price Waterhouse. He was born and raised on Cleveland's east side in an area that was predominantly Eastern European and Jewish at the time. In his retirement, John has enjoyed extensive travel around the world, including Istanbul, Greece and Ephesus where he saw the original home site of Mother Mary. He has traveled throughout Europe, the south Pacific, and all of Central America. Regardless of what side of the world, whether by cruise ship or by plane, John lists Bora Bora as his favorite vacation destination. Why? Well because the flowers are always in bloom, the sun is always shining, there is beauty everywhere and "the people are always friendly." Of course, why wouldn't they be?

*Carmen Everett DeHaan*



Closer to home, John has been a member of St. Christopher since 1956. He and his wife, Jilda (deceased) raised a daughter, Jill (deceased) in their Rocky River home, where he remains. His favorite hobby has been making stained glass art. Over the years, John has served in various capacities at St. Christopher, including usher, eucharistic minister and money counter. He is a graduate of Kent State, a Certified Public



John rescued a woman and two children from a remote mountaintop. He became Godfather to the children.



## YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

After a brief holiday break, our youth ministry jumped back into full swing in January. With the new year bringing lots of talk about resolutions and fresh starts, we explored some of the ways to "renew our relationship with God." Deacon Tom spoke about the incredible power of the Eucharist and I shared about how confession changed my life (and continues to today). It has been a great blessing to have support from adult leaders like Tom and the rest of our youth ministry team. For the past five months, the youth group has been served and supported by the following parishioners: Michael Budinger, Alex Budinger, JC Froelich, and Steph Froelich. They have done everything from leading games and activities to sharing about their faith journeys; I can't thank them enough for what they have brought to this ministry. For me, it has been a great reminder that we all have our own unique gifts and talents that we bring to the body of Christ. I certainly couldn't do this on my own and it is a blessing to know that God does not call us to follow him by ourselves; he gives us the gift of each other. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we try to build a community of faith and friendship for the teens at St. Christopher!

*Eric Perusek*



## SURVEY UPDATE

Last year in late October and early November parishioners of St. Christopher were asked to complete a survey about various areas of parish life and ministry. The survey originated with an idea from the Parish Pastoral Council and had the support of the Parish Pastoral Staff. As we pointed out at that time, St. Christopher will celebrate 100 years as a parish in May 2022. It is certainly a different place than it was back in those early years! As we approach a second century of worship and service, what are we doing well? What are some areas where we could grow and improve? What considerations should we have in mind as we reach this milestone? The theme of the survey was: *St. Christopher: A New Century of Service.*

The survey was divided into seven areas of parish life and ministry: Worship, Welcome/Hospitality, How Well We Meet the Needs of Various Groups, Leadership and Communication, Faith Formation and Education, Social Justice and Service, and Stewardship. Parishioners were asked to rate various areas under each category

on a scale of 1-4. There was space for additional comments in each section and two general questions at the end.

1,177 people responded to the survey. This is an outstanding response, more than double what we expected. The results were compiled and evaluated by DeLambo Consulting and a summary sent to the parish in late January. The Pastoral Staff reviewed the findings, followed by the Pastoral Council, who had a presentation of the summary by David DeLambo at their February meeting.

Over the next few months the Parish Staff and Council Members will discuss the survey results and discern suggested goals for the parish to accomplish over the next 2-3 years as we prepare to celebrate our centennial. Please be patient and continue your prayerful support as we move forward. We will certainly share our progress in the coming months as we continue to give thanks for our blessings of the past and look to the future with hope as a people of faith.

*Fr. John Chlebo*

## ADLER RECEIVES MISSION AND VALUES AWARD



St. Christopher parishioner Sarah Adler was honored with a “Mission and Values” Award from Catholic Charities this past December. The award was presented at the Diocese of Cleveland Catholic Charities 19th annual St. Elizabeth of Hungary celebration which recognizes employees for service and leadership, as nominated by their peers.

Sarah’s service and leadership attributes are many. Professionally, she is a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner in Skilled and Long Term Care at St. Augustine Health Ministries, a role she’s held for 3 ½ years of her 21-year nursing career. The anonymous award nomination letter authored by a co-worker stated that Sarah “personifies charity, faith, hope, fortitude and justice.” In addition to her work caring for the residents of St. Augustine, she also is a mentor for students in Advanced Practice Nursing where “she educates future nurse practitioners and teaches them how to care for the [residents] mentally, physically and spiritually.”

Outside of work, she is an avid volunteer. She serves on the St. Christopher CYO Athletic Board, was CYO Athletic Director for five years and has coached multiple sports teams. At St. Ignatius High School, she is a board member of the Loyola Society Mothers’ Club. Through the Loyola Society she has worked with Campus Ministry, coordinating the snack program for the Arrupe Neighborhood Partnership after school program for neighborhood children as well as organizing their annual Christmas party. This spring she is helping to organize “Spring Into Action,” the annual Jesuit volunteer day of service in the community.

Last summer, she spent her vacation on a two week mission trip to El Salvador with her son, Owen, where they visited and worked with Fr. John Ostrowski and Fr. Paul Schindler. As her nomination stated, “She has passed her religion on to her children who have attended St. Christopher, St. Ignatius, Magnificat and John Carroll University. She embodies the Catholic spirit, which guides her in her life and is visible in any interaction with her.” Thank you and congratulations to Sarah on this well-deserved honor!

*Beth Van Horn*

# COLD WEATHER FAILS TO CHILL ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL'S CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Catholic Schools Week is traditionally one of the year's highlights at St. Christopher School. This year was no different, despite a polar vortex that resulted in the school being closed for two days during the week. Our school's celebration, which took place during the week of January 27 - February 1, was especially memorable; despite the cold weather cancellations. It showcased the many good things taking place at the school and provided opportunities for the entire school community to come together in a variety of settings.

The week began with a school family Mass. Students, from all grade levels, participated in the Mass; leading the procession, serving as lectors, and bringing up the gifts. Our amazing school choir also performed and led the congregation in song. During this Mass, and all others over the weekend, a St. Christopher student gave witness in regard to how attending a Catholic school has benefitted them. Sean Boehm, Michael O'Leary, Isabella Paez and Will Curtis did a fantastic job sharing their reflections with the congregation.

Immediately following Mass, the School Open House and Art Show took place. The Art Show is always the highlight of the Open House and art teacher Marian Kovak once again did a great job in getting the school and students ready for it. Student artwork was displayed throughout the halls of the building and guests were very impressed by the quality and variety of our students' work. St. Christopher student ambassadors demonstrated both leadership and service during the open house by conducting tours, answering questions about the school, and serving refreshments to our visitors.

Special activities were scheduled for each day of Catholic Schools Week. On Monday Clash of the Classes was held. Homerooms competed against each other in a series of relays and minute-to-win-it challenges. The competition was fierce, there were plenty of laughs, and a good time was had by all. Tuesday began with a special Catholic Schools Week Mass. During the rest of the day, the students became the teachers as our Middle School students presented their Science Share lessons to students in grades K-5.

The cold weather resulted in school being closed on Wednesday and Thursday, forcing the cancellation of Grandparents Day and the rescheduling of the Talent Show. The latter took place on Friday morning. This year there were over 20 student acts, including singers, dancers, instrumentalists, comedy skits, and magicians. Later in the day the school's First Annual Jeopardy Challenge took place. During this time, three teams, representing the three Middle School grades, competed against each other to become the trivia champions. The 8th grade won a closely contested event and earned a dress down day for grades 8, 2 and 3.

The national theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week was Serve, Learn, Lead, and Succeed. Throughout the school year, our students are consistently given opportunities to serve, demonstrate leadership, grow academically, and learn about our Catholic Faith. This in turn prepares them to not only become successful students, but confident, caring, and contributing people of faith as well.

*Scott Raiff*



## APRIL SOUP SUPPER WILL BENEFIT ST. COLMAN MINISTRIES



“St. Christopher is a beacon of light for the people of St. Colman,” says Sr. Marilyn Nichol, Outreach Minister. It’s the Lenten season, a perfect time to reflect on our blessings, and also to bring light into the everyday lives of others in need. Mark your calendars for the Lenten Soup Supper for Wednesday, April 3, at 6 p.m. at the Parish Center. Our soup supper will benefit St. Colman outreach ministries such as their Door Ministry, Neighbors in Need, ID Crisis Clinic, and the Computer Clinic. The suggested donation is \$10 per person and families may donate any amount.

To experience a family Lenten activity, families with children are encouraged to attend the soup supper and help assemble activity packets for children or make Easter cards to bring some Easter joy to the low income seniors living at Colman Court, located next door to the Church.

As you enjoy a delicious bowl of hot soup, listen to Sr. Marilyn share personal stories about how their outreach ministries, like the Neighborhood in Need and Door Ministry, help struggling families avoid eviction and keep on their utilities. We are also asking that each person/family bring a household cleaning or laundry detergent item to the soup supper. These household items will help struggling individuals who sometimes knock on Sr. Marilyn’s door asking for help with these monthly products.

Don’t worry if you can’t attend the soup supper. You can still help by purchasing raffle tickets for baskets of goodies to be sold after Masses on the weekends of March 23-24 and March 30-31. You will also be able to donate online on our website at [www.stchrisparish.com](http://www.stchrisparish.com). Watch the bulletin for more details on the soup supper sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee, or go to St. Christopher Social Concerns Committee Facebook page at <https://tinyurl.com/stchris-scc>.

Make the “beacon of light” shine even brighter this Lent for the people of St. Colman and feel Jesus’ love shining in your hearts.

*Sharon Hosek*

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## SOCIAL CONCERNS – CARE FOR CREATION INITIATIVE 2019

We are rolling out a monthly initiative in 2019 to give the parishioners of St. Christopher Church opportunities to integrate creation care into their lives this year. The topics will appear monthly in the bulletin with small simple changes that we can strive to make. We would encourage every parishioner to try to incorporate one of these changes into your lives this year ... every little step we can take will help in preserving and caring for God’s creation.

### January – Recycling

- Only recycle plastic bottles and jugs (water, soda, shampoo, milk, laundry detergent, etc.) Rinse, empty and replace cap.
- Continue to recycle cans, cartons, glass, paper and cardboard.
- Never recycle Styrofoam and avoid using Styrofoam as much as possible.
- If you live in an apartment or condominium that does not recycle, consider setting up a meeting with your management. The City of Rocky River will work to set up a program and schedule.

### February – Medication Disposal

Prescription medication is poisoning our water supply.

- Dispose of unused, expired, unwanted medicine at the RX Drug Drop Box located inside the Rocky River police station. For more information, visit [rrcity.com/rocky-river-blog/2016/7/12/prescription-drug-drop-box-program-information](http://rrcity.com/rocky-river-blog/2016/7/12/prescription-drug-drop-box-program-information).
- Do not flush any medicine (expired, unused, unwanted) at home.

### March – Meatless March

As we enter the Lenten season it is a good time to reflect on our consumption and impact we are making with our food choices. Try this month to eat a plant-based meal once a week. Check out your carbon footprint with your food choices at the following website: [bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459714](http://bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459714).

Check the next Belltower Beacon for more information and tips for the remaining months of 2019!

*Sarah Lang*



## LADIES GUILD – BETTER THAN EVER



Efforts to rebuild the St. Christopher Ladies Guild are in full swing. To paraphrase a well-known line from the movie *Field of Dreams*, “If you build it, they will come!” On a blustery, November evening, 80 women came together to socialize at a holiday wine tasting conducted by local merchant Joe Minotti. It was a night of spirited conversation and connection, enjoyed by both new and longtime women parishioners of all ages. Most recently, more than 60 women braved the polar vortex to come to a January social event intended to cleanse both mind and body. A water bar provided various selections of fruits, vegetables, and herbs for fashioning a refreshing mocktail. Parishioner Claire Kaufman of Inner Bliss Yoga led everyone in a beautiful meditation. It was so calming and relaxing that no one wanted it to end. A rejuvenating night of friendship to start the year off right was had by all.

Next on the agenda is a St. Christopher first: Family Game Night hosted by the Ladies Guild on March 30 following the 5 p.m. Mass. Watch for details in a future bulletin. Behind the scenes, updated bylaws have been written and a formal structure is being readied for an official launch of the St. Christopher Ladies Guild this coming fall. The support and enthusiasm to *Rebuild the Guild* has been overwhelming with so many talented women joining in to make it a reality. The new Ladies Guild promises to be worthy of its storied past and hopes to enhance the spirit of community at St. Christopher Parish for the 21st century.

*Nancy Sullivan*



# NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST



In early February of this year, I had a unique opportunity to attend the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. I was there at the invitation of Anthony Gonzalez, one of our local Representatives to Congress and a member of St. Christopher Parish. Let me simply say, it was an awesome experience!

Founded in 1953, the National Prayer Breakfast brings together individuals of different nationalities, religions and political perspectives through the power of prayer. The event serves as an occasion to set aside our differences and come together to build meaningful relationships. It is a stirring reminder that the human bonds that unite us are far stronger than what divides us.

The event this year was held on Thursday, February 7 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In attendance were



3,500 guests from 130 different countries. At our table alone were people from Arkansas, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio and South Africa. The list included most of the members of Congress and other leaders of our government. President Trump and Vice-President Pence were also in attendance. Religious leaders and members of Congress led prayer and Scripture and a few musical selections were performed. There was a Keynote Address by Gary Haugen, CEO and Founder of International Justice Missions. This organization focuses on human rights, law and law enforcement especially in the area of sex trafficking and forced labor slavery. Prior to the conclusion, President Trump offered remarks and all stood as a closing prayer was offered for him, our leaders and our country.

Reflecting on the event, I was amazed at how much attention and conversation took place about the importance of prayer and the presence of Jesus in our lives as individuals and as a country. I was in a room filled with people of political power who, for at least one morning, focused on the power of prayer as a factor that can unite us in spite of our differences. There are too few such occasions as this but it offers hope that we can overcome obstacles that divide us because of someone more powerful that unites us. May God bless our country, its leaders and its citizens to take this message to heart and practice it in our relationships with one another.

*Fr. John Chlebo*



## Lenten BOOK DISCUSSION

The Ladies Guild is sponsoring a discussion on the book *“Walk in Her Sandals: Experiencing Christ’s Passion Through the Eyes of Women”* during the Lenten season. We will meet for six Thursdays in the Prayer Room after the 11 a.m. daily Mass beginning Thursday, March 7 and ending April 11 for one hour. The six chapters in the book cover Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter and Pentecost. You may purchase the book on your own or download it prior to the first session. For questions, call Nancy Sullivan (216) 978-8147 or email [sully8162@aol.com](mailto:sully8162@aol.com)

*Gayle Cilimburg*



## GIFT PROGRAM GROWS WITH PARISHIONERS' GENEROSITY

The Giving in Faith Together (GIFT) Program was a huge success in December. Just ask the children receiving gifts at the House of Champions after school care center, or the people in the St. Colman neighborhood receiving warm gloves and socks and financial support.

The Parish Center overflowed with gifts filled by parishioners from the wishlists of 15 non-profit agencies located in and around Cleveland. Two new nonprofit agencies were added to the GIFT program, Fill this House, a service supporting newly independent young adults no longer in foster care, and St. Malachi Metanoia Project supporting the homeless. Other agencies' wishes filled included Front Steps, West Side Catholic Center, Metro Catholic School, Cleveland Christian Home, Rocky River Assistance Program, Family Promise, Providence House, Hispanic Senior Center, Birthright, Malachi House and Twice Blessed.

Confirmation students, coordinated by Sharon Armstrong, Director of Religious Education, provided their energy and enthusiasm in sorting and loading gifts into the agency vans. Parish School of Religion (PSR) families filled the toy store wishes of Twice Blessed, a ministry of Rocky River United Methodist Church which serves roughly 90 families each Saturday from Cleveland and Akron. "Having a brand new toy to give to their child gives our parents the ability to make their Christmas wishes come true," wrote Craig Cowles, Twice Blessed Free Store Manager.

St. Christopher received glowing appreciation from all of the participating agencies. Here are some examples of their gratitude. Sr. Marilyn Nickol, St. Colman Outreach Minister wrote, "Please convey our gratitude to everyone who assisted with this program. Everyone who receives your gifts asks that I let you know of their appreciation for your generosity and kindness." Laura Geuther, Executive Director from Fill this House wrote, "Thanks to all for organizing the collection that will benefit the young adults we serve. The church members have been so generous in their donations and support of our special mission." Malachi House noted, "We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the St. Christopher parishioners. The gifts will go a long way in assisting us to provide a loving last home to our residents."

The GIFT program is sponsored by the Social Concerns Committee dedicated to serving the poor. If you would like to help others, consider signing up for the St. Christopher Social Concerns Monthly Volunteer Newsletter to discover volunteer opportunities in the area and social justice issues. Just email John Hosek at [jjudehosek@gmail.com](mailto:jjudehosek@gmail.com) to receive a free newsletter or go to the Facebook page at <https://tinyurl.com/stchris-scc> to see the latest updates. May your generosity in serving others in need continue to grow in this Lenten season and throughout the year.

*Sharon Hosek*



Gifts galore donated by parishioners.

Carolyn Billick and Julie MacDonald pick up for Rocky River Food Assistance.



Twice Blessed Toy Store 2018.



Hispanic Senior Center pickup.



# Father Daughter Dance

## A NIGHT AT THE OSCARS







ALUMNI

# St. Christopher Alumni Association Golf Outing

**When: Sunday, June 23, 2019**  
**Tee time: 2:00pm**



**Bob-O-Link Golf Course**  
Route 83 • Avon, Ohio  
**Cost: \$60**  
(includes golf, cart, food, beverages)

The event will be a **9 hole event** with a shotgun start. Each golfer will play her/his own ball (maximum score per hole will be 9).

**All proceeds** from the event will go to the growth and goals of the Alumni Association.

Reservations are limited to the **FIRST 100 golfers** with a registration deadline of **JUNE 1, 2019**. Payment can be made by check or credit card.

Please return the registration information and payment by **JUNE 1, 2019** as shown below:

Player (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Player (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Player (3): \_\_\_\_\_ Player (4): \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to St. Christopher Alumni Association.

Credit Card Info • Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type (Visa, Mastercard, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to: Tim Brimus • 2108 Magnolia Drive • Rocky River, OH 44116**

## A LENTEN RETREAT: WALKING THE SACRED PATH MARCH 18-19 AT 7 P.M.

Dan Schutte has been composing music for personal prayer and communal worship for over forty years. Many of his hymns have become part of the common repertoire of Christian communities. Steeped in the treasures of Sacred Scripture and Ignatian spirituality, Dan Schutte's music has anchored people's faith for generations. He's one of the best-known and most influential composers of Catholic music for liturgy in the English-speaking

world. His compositions have also found wide use in Protestant communities and have been translated into many languages.

Join Dan as he leads us through our Lenten journey down the Sacred Path with prayer, song, reflection and stories of his life long journey in search of the Sacred.

**These events are free and open to all!**

*Richard Gullion*

*“Here I am, Lord”*

*“City of God”*

*“Only this I Want”*

*“Though the Mountains  
May Fall”*





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY – FOR THE 100TH TIME!



A very special happy birthday wish goes out to centenarian George Molinelli, who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 28. George, a St. Christopher parishioner since moving to Ohio with his wife Joanie in 2009, had a wonderful gathering of family and friends at the home of Joanie's daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Mark Warnkey. Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1918, George bravely served our country in both World War II and the Korean Conflict. He's enjoyed many adventures and has lived in both California and Las Vegas. George has had many interesting jobs, from working in the fur market to knife sharpening, and a few others in between. We wish George many more happy and healthy years to come!

## CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR HONOR



Michelle Sheehan was elected to the Eighth District Court of Appeals as a Judge and was sworn in by her husband, Judge Brendan Sheehan, from Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, on January 3, 2019. Michelle's mother held the Bible, as the Sheehan's three children looked on. Fr. John gave the benediction. Michelle serves St. Christopher Parish as a Lector.



"AS A JUDGE, I WILL WORK TOWARD PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE COURTS FOR ALL LITIGANTS IN AN EFFICIENT AND ORGANIZED MANNER. I WILL USE THE SKILLS THAT I HAVE ACQUIRED THROUGH

YEARS OF PRACTICE AND PROVIDE A PERSPECTIVE OF A SEASONED LAWYER WHO HAS APPEARED BEFORE MANY DIFFERENT STATE AND FEDERAL APPELLATE COURTS. AS A JURIST, I CAN ENDEAVOR TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL BEST PRACTICES TO OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT WILL ALLOW LITIGANTS THE CHANCE TO HAVE THEIR ISSUES HEARD AND DECIDED FAIRLY AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW."

## WINTER STILLNESS AND MINDFULNESS ACTIVITIES

Winter is a time of hibernation. The Earth is at rest – when we look outside from our cozy cocoon, we see leafless trees blowing in the wind and shrubbery shrouded in snow. The outside world appears barren and bleak and beautiful at the same time.

Beauty unfolds when we allow our sense to take in everything Mother Nature presents during winter. Imagine a walk down a wooded path in the freshly fallen snow. Notice any animal prints along the path. Feel the brisk wind burn your face. Squint as the sun reflects off the snow-covered ground. Smell a wood-burning fireplace in the distance. Hear the crunch of each footstep. Listen carefully – perhaps you’ll notice the low howl of wind or the groan of naked tree branches swaying – yet not much else is visibly happening while resting and waiting, the Earth nurtures herself below the frozen surface to be reborn in spring.

Embrace this beauty of winter by following Mother Nature’s example. Allow yourself time to sit in stillness, to look inward, to delve below the surface. Come inside from that imagined walk in the woods and find a quiet place to sit where you won’t be disturbed.

*Mary Holtz (reprinted with permission)*

*Mary has been a St. Christopher parishioner since baptism. She’s a former PSR teacher and is currently on the staff at River’s Edge, where she leads Tai Chi classes.*



## Spaghetti Dinner



## CENTENNIAL PARK UPDATE

The plans for the St. Christopher Centennial Park have been updated based on additional feedback the committee has received. Under the leadership of parishioners Maggie Watson, Allison Coale, and Andrea McGannon, our “Giving Tuesday” efforts helped raise more than \$37,000. With the generosity of the St. Christopher community, the Centennial Park project has raised a grand total of over \$63,000 to date. There are ongoing opportunities. If you would like to donate, please contact the parish office.

We anticipate breaking ground on Phase 1 of this project in the late spring/early summer of 2019. Phase 1 includes a natural play area, prayer and meeting areas, as well as rosary walkway. The St. Christopher Centennial Park will serve all members of the St. Christopher Community!

*Jackie Wojnar*



# CHURCH CHATTER

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Happy birthday wishes go out to [Deacon Dennis Conrad](#) (April 18), [Deacon Tom Long](#) (April 21), [Sister Jeanne Cmolik](#) (April 30), school secretary [Judy Zell](#) (May 9), Pastoral Associate [Gayle Cilimburg](#) (May 14), and [Fr. John Chlebo](#) (May 17).

## SCHOLARS

Did you hear? Twelve of the St. Christopher School [eighth graders](#) received scholarships to local Catholic high schools. Congratulations to all.

## DRAMA

Mark your calendar for May 9, when the St. Christopher School drama club will present the play *The Enchanted Book Shoppe*. Break a leg all you thespians!

## ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PASTOR

After six months as administrator of St. John of the Cross Parish in Euclid, [Fr. John Betters](#) was named pastor. Bishop Nelson Perez installed him during a Mass on December 9. Fr. Betters also serves as pastor of SS. Robert & William Parish in Euclid. Several members of his family are St. Christopher parishioners.

## TAIZE

Interested in participating in a different type of prayerful experience this Lent? Join the Taize service at River's Edge at 7 p.m. on March 12, April 16, and May 7. Go to [riversedgecleveland.com](http://riversedgecleveland.com) for more information and registration.

## DIVE IN!

[Ellie Kleinert](#), a sophomore at Magnificat High School, is a member of the swimming and diving team. She has advanced in the diving competition from sectionals to districts, which were held at Bowling Green University. Way to go!

## TO BE ORDAINED

[Joshua Trefney](#) will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 18 at St. John Cathedral. Joshua served at St. Christopher as a Seminary Intern during the 2016-2017 school year and will celebrate Mass here on Saturday, June 1 at 5 p.m. God bless you, Joshua!

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





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Eric Perusek, Sarah Lang and Nancy Sullivan

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8, 15, 22, 29 MASS 7:15 A.M.  
April 5, 12

March 8, 15, 22, 29 STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
April 5, 12 AFTER 11:00 MASS

March 7, 14, 21, 28 LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION  
April 4, 11

March 9 CONFIRMATION RETREAT

March 10 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

March 18 & 19 DAN SCHUTTE MISSION

March 20 DIOCESAN-WIDE  
EVENING OF CONFESSION

March 24 PRE-CANA DAY

March 29 SOCIAL CLUB LUNCHEON

March 30

March 31

April 3

April 5 & 6

April 5

April 7

April 9

April 13

April 26

May 4, 5, 11, 12

May 19

LADIES GUILD FAMILY GAME NIGHT

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

JESUS DAY

MOTHER/SON EVENT

DONUT SUNDAY

CONFIRMATION

MORNING WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

SOCIAL CLUB LUNCHEON

FIRST COMMUNION

BLOODMOBILE

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 14 REGULAR WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 17 CONFESSIONS 7-8 P.M.

Holy Thursday, April 18 MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7 P.M.

Good Friday, April 19 OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
AT NOON

Good Friday, April 19 THE PASSION OF THE LORD 3 P.M.

Good Friday, April 19 STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7 P.M.

Holy Saturday, April 20 FOOD BLESSING 3 P.M.

Holy Saturday, April 20 EASTER VIGIL 7:30 P.M.

Easter Sunday, April 21 MASSES IN CHURCH AT 7, 8:30,  
10:00 (also in Parish Center) AND 11:30 A.M.