



The Belltower Beacon

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

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PARISH PROGRAMS TO EXPAND WITH ADDITION OF TWO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

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The addition of two new pastoral staff members here in at St. Christopher is a living embodiment of Matthew 7:7 – *Ask, and it shall be given you*. These two new roles are a direct result of the recent parish survey. “Many parishioners expressed a desire to see more programs and spiritual opportunities offered in the parish as a way to encourage more active participation and demonstrate a more welcoming effort to people of different ages and backgrounds,” said Fr. Chlebo. “We believe these two individuals will help fulfill some of these needs in different ways.”



Our two new pastoral staff members who began on August 1 are Robin Imbrigiotta, Pastoral Associate and Logan Feldkamp, Pastoral Minister.

Robin Imbrigiotta is a certified Lay Ecclesial Minister in the Diocese of Cleveland and holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree from St. Mary Seminary. She will primarily focus on bereavement support (which was the topic for her doctoral dissertation), home ministry, stewardship, spiritual direction, adult faith formation, missions and bible study.

Most recently Robin worked as a Spiritual Care Coordinator for a hospice ministry. She also spent several years as Director of Pastoral Care at Mt. Alverna nursing home in Parma. In both positions, which were ecumenical, Robin missed living her Catholic identity in the workplace. She also was a Pastoral Minister at St. Mary Parish in Berea where she built up the home ministry program. “So many parishioners who are home and sick or unable to come to church still need or want a spiritual presence,” says Robin.

For those not familiar with what a spiritual director does, Robin explains it as “someone who walks a spiritual journey with you, listens, guides and introduces you to things. This can encompass a lot of helping to let go of a lot of emotional and spiritual baggage so we can live wholly the rest of our lives. Everyone has pain that we can’t see. Identifying and naming that pain helps to give us power over that pain.”

As a professed secular Franciscan, Robin strives to incorporate the gospel into all that she does. “Francis said, ‘follow the gospel,’” notes Robin. “I try to do that. Feed the hungry. Visit the sick. Give shelter and clothes to those who need it.” Robin lives the gospel as primary caregiver to her octogenarian parents with whom she lives in Brecksville. Robin looks forward to talking with the parishioners of St. Christopher and asking, “what do you need?”



Logan Feldkamp joins us as Pastoral Minister to focus on the spiritual needs of our youth and young adults. Logan recently graduated from Ursuline College with a Bachelor of Arts

Degree in Religious Studies and is currently pursuing his Master’s Degree in Theological and Pastoral Studies at Ursuline. Additionally, Logan is enrolled in the Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program in the Diocese of Cleveland.

With experience in youth ministry and as a PSR teacher at his home parish of St. Bede in Mentor, Logan is well-suited to connecting and creating programming for the youth of St. Christopher. He will work closely with the School Principal and staff, Director of Religious Education, our Youth Minister and the RCIA program.

LOGAN, CONT'D

“Contemplative leisure” events – activities that are good natured in general, like sports or social events – are a tool Logan will use in his ministry.

“These events allow young parishioners to build relationships with one another and cultivate the opportunity to use those relationships to build a stronger relationship with Christ,” says Logan. “As we begin to build our programs I encourage our youth to contact me with any ideas for projects or ministries they’d like to see the church take on.” Logan also hopes to be an example to his peers and show that young people can work in the church. “This is a career path that is still open to you and can be both fun and rewarding.”

Beth Van Horn

WELCOME KATIE!



We welcome a new face to the Religious Education Office! Katie Munteanu has been the Administrative Assistant since June. We thank Anne Hill for her eight years of service to the Parish and wish her luck on her new endeavors. Katie Munteanu has been a lifelong member of St. Christopher Church and celebrated all of her sacraments here. She started as a catechist in 2007 teaching many different grades throughout the years. She lives in Fairview Park with her husband, Cezar, daughter, Mariah and two dogs Dinah and Maurice. In her free time she likes to practice yoga and do volunteer work in the community. We look forward to getting to know her. Welcome, Katie!

Sharon Armstrong



THIRD ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT OUT

Coming soon with a new local twist!

In May of 2017, a lively group of women from the parish attended the first ever Ladies Night Out. Each lovely lady had a night to relax while sampling many different wines, tasting hors d’oeuvres, and enjoying great music, conversation, and raffle prizes. In 2018, we dreamed a little bigger – and you, as women in our parish, blew away our expectations. We added a Chinese style auction to benefit The Moriah House Family Shelter, and were able to donate over \$2,600 by the end of the evening. You have proven that we are a community filled with strong, generous women who are willing to go above and beyond for our sisters in need. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

On October 10 we will be hosting the third annual Ladies Night Out! We will again have a fun and enthusiastic Chinese Auction benefiting The Moriah House Family Shelter, filled with some friendly competition for the best prizes, wine, heavy hors d’oeuvres, and a souvenir wine glass. This year, however, we have partnered with CLE Urban Winery, a winery in Cleveland Heights dedicated to making wine in Cleveland, for Cleveland, and by Clevelanders. CLE Urban Winery owner, Destiny Burns, is excited to share her wonderfully unique wines with us as well as teach us all about wine pairings and how her wines celebrate our great city.

So come on out and get to know the ladies in our parish, have a great time drinking local wine and hanging out as a community, and win some cool prizes. But most of all, come on out and help our sisters in need!

If you would like more information on the event or would like to donate a prize for our auction, please contact Laura at runhunter216@gmail.com.

Laura Hunter



GET TO KNOW SCS' NEW TEACHERS

St. Christopher School is a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. The three new teachers joining the staff this fall fit that standard of excellence, and bring a deep love and enthusiasm for education. Here's a "get to know you" snapshot of each:



Lois Albert

5th – 6th grade Language Arts
 Alma Mater: Notre Dame College,
 South Euclid
 Degrees/Certifications: Elementary and
 Special Education
 Hometown: Grew up in Brooklyn; now
 resides in North Olmsted

Ms. Lois Albert has been teaching for 29 years, 25 of those years in the Diocese of Cleveland, and has taught all subjects for grades 4-8. She especially enjoys teaching English Language Arts and Reading. She decided to become a teacher in the third grade and has never looked back. "I teach to help students learn," says Lois. "I want my students to become independent, self-reliant, and responsible individuals. I love interacting with them and learning about their lives and how they see things. Every day is new and different. And like the kids, I am learning all the time, too."

Lois is a proud aunt to ten nieces and nephews, and recently became a great aunt. She is very close to her three siblings as well as her parents who are celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary this August. In her spare time she enjoys crafting, gardening and scrapbooking.

"I am thrilled to be part of the St. Christopher staff," says Lois. "I am excited to learn the routines and meet the students and their parents. I am looking forward to a wonderful year."



Hagan Duns

7th – 8th grade Language Arts
 Alma Maters: John Carroll University and
 Baldwin-Wallace University
 Degrees/Certifications: Bachelor of
 Arts in History and Middle Childhood
 Licensure
 Hometown: North Olmsted

While studying at John Carroll University, Hagan participated in the "We the People" program which sends college students to teach social studies lessons in grade schools around Cleveland. It was there that she discovered her calling and passion for teaching. She herself attended K-12 school locally at St. Brendan School and Magnificat High School.

"My goal is to create a positive classroom environment based on mutual respect and support," says Hagan. "My teaching style is student-centered, with a focus on student collaboration. Working together can allow students to see issues from many different points of view and also appreciate everyone's individual backgrounds, talents, and interests."

When not teaching, you may find Hagan at an Irish dance competition, in which she used to compete, cheering on younger relatives.

"I am excited and grateful to be a member of the St. Christopher community," says Hagan. "I am looking forward to an amazing school year encouraging students to appreciate literature and writing."



Jake Fowler

4th – 5th grade Science
 Alma Mater: Ohio University
 Degrees/Certifications: Bachelor's Degree
 in Middle Childhood Education
 Hometown: Bay Village

Jake Fowler didn't begin college as an education major – but he soon discovered his calling. "I had friends in the education school who invited me to help with after school programs, and I enjoyed it so much." Former teachers and coaches who worked with the stand out baseball and football athlete knew him to be a mentor and leader and encouraged him to consider teaching. So he took their advice, made the change and couldn't be happier.

"Students walking into my classroom can expect to learn a lot and be challenged," says Jake. "Learning is an exploration process and I like to do hands-on creative things, especially in the science classroom." Jake notes that he tailors his style to adapt to everyone's different ways of learning. "It's important to measure growth by where a student starts out and finishes, keeping in mind that not everyone starts at the same learning level," says Jake.

Outside of the classroom, Jake volunteers as an offensive line coach for the Bay Village High School Varsity Football team, where he himself played the offensive line. "I love coaching," says Jake. "It's a great relationship builder with students and I will take any opportunity to coach." He is also an avid Cleveland sports fan, and especially enjoys attending Browns' games.

He hopes his students will be "ready to think, have fun and learn a lot" this school year.

Beth Van Horn

LET'S SAY *thanks* TO TEACHERS!

PARISH SURVEY A SUMMARY

Established in 1922, St. Christopher Parish continues to be a vibrant Catholic community proudly serving the people of Rocky River for nearly a century. With our Parish Centennial quickly approaching, we celebrate our proud past and strive to provide for our future. To help us grow in living and spreading the gospel, during the Fall of 2018 we launched a comprehensive planning process entitled: **St. Christopher: A New Century of Service.**

The purpose of our planning process is four-fold:

1. Evaluate the present quality of St. Christopher parish life and ministry.
2. Discern unmet needs in the community and parish (spiritual, social service, etc.).
- 3 Find ways to enhance parishioner engagement and create missionary disciples.
4. Establish clear priorities for the future.

An initial planning team was formed from the Parish Pastoral Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Council, and DeLambo Consulting Firm. David DeLambo was formerly on the staff of the Cleveland Diocesan Pastoral Planning Office.

A survey assessing various aspects of our parish life and ministry was administered in October 2018. In all, a total of an impressive 1,177 people responded to the survey: 859 (73%) in printed form and 318 (27%) online! The feedback and findings of the parish survey combined with the discernment of the Parish Pastoral Staff and the Parish Pastoral Council form the basis of our plan. What follows are seven goals to support our plan over the next three years.

1. Improve welcoming and community building activities

To do this we will ...

- Assure that the new parishioner interview process includes current information regarding ministries and social groups that match their gifts, needs and interests
- Form a committee to discern a plan to expand the procedure of welcoming new parishioners
- Create social activities, spiritual experiences, service opportunities and groups that are specifically designed to bring peers (in terms of age or life circumstances) together
- Develop the ministry or the role of “greeter” to the ministry of ushering

2. Increase the percentage of parishioners who are highly active

To do this we will ...

- Define and benchmark the percentage of “highly active” parishioners and track changes annually.
- Increase the Pastoral Staff to include a person who could focus on ministry to the youth and young adults in the parish.
- Form a Stewardship Committee to promote the principles of Christian discipleship and help parishioners use their gifts of time, talent, and treasure to advance the mission of Jesus.
- Offer gift discernment opportunities for new and current parishioners to help them identify their spiritual gifts, including the diocesan-sponsored “Joyfully Gifted” program.
- Provide parishioners with opportunities to assume leadership positions and receive ministry training.
- Improve the experience of weekend Mass as a means of increasing parishioner engagement.

3. Enhance the experience of liturgical music at Mass

To do this we will ...

- Incorporate contemporary music and instrumentation during the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass once a month.
- Expand the variety of hymns sung during Mass.
- Increase the tempo and decrease the volume of organ music.
- Identify ways to encourage fuller participation in singing and responses.

4. Articulate a clear sense of mission and purpose for the parish

To do this we will ...

- Publish the goals developed as a result of the survey, the timeline for its implementation and provide regular updates of progress in implementing the goals.
- Continue to provide quality education in our Day School and Religious Education Programs.
- Better communicate the Parish Mission Statement so it is more familiar to all parishioners.



ST. CHRISTOPHER
A NEW CENTURY OF SERVICE

5. Train and empower parishioners to receive electronic communication from the parish

To do this we will ...

- Consult with a marketing professional to develop a plan for better electronic communication of parish information.
- Offer training for parishioners interested in learning how to receive electronic information from the parish.
- Offer instructions for the website on how to receive parish communications via web-connected devices.
- Instruct parishioners on how to download the parish app.

6. Enhance the visibility and level of engagement in our Church in the City partnership with St. Colman

To do this we will ...

- Communicate at Mass and via media (e.g., parish bulletin, Belltower Beacon, website, social media) developments in our CIC relationship with St. Colman, especially volunteer opportunities.
- Encourage organizations to consider ways to engage St. Colman parish in a reciprocally beneficial relationship.

7. Change the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation to 8th grade

To do this we will ...

- Immediately begin the process of transitioning from 9th grade to 8th grade Confirmation.
- Expand the Youth Ministry Program to include middle school students.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the office by phone, (440) 331-4255, ext. 114, or email, jchlebo@stchrisparish.com.

Thanks, Fr. John

SPOTLIGHT ON GRADUATE'S FAITH JOURNEY



For young parishioner Ava Rauser, Rocky River Class of 2019, her faith journey at St. Christopher PSR gave her “an early foundation of faith” that she will now carry into campus life at Harvard University. Ava states that she hopes to use her faith, along with the support of our St. Christopher community, to give her strength “to remain true to her values during a time of such radical change.” Indeed leaving the comforts of one’s own home with parents nearby

can be daunting, particularly so for the newly emancipated.

Ava, however, is a uniquely well grounded young lady who has her priorities in the right place. She is quick to give credit to her parents and our Parish School of Religion for instilling in her a firm belief in God, Catholicism and the difference between right and wrong. Ava and young parishioners like her are the best ambassadors for Christ and for our PSR program.

and 2017 AAU Academic All-American. The combination of academic excellence and athletic achievement has provided Ava many options in planning her future. No doubt, the same dedication and loyalty will serve Ava well throughout her life. Ava is excited about her new academic journey at Harvard. She hopes to finish with a strong business background, perhaps leading the way to a law degree. In her spare time, Ava enjoys time with her friends and any activity that involves being on the water.

As if her hard work and accomplishments aren’t enough, Ava was surprised last year when she was approached by a modeling agency while visiting New York City with her mom. In addition to school and sports, Ava will give professional modeling a try. Being 6-feet tall, elegant and graceful, it’s understandable that she would stand out in a crowd. Despite all these accolades, Ava is adamant that family and God come first. She considers herself blest to have a close-knit family that has supported her throughout and will continue to do so. She is also certain that she will rely upon God and the lessons she has learned through St. Christopher PSR, stating: “Not only during college, but for the rest of my life I plan on using God and the lessons I learned through the church as a moral compass to make decisions that reflect both my community

“I PLAN ON USING GOD AND THE LESSONS I LEARNED THROUGH THE CHURCH AS A MORAL COMPASS TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT REFLECT BOTH MY COMMUNITY AND ME.”

Ava’s proud parents are Carolann and Victor Rauser, who say they are “grateful for the strong foundation in faith the St. Christopher PSR program provided Ava.” She attended Ruffing Montessori through 8th grade, Ava graduated from RRHS. Thus far, her academic and athletic careers have been nothing less than stellar. In sports, Ava participated in track and field as well as volleyball through high school. In fourth grade when she started playing volleyball with CYO at St. Christopher, she fell in love with it and became one of the area’s best players, ultimately leading the Rocky River team to the 2017 Conference Championship, their first in 31 years. Ava went on to earn numerous awards in volleyball, including 2017 Runner Up District MVP, 2016-17 Team Offensive MVP and 2017 Conference MVP. She was named 2019 Greater Cleveland Sports Commission Nominee for Female High School Athlete of the Year, 2018 Wendy’s High School Heisman School Winner and State Finalist. She holds the Career Kill & Block record at RRHS. She was named 2018 Team Captain. Needless to say, the scouts took notice and started recruiting Ava. In February of her junior year, Ava committed to play volleyball for Harvard.

Even with all her athletic talents, Ava notes that her academic education is her priority. Once again, she is the recipient of many academic awards, including 2019 National Merit Finalist, 2018 National Merit Semi-Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction

and me.” Ava’s advice to Catholic youth today is that they develop a close relationship with God and allow Him into their lives from a young age in order to form their own unique relationship with Him. Ava’s comments are an amazing testimony to the vitality of our Religious Education Office and the lifelong impact that our PSR/Confirmation catechists have upon our young students. Knowing this should motivate us to become part of this important teaching ministry. The rewards are extraordinary to students and catechists alike as we train our Catholic Church leaders of the future. St. Christopher’s parish family extends best wishes and congratulations to Ava for utilizing her God-given gifts to honor Him. As a community, we will continue to pray that she and all the 2019 graduates will remain steady in their faith, safe from harm and healthy. You are in our prayers, and may God bless you!

Carmen Everett DeHaan



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We had another successful Vacation Bible School with our friends from the Rocky River Presbyterian Church, June 10-14. Our theme for the week was “Who is My Neighbor?” We explored who is our neighbor and how we are to treat and care for them. Our mission collection each day was for “Building Hope in the City” which helps refugee and immigrant people here on Cleveland’s westside. We collected close to \$1,000 from the campers to help this agency on Triskett Road to help our “neighbors.” It took 96 adult and teen volunteers to help make 151 campers ages 3-10 have a great experience; 58 volunteers came from St. Christopher Church. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!! WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

Sharon Armstrong

ADULT HELPERS

Abby Anderton
 Emily Andrews
 Laura Armstrong
 Lindsay Barbicas
 Lauren Chaney
 Mandy Copeland
 Kelly Crews
 Nancy Dixon
 Carli Forsythe
 Lindsay Glavin
 Johna Graziani
 Anne Hill
 Alicia Leavitt
 Tom Long
 Doris Milkovich
 Kate Munteanu
 Mary Murphy
 Tim Piai
 Kathryn Rieg
 Megan Rin
 Angela Rosati
 Melissa Sims
 Dana Tangry
 Jessica Wilson
 Susan Wolf

TEEN HELPERS

Sean Boehm
 Stephanie Brown
 Guillaume Carroll
 Kylie Coyne
 Sean Dorsey
 Clare Duffy
 Eliza Farrall
 Lindsay Farrall
 Darren Gerrity
 Ben Goodman
 Sarah Hill
 Alexis Haylor
 Fiona Kelly
 Liam Kilbane
 Jacob Love
 Johnny Love
 Mary Lutz
 Caroline Maloney
 Charles Medvin
 Dylan Murphy
 Michael O’Leary
 Kelly O’Toole
 Anthony Palumbo
 Wesley Piai
 Ella Rochester
 Lucy Routenberg
 Mary Sollars
 Ian Walsh
 Tyler Wearsch
 Anne Marie Williams
 Nathan Wing
 Corrine Wroblewski
 Charlie Zumkehr



BRIGID LONG-GROVES INDUCTED AS PRESIDENT OF OHIO PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION



Brigid Long-Groves, the daughter of Deacon Tom Long and the late Kathy Long, was inducted as the president of the Ohio Pharmacists Association (OPA) on April 13, 2019.

After graduating from St. Christopher School in 1998, Brigid attended Magnificat High School and then received the bachelor of science degree in chemistry from John Carroll University. Brigid worked for two years at Ben-Venue Laboratories, a pharmaceutical company and was accepted by the College of Pharmacy of The Ohio State University where she received both the PharmD and MS degrees. She then became a pharmacy manager at Kroger and is now a clinical pharmacist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, OH, where she works with physicians to provide state-of-the-art medical care for at-risk children.

In her address to the OPA membership at her induction, Brigid stressed that her goals for the upcoming year were to show gratitude, to show recognition and support for others and above all to be empathetic to not only those in the profession, but to patients, physicians, and all those who have a stake in the health care professions. These were the qualities Brigid not only learned but embraced from St. Christopher School. These qualities do not show weakness, but instead are a blueprint for success.

Deacon Tom Long

FR. JOHN’S RETREAT IN ROME AND ASSISI



In late May and early June 2019, I had the opportunity to join Bishop Perez and 24 brother priests from the diocese for a retreat experience in Rome and Assisi. It began with three days in Rome. The highlights there included a Wednesday papal audience in St. Peter’s Square, Mass at the tomb of St. Peter and a tour of the major basilicas in Rome.

The balance of the retreat was five days spent in the town of Assisi that is located about three hours north of Rome. Msgr. Jim McNamara, a spiritual director at the North American College in Rome, offered two talks each day on various aspects of the life of St. Francis. We celebrated Mass together each day in a different church in Assisi that was somehow connected to the life and ministry of St. Francis. The rest of the time was spent exploring this small town that is easy to navigate on foot. It was also an opportunity to share time and conversation with the priests in the group that included some recently ordained, others who were retired and the rest somewhere in between.

The most significant take away for me was a sense of being on truly holy ground. St. Francis has certainly left his mark on this town as well as on the church with his simple lifestyle, the founding of the Franciscan community and a deep spiritual relationship with God. His simple life and poverty have provided me with continued reflection as I go about the fast paced life of ministry in 21st century America.

Fr. John Chlebo

IMPROVING PARISH COMMUNICATION

As a result of the Parish Survey last fall, many parishioners expressed a desire for the parish to provide better electronic communication of parish information. With that goal in mind, members of the parish and school staff contacted Cristine Torek, President of CMT Consulting in Rocky River. Cristine and her husband, Michael are members of St. Christopher and have two children in our school. Her company specializes in marketing and communication strategies with consumers across a variety of industries and companies. Her clients include St. Joseph Academy and the Diocese of Cleveland.

During the summer we have focused on branding the look of the communication that is currently produced by the parish and school. Plans are in the works to streamline our parish and school websites into one with easy links to information from one common site. A greater presence in social media including Facebook and Instagram are also in the plans for the coming months. Watch the bulletin and future Belltower Beacon articles for updates and hopefully soon on social media.

Fr. John Chlebo

“CHRISTMAS IN JULY” DONATIONS FOR FRONT STEPS

No snow was falling or Christmas tree lights blinking but the Christmas spirit was definitely alive on two hot summer July weekends at St. Christopher. Caring parishioners donated kitchen items, personal care products, and household items, along with gift cards and \$650 to help those in need at Front Steps. The mission of Front Steps is to provide individuals and families who are mentally disabled or economically disadvantaged with housing and lifelong solutions to increase self-sufficiency and independence. Jane Amata, Front Steps volunteer coordinator, spoke at some of the Masses, along with John Hosek, chair of the Social Concerns Committee, which sponsored the “Christmas in July” collection.

Pastor Fr. John Chlebo preached on the meaning of the weekend gospel of Martha and Mary’s visit from Jesus. He related it to the importance of hospitality and service. And by divine coincidence, Jane Amata from Front Steps relayed stories of the hospitality and service lived out every day for their residents, following precisely the Gospel message of Jesus.

Jane shared a moving account written by one of the Front Steps residents who is a prolific writer. He wrote, “Were it not for my mental disability, I would never know of the other beautiful souls of domestic violence or other life trauma that come to Front Steps. Not every homeless person is a criminal, addict or alcoholic. What Front Steps provides in addition to its services is dignity. Realizing we are all worthwhile human beings, without the dignity and respect, the services are only temporary band aids. It’s the personal investment of caring individuals who reach out with a hand up to claim a life from the pit that makes all the difference”.

Jane also brought a painting with her created by Canton artist Judi Krew and displayed it in the Gathering Area during the “Christmas in July” collection weekends. The artist incorporated the story of Transitional Housing, renamed Front Steps in 2014. It was originally founded by four sisters of St. Joseph in 1986. In the painting two sisters were painted peeking out the windows to honor the sisters. One sister is holding a baseball bat to ward off any intruders trying to lure some back to the streets. The wallpaper shown in the painting is designed with keys. Jane said giving the residents keys to their own place was one of their most emotional moments because some had never had a place of their own.

Front Steps is located at 1545 West 25th Street, in the heart of the Ohio City neighborhood. Their current facility includes a total of 60 supportive housing units. Beyond housing, holistic programs taught by Front Steps staff and volunteers include independent living, behavioral health and wellness, education and employment.

Front Steps is growing thanks to generous community support and caring individuals. On June 27, 2019 they celebrated groundbreaking for a new \$14 million facility on the grounds of St. Joseph Commons, just down the street to replace their current location. For further information, please visit: frontstepsservices.org or contact Jane Amata at jamata@frontstepsservices.org if interested in ways to volunteer or donate.

Your past generosity and support is greatly appreciated. As one Front Step resident said, “your personal investment of caring enough to reach out with a hand up to claim a life makes all the difference!”

Sharon Hosek



REVERSE RAFFLE

Our parish annual Men’s Reverse Raffle will be held Friday October 11, 2019 in the Parish Center. This is the major fund raiser for Saint Christopher Parish Athletic Association. The monies raised from this evening are used to help offset the true costs to run our parish CYO program. The fees an athlete pays to participate in a sport is only a portion of what it costs the parish to provide the opportunity. You will want to get your ticket soon to this great sell out event. Watch for more information in the bulletin. Go Knights!

Fr. Tim Daw

STUDENTS PURSUE GREATNESS AT ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

The staff has welcomed the students back to the start of a new school year; the school's 94th year of operation. Last year our school's theme was to Magnify the Greatness of the Lord. Students and staff engaged in activities that allowed them to magnify God's greatness through the Fruits of the Spirit; which include patience, love, kindness, peace, faithfulness, and self control. As another school year begins, our school will continue to explore and be driven by this theme. This year, however, we will "take it up a notch" as we strive to be "In the Pursuit of Greatness".

Pursuit is a multifaceted term; implying both a goal and action steps to attain it. It can have both a liturgical and academic connotation. While there are many ways to define greatness, it can only occur through determination and making a consistent and conscientious effort. During the 2019-20 school year both students and staff will work to pursue greatness in both their Faith life and academics. This can only occur when students and staff set goals and work to achieve them. Students and staff will set goals and develop action plans to achieve them in areas like MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) growth, reading comprehension, service and prayer.

This year we will also be pursuing the Greatness of the Lord through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The seven gifts are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. Throughout the year, classes will participate in a school-wide game similar to Trivial Pursuit. As students gain knowledge and understanding of each Gift of the Spirit, their class will earn game pieces. The SCS community will be able to follow their progress on a large display in the school's main hallway.

To support our students in this endeavor and enrich the "family feel" and sense of community at SCS, we are creating Faith Families. Each family will be led by a teacher and consist of a small group of students from across multiple grade levels. The goals of the Faith Families include the promotion of fellowship across grade levels, providing leadership opportunities for older students, and giving all students opportunities to share and express their Catholic faith with each other, thus enhancing their Liturgical life.

The SCS staff is grateful for the continuing support of the St. Christopher Parish community which allows them to provide an excellent Catholic education to the students and families served by the school.

Scott Raiff

YOUTH SUMMER

When Christ came to this earth, one of the countless lessons he taught us was about the beauty and importance of building genuine relationships. Throughout the gospels, Jesus invited His friends and followers to walk by His side, join Him in prayer, and break bread with Him. This summer, our youth group gatherings were focused on building friendships and sharing fun experiences together. While faith will always be at the center of what we do, we can also honor God by honoring each other and just taking the time to enjoy each other's company (I think of the example of Mary and Martha). In that spirit, the youth group spent the past few months enjoying a campfire, movie night, open gym, and day at the beach. It was such a blessing to spend time with the teens and the adult team and I think it gave us all a chance to grow in our sense of community. The whole experience brings back memories of the youth group I attended as a teen and gratitude for some of the life-long friendships formed there. It seems like only yesterday, my buddies and I were playing touch football or swimming together on youth group beach day and now we are attending each other's weddings and bonding over the joys and challenges of being a parent. As the summer reminds us, it's incredible how time flies by. It is my genuine hope that this youth group will provide similar opportunities of faith and friendship to the youth of this parish. Please keep them in your prayers as we move towards a new school year!

Eric Perusek



PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDY SUMMARY

Overview of Planning Study Process

Over the past few months we have begun planning to celebrate our Parish Centennial in 2022. Through our preparation we determined the need to conduct a parish capital campaign. Three main funding initiatives have been identified:

1. St. Christopher Centennial Celebration

- Host a Centennial Celebration event.
- Install a new shrine of St. Christopher within the church.
- Build and dedicate St. Christopher Centennial Park.

2. Faith Formation

- Develop outreach and marketing programs to increase Mass attendance, day school and PSR enrollment.
- Update and maintain the parish websites, app, and social media.
- Upgrade school and office computers to Windows OS 10.
- Expand day school assistance, scholarship opportunities and Pre-K programs.
- Expand programing and events for different parish demographic groups.
- Purchase new desks for day-school and Parish School of Religion.

3. Capital Projects

- Church: refurbish/replace kneelers, seat cushions for pews, and renovated main entryway.
- School and Parish Center: roof replacement, safety glass installed at entrance doors, new carpeting, vinyl tiles, wall repair, meeting room dividers, HVAC replacements, and security cameras.
- Campus: outdoor lighting, Mary's Courtyard, parking lot repair, directional signs at entrances and around parish campus, and increase handicap accessible parking spaces.
- Trinity Hall: A/C unit, boiler, tuckpointing
- Parish Office: paint offices, kitchen, and bathrooms and install new carpeting.
- Mary's Room: replace window blinds, carpeting and refurbish the kitchen.

Our planning included some interviews with parishioners, two opportunities to attend a townhall meeting, and an online survey open to all the parish to share opinions and offer input.

Key Study Findings

- A total of 13% (239/1,820) of active parish families participated in the study.
- 77% of interviewees and 51% of survey respondents replied "yes" when asked if they believe St. Christopher is doing a good job of serving the needs of its parishioners.
- Frequently cited parish strengths: dedication and support of the parish community, inspirational qualities of Mass, and the quality of the Parish Day School.
- Frequently cited things the parish could do better: Communication and transparency from parish leadership, marketing of the parish and day school, and increase active support of parish educational programs from parish leadership.
- 95% of respondents had a positive, or mostly positive, view of the proposed parish projects.
- 85% of interview participants and a majority (52%) of survey participants replied "yes" when asked if they would support a capital fundraising campaign to generate funds for the listed parish projects.
- 93% of interview and survey respondents expressed a willingness to contribute to the campaign in support of the proposed projects.
- Responses to questions regarding proposed parish projects and a potential capital campaign indicate there would be substantial financial support.

Recommended Next Steps

- Provide a summary of study findings to the parish community.
- Update the parish case for support.
- Recruit a Campaign Leadership Committee.
- Launch a parish-wide capital campaign in the Fall of 2019, with a goal of \$3 million.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the office by phone, (440) 331-4255, ext. 114, or email, jchlebo@stchrisparish.com.

Thanks, Fr. John



ST. CHRISTOPHER
A NEW CENTURY OF SERVICE

Block Party 2019

The annual Block Party on August 24 kicked off with Mass on the lawn under sunny skies. After Mass, the celebration continued with parishioners enjoying classic picnic food including burgers, brats, hot dogs and pizza. In addition, a food truck in the parking lot offered Mexican food.

Entertainment included face painting, hoola hoop contests and whimsical balloon animals for the kids. A DJ acted as emcee for the evening and provided musical entertainment.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the block party a success.

Colleen McKenna





WHAT I DID ON MY Summer Vacation



Brendan Sheehan got a hole-in-one on hole 17 at Westwood Country Club on July 11. Parishioners Kevin Lenhard and Jim Sammon were with Brendan.



Roberta Trutko checked off a "to do" travel plan when she visited Mackinac Island in July. She says that staying at The Grand Hotel was truly grand: the views, the service, the food and the ambiance were spectacular. Riding the main road around the island's 8 mile perimeter was breath taking.



Laura Avdey, mezzo soprano, performed on July 28 at the opera in the Italian Cultural Garden. Molto bene!

About 40 from the St. Christopher School class of 1969, celebrated their 50-year reunion on August 3. They came from various Ohio cities and as far away as New Jersey and Oregon. Festivities included golf, cocktail hour and dinner. Many stories were shared, as these classmates reconnected.



CHURCH CHATTER

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? In June, Fr. Terrence M. Grachanin was appointed pastor of St. Noel Parish in Willoughby Hills and Fr. Joshua F. Trefney was appointed parochial vicar of St. Albert the Great Parish in North Royalton. While in the seminary, both men served at St. Christopher. Please remember them in your prayers.

TOOL COLLECTION As part of an Eagle Scout project, a tool receptacle for Habitat for Humanity is available at the front desk in the Rocky River Recreation Civic Center.

BIRTHDAY WISHES Remember to wish the following St. Christopher staff members a happy birthday: Joe Williams (Business Manager) on September 2, Scott Raiff (Principal) and Bob McMurray (Music Director) share an October 10 birth date, and Fr. Tim Daw on December 2.

FLANNEL UP FOR FUN Mark your calendar for September 14, when the Museum of Divine Statues holds a fundraiser benefit, with a lumberjack theme. In addition to games of chance, there will be prizes for best beard, and best dressed Jack and Jill lumberjacks. Tickets are \$50 and include live music, food and drink. This beautiful museum is housed in the former St. Hedwig Church, located at 12905 Madison Avenue, Lakewood. Visit museumofdivinestatues.org or call (216) 712-7094.

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD Congratulations to Cora Mathewson, who was honored for earning A's in all subjects, eleven times on her report card, while attending Rocky River Middle School. Cora will attend Rocky River High School.

RADIO DAYS William Booth was the founder of the Salvation Army. Mark Biviano, senior vice-president of the Rubber City Radio Group, was recently honored with the William Booth Society Award for his charitable work with the non-profit. Congratulations! Mark serves our parish as a Lector.

SCHOOL BELLS The first day of school was August 21. PSR classes will begin on September 8. Drive carefully in school zones, as youngsters hurry to school. Please keep them and their teachers in your prayers.

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

September 8	PSR CLASSES BEGIN	October 11	MEN'S REVERSE RAFFLE
September 8	CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN	October 13	PANCAKE BREAKFAST
September 15	DONUT SUNDAY	October 22	PARENT FIRST RECONCILIATION MEETING
September 15	BLOODMOBILE	October 25	TRUNK OR TREAT
September 15	PRE-BAPTISM CLASS	November 3	EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE
September 16	RCIA BEGINS	November 12	FIRST RECONCILIATION PRACTICE
September 19	LADIES GUILD ANNUAL KICK OFF MEETING	November 17	BLOODMOBILE
September 28 & 29	ANOINTING OF THE SICK ALL MASSES	November 17	DONUT SUNDAY
October 4	PET BLESSING	November 18 & 19	FIRST RECONCILIATION
October 10	LADIES NIGHT OUT	November 24	THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE BASKET ASSEMBLY

LADIES GUILD

The Cleveland Browns are not the only exciting organization kicking off this fall. The newly rebuilt St. Christopher Ladies Guild will hold its official kickoff on September 19 at 7 p.m. The event will feature the dynamic Sr. Maureen Doyle, retired director of Urban Community School. Fr. John will facilitate the passing of the gavel from the previous Guild Officers to the new Guild Officers. All women of the parish are encouraged to come and enjoy a night of fellowship. Reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. Learn what the Guild has planned for this year. Be inspired by the words of Sr. Maureen. We look forward to seeing you there! Guild dues of \$20 may be paid on our website at stchrisparish.com.

Nancy Sullivan