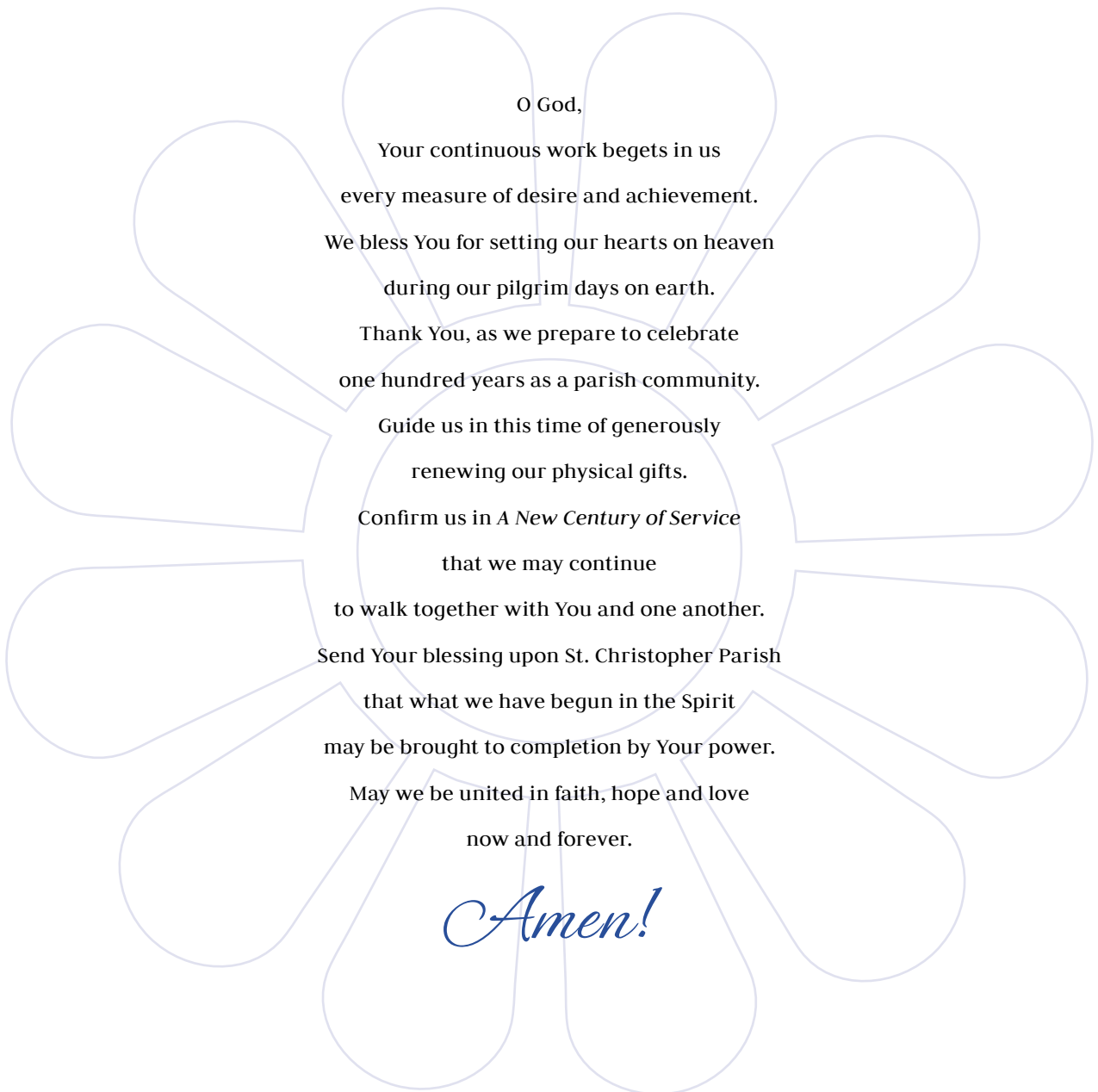




Celebrating
100 YEARS

A NEW CENTURY OF SERVICE | ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH



O God,

Your continuous work begets in us
every measure of desire and achievement.

We bless You for setting our hearts on heaven
during our pilgrim days on earth.

Thank You, as we prepare to celebrate
one hundred years as a parish community.

Guide us in this time of generously
renewing our physical gifts.

Confirm us in *A New Century of Service*
that we may continue
to walk together with You and one another.

Send Your blessing upon St. Christopher Parish
that what we have begun in the Spirit
may be brought to completion by Your power.

May we be united in faith, hope and love
now and forever.

Amen!



Dear Friends in Christ,

On May 14, 2022 our parish will celebrate our centennial anniversary. To enable that St. Christopher Parish can provide for the needs of the faith community of Rocky River for another 100 years we are conducting a capital campaign, *A New Century of Service*. Recognizing this occasion in our parish history we have a unique opportunity to act as good stewards of our parish. Investing in the future of our parish community will allow our parish to serve the larger community of Rocky River through our many ministerial and faith formation programs. This campaign is an invitation to each of us to live the Gospel message through our dedication to our parish, faith and one another. It also serves as a reminder to live out our Parish Mission Statement:

We are the people of St. Christopher Catholic Church,

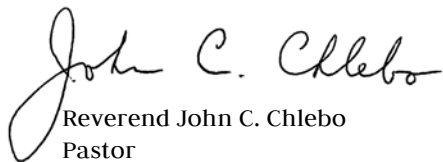
A spirited community of faith dedicated to...

Welcome, Celebrate, Care & Grow

... in the image and likeness of Jesus.

I am asking you as a member of our parish family to prayerfully consider providing generous support to our *A New Century of Service* Campaign. As parishioners, we are called to carry on the faith, generosity, and sacrifice that filled the hearts of the families who have supported our parish throughout our 100-year history. Our sacrificial giving will help guarantee the parish's Catholic presence in the lives of future generations.

In Christ Jesus,


Reverend John C. Chlebo
Pastor

Our History



On May 14, 2022, St. Christopher Parish will celebrate our 100-year anniversary! As we celebrate our Centennial, we have much for which to be grateful! Monsignor Patterson and those who formed the parish so long ago worked hard to lay the foundation of faith that we build upon today. Those founding members are all gone now, but we owe them and others since those early days a debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they made. Today our significant suburban parish is very different from the small rural parish of those early days. However, the spirit of sacrifice and dedication continues. It was especially evident in 1954 when Monsignor Ahern led the effort to build our current church building. In the 1980s Fr. Prendergast experienced the same dedication in building Mary's Room, the gymnasium, and remodeling the church. More recently, our parishioners showed their dedication and generosity by giving sacrificially for the creation of our Parish Center and renovations to our campus in 2000; and by the overwhelming response they offered to the Diocesan Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope Campaign in 2011.

Last fall I asked our parishioners to complete a survey inviting them to share their experience of parish life. The feedback suggested changes and growth within the parish especially in the areas of: welcoming, community building, increasing opportunities to participate in parish life, highlighting our outreach, and improving the quality of our Sunday liturgy. In response to this input we have already made some changes including:

- › Changing Confirmation from ninth-grade to eighth-grade
- › Hiring a new music director
- › Hiring two new Pastoral Ministers to provide additional ministry for parishioners young and old
- › Setting concrete goals to prepare us for *A New Century of Service*.

A New Century of Service



The pastoral needs of our parish community and those we serve continue to develop. We reaffirm our commitment to promote the healing, redemptive, and teaching presence of Jesus Christ to those seeking prayer, solace, forgiveness, and formation. *A New Century of Service* is a parish wide capital campaign to fund crucial initiatives that will help us to live Christ's invitation to love one another, to be a strong community of faith, and to share our gifts in a spirit of faithful stewardship and gratitude. The primary initiatives of the capital campaign are: St. Christopher Centennial Celebration and Projects; increase Faith Formation Ministry; fund Immediate and Long-term Capital Projects; and augment our Parish Savings. We have set our goal for *A New Century of Service* at three million dollars. Solicitation for the campaign will begin this fall with opportunities to make a pledge over three years.



A New Century of Service Funding Initiatives



IMMEDIATE NEEDS

St. Christopher Centennial Celebration and Projects

- » Host a Centennial Celebration event
- » Install a new Shrine of St. Christopher in the church
- » Build and dedicate St. Christopher Centennial Park - \$650,000
- » Build a new playground for our children
- » Erect a pavilion for outdoor services and events
- » Create a meditation garden
- » Develop an outdoor learning area
- » Improve the entrances to the parish campus from Lakeview Court and Northview Avenue

Faith Formation Ministry

- » Develop outreach and marketing programs to increase Mass attendance, and school and PSR enrollment.
- » Update and maintain the parish websites, app, and social media
- » Upgrade school and office computers to Windows 10 Operating Systems
- » Purchase new desks for day-school and Parish School of Religion

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Church

- » Restore original wooden church doors
- » Renovate main entryway steps

Campus

- » Improve outdoor lighting
- » Repair or replace aging and unsafe concrete surfaces on the parish grounds:
 - Walkways
 - Mary's Courtyard
 - Sewer collars on parking lot drains
 - Increase handicapped accessible parking spaces

School & Parish Center

- » Install safety glass entrance doors
- » Update security cameras and capabilities
- » Repair damaged walls

- » Install new carpeting
- » Install vinyl tiles in the Day School and Religious Education offices

Trinity Hall

- » Replace A/C unit
- » Replace boiler
- » Tuckpointing

LONG-TERM PROJECTS

Long-term Faith Formation Ministry

- » Expand programming and events for new parishioners, and several different parish demographic groups
- » Expand school assistance and scholarship programs
- » Expand our daycare and Pre-K programs
- » Expand outreach to our Church in the City partner, St. Colman Parish in Cleveland

Upcoming Capital Needs and Parish Savings

- » Church
 - » Refurbish or replace kneelers
 - » Purchase additional seat cushions for pews
- » Campus
 - » Repair damaged areas in the parking lots
 - » Install directional signs at entrances and around campus
 - » Update our outdoor message board
- » School & Parish Center
 - » Replace roofs
 - » Replace HVAC units
 - » Purchase new dividers for the meeting rooms
 - » Install smart TVs with wi-fi capabilities in meeting rooms
- » Parish Office
 - » Paint the offices, kitchen, and bathrooms
 - » Install new carpeting
- » Mary's Room
 - » Replace window blinds, carpeting, and refurbish kitchen

St. Christopher Centennial Celebration



Celebrating our 100-year anniversary, St. Christopher Parish would like to hold celebratory events for all parishioners during our centennial year. As family we look back at our century of service to our community and rededicate ourselves to the principles of our Catholic Faith in the years to come.

We will be dedicating a new shrine to our Patron Saint Christopher. The new shrine will be constructed in the niche in the church where the original statue of St. Christopher is currently placed. The original statue will be moved to the School or Parish Center.

To commemorate this milestone in the history of our parish we are building and dedicating St. Christopher Centennial Park. This space will allow us to play, pray and gather to build relationships with other parishioners.



St. Christopher Centennial Celebration



The Centennial Park Committee has spent countless hours researching playground equipment that is safe, fun, and designed to help children develop muscle strength and coordination. They have worked with our parishioners to design outdoor areas that support quiet reflection, celebration, and the healing presence of God's beauty in all his creation for both children and adults. It is also a response to Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si', On Care of Creation*.

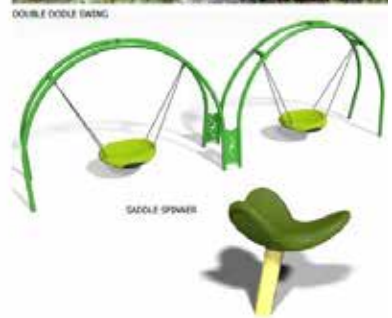


ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH CENTENNIAL PARK PLAY EQUIPMENT & SITE AMENITIES

OCTOBER, 2018



PLAY EQUIPMENT



St. Christopher Centennial Celebration



**ST. CHRISTOPHER PARISH
CENTENNIAL PARK
PROPOSED TREES | SHRUBS | PERENNIALS**



RED MAPLE



JAPANESE MAPLE



SMOKETREE



PURPLE SMOKETREE



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA



ADIRONDACK CRABAPPLE



RIVER BIRCH



WHITE SPRUCE



TARDIVA HYDRANGEA



HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY



REDBUD



SPRING SNOW CRABAPPLE



WESTERN CEDAR



FRAGRANT SUMAC



LILAC



RED OAK



WEeping WILLOW



FOUNTAIN GRASS



CAREX



GOLD FLAME SPIREA



CATMINT



GIANT HIBISCUS



FEATHER REED GRASS



OSTRICH FERN



SPEEDWELL



RUSSIAN SAGE



DAFFODIL

Faith Formation Ministry



St. Christopher Parish offers many opportunities for parishioners to participate in parish life. Through Liturgical celebrations, ministries of caring and of prayer, and formation of students and adults our parish family brings the teachings of Jesus to all.

There are always methods to improve and expand our offerings and outreach. To that end, St. Christopher Parish would like to implement several strategies to increase our Day School and PSR enrollment, Mass attendance, and our contribution to the Rocky River community.

- » It is essential that we keep our school curriculum, campus, and technologies competitive with the local public schools. We plan to expand our scholarship and educational assistance programs allowing more of the children of Rocky River to experience the quality of St. Christopher Parish's educational programs.
- » Respondents to the 2018 parish survey said they would like to see more groups and ministries for different parish demographics. To expand our programming, we have recently added two new members to our Parish Pastoral Staff.
- » Communications technology is advancing at a lightning pace! As a parish, we need to make sure that we have the ability to share information effectively with each other. We plan to hire a social media manager to streamline the Parish's online presence and coordinate notifications across all parish social media platforms and webpages.



Capital Projects



The buildings and grounds of St. Christopher Parish need constant attention and repair. Our yearly budget for basic maintenance and repairs has risen to an average of \$100,000, not including any necessary major projects. When costly repairs are needed this puts a major strain on the parish savings. The list of proposed projects includes both immediate capital needs as well as projects that will need to be completed over the next few years. The campaign will help provide the parish with the money needed to fund these projects in the future. We have a responsibility to not only keep our campus safe for our parishioners but, as good stewards, to maintain it for the future.



Frequently Asked Questions



What is the A New Century of Service campaign?

The *A New Century of Service* campaign is a fundraising effort of St. Christopher Parish to raise three million dollars. Through this campaign, we will celebrate our one-hundred-year history of upholding our Catholic Faith in the community of Rocky River and ensure our ability to continue serving our parish family and the broader community for years to come! The parish needs that will be addressed through this fundraising effort are not supported by our existing annual budget and current weekly collection that struggles to sustain our thirty-million-dollar physical plant.

Why do we need a major fundraising campaign?

St. Christopher Parish has been a hallmark of the Catholic faith in the Rocky River community for 100 years. As such, the parish would like to commemorate this important milestone with a parish-wide celebration coupled with the dedication of St. Christopher Centennial Park. The park will allow families to reflect on our past and look to our future as we use it as a place to gather, play, and pray. To ensure that future and allowing St. Christopher Parish to continue serving the evolving needs of the community of Rocky River, we will use additional campaign funds to expand and market our education and Catholic faith formation.

With the legacy that comes with a century of service, so too come needed capital repairs and projects. Some of the monies pledged during this campaign will be used to address immediate physical needs and renovations. The remaining funds will be used for projects needing attention in the near future and increase the parish savings account. Many of the project goals were identified by the parish-wide survey conducted during October 2018.

Does the parish have support for the campaign?

We recently shared the results of the campaign planning study with parishioners on the parish website and in the Belltower Beacon. During this study, 95% of respondents indicated that they had a positive or somewhat favorable view of the parish projects, and 85% of interview participants and a majority (52%) of survey participants indicated that they would support a fundraising campaign to generate funds for the projects!

Who will be asked to support the campaign?

Each parish family will be asked to consider making a gift to the campaign. Each parishioner will be contacted in an appropriate time and manner. We understand not all members will be able to give at the same level, yet each will be asked to make some sacrificial commitment.

What is the timeframe of the campaign?

The *A New Century of Service* capital campaign began in August of 2019, and the active fundraising phase will continue over the next six months. Participants are encouraged to remit pledges to the campaign over a period of three years.

What were the results of the Rooted in Faith campaign?

The Rooted in Faith, Forward in Hope campaign was a Cleveland diocesan-wide fundraising effort. The active phase of the campaign ran from October of 2011 to June of 2012. Parishioners were asked to pledge for five years. St. Christopher Parish was able to raise nearly \$3 million, of which the parish received \$1 million. This allowed us to ultimately pay off our debt, as well as install a new boiler and HVAC system in the church building.

What projects are to be accomplished first?

The projects, as detailed in the enclosed case for support, are arranged into two major categories:

Immediate Needs and Long-term Projects. The immediate needs are scheduled to be accomplished first. The long-term projects include capital projects that the parish foresees needing attention in the near future accompanied by ongoing increased faith formation efforts.

Who will be conducting the campaign?

Fr. John, Fr. Tim, along with the Parish Campaign Director, and a core group of parishioner volunteers will be asked to lead in the implementation of the campaign plan.



Frequently Asked Questions



How will the campaign affect offertory?

The parish relies upon our weekly offertory for regular ongoing expenses. Throughout the campaign, Fr. John, Fr. Tim along with a Campaign Committee member will ask parishioners to make commitments above and beyond their regular giving. Parishioners are asked not to diminish giving to the offertory or the Catholic Charities collection, but rather to consider an increased sacrificial commitment to the Church.

Are there plans to close the parish day school?

Fr. John, Fr. Tim, Mr. Raiff, the Parish Pastoral Staff, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Parish Finance Council do not have any plans or desire to close or merge our day school! While enrollment has declined, the recent restructuring of school class size and number allows us not only to retain our art, music, and computer science teachers at full-time status but also helps refine the religious education operating budget as a whole. One of the most imperative missions of this campaign is to expand our marketing and engagement activities and invest in strategies that will encourage more of our local families to choose a Catholic education at St. Christopher Parish.

What is the annual budget of St. Christopher Parish?

St. Christopher Parish is a thirty-million-dollar physical plant which generates three million dollars in annual expenses. Our Sunday offertory collections are approximately one million dollars annually. Other sources of income are school tuition, financial gifts to the parish, and memorial offerings. The present budget is unable to contribute to a parish savings account.

How much money has been raised for St. Christopher Centennial Park so far?

To date, approximately \$60,000.00 including \$21,700.00 collected on Giving Tuesday, has been raised in support of St. Christopher Centennial Park. These funds have paid for the current design work, architectural renderings, and the demolition of the old playground at a cost of \$37,864.00.

What is the cost just to provide playground equipment?

To purchase and install just new playground equipment is approximately \$200,000.00. However, it is most cost-effective to consider the timing of the installation of the playground equipment with the cost of the entire Centennial Park project construction.

Why do we need a new statue of St. Christopher?

The stories of our Patron St. Christopher tell of a large tall rugged figure of a man who kind-heartedly helped people across rough waters. In celebration of our Parish Centennial a memorial gift for a new shrine and sculpture of St. Christopher, by the international artist Norbert Koehn, is offered as a gift to the parish. The present statue from the church would be placed in the School or Parish Center.

How much are we asked to give?

Every parish family will be asked to make a sacrificial commitment to help ensure the future of St. Christopher Parish. Ultimately, your thoughtful and prayerful decision will be most appropriate and most appreciated.

Can we designate our gift?

Gifts may be designated toward a specific need or project. Ongoing reports of the campaign projects will be given.

Gift Plans



A *New Century of Service* capital campaign is an opportunity for all those with a current or past connection to St. Christopher Parish to embark on a new chapter of our parish life with a renewed commitment to good stewardship of all that has been entrusted to us. All parishioners are invited to participate in the appeal by:

- » Making a pledge
- » Donating time as a campaign volunteer
- » Including St. Christopher Parish and our campaign in their daily prayers

Suggested Pledge Plans

A pledge is an intention of good faith that can be adjusted at the donor's discretion. All gifts of any size are gratefully accepted in the spirit in which they are given. Prayerfully consider the pledge amount, duration and schedule that best suits your circumstances. The chart provides examples of pledge plans that are payable over a three-year period.

- » A donor may opt for a shorter or longer pledge period, or a one-time gift
- » A 10% down payment is suggested but not required to begin a pledge
- » Checks should be made payable to: St. Christopher Parish.
- » A donor may designate a pledge toward a specific aspect of the campaign

SUGGESTED PLEDGE PLANS

Donor Level	Total Pledge	3 Annual Payments	12 Quarterly Payments	36 Monthly Payments
Leadership Gifts	\$200,000	\$66,667	\$16,667	\$5,556
	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$12,500	\$4,167
	\$100,000	\$33,334	\$8,334	\$2,778
	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$6,250	\$2,084
	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$4,167	\$1,389
Major Gifts	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$834
	\$25,000	\$8,334	\$2,084	\$695
	\$20,000	\$6,667	\$1,667	\$556
Advanced Gifts	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$1,250	\$417
	\$10,000	\$3,334	\$834	\$278
Special Gifts	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$625	\$209
	\$5,000	\$1,667	\$417	\$139

Methods of Giving



In addition to gifts of cash, donors sometimes ask if they can make their contribution through bequests, gifts of stock and mutual fund shares, IRA rollover, beneficiary designated gifts, life insurance policies, real estate, charitable gift annuities, or charitable remainder and lead trusts. We cannot accept gifts of time-shares, mobile homes, cars, or real estate with outstanding debt. The following information may be helpful in answering these questions.

Planned and Estate Gifts

Estate and other planned gifts, such as bequests and gifts of life insurance policies, are welcome and appreciated. Planned gifts may be made through your will or trust so that upon your death your assets will pass to the parish. These amounts can be denoted as a specific amount, a percentage, as the remainder of the estate, or as a contingency. Bequests of \$10,000 or more may be used to establish a Permanent-Named Fund to provide annual distributions as specified in your will or trust. Benefits of a planned gift are an ability to control the assets during your lifetime, the ability to change the plan as your personal needs change, and the eligibility of Estate tax deductions for the full amount of the charitable gift.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of appreciated securities may have significant tax benefits. All gifts of securities are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Gifts of IRAs, 401Ks, and other qualified plans allow you to avoid the potential double taxation of your retirement savings if they were designated to your heirs. Gifts of this nature also allow you to continue to take regular lifetime withdrawals, as well as allowing you to change beneficiaries if your family needs change during your lifetime.

Real Estate

Gifts of real estate will be handled on a case by case basis. If you would like the parish to consider a gift of real estate please contact Joseph Williams, Business Manager for St. Christopher Parish, at 440-331-4255 x101. It will be the responsibility of the donor to have the property appraised by an independent agent for the purpose of establishing the value of the charitable tax donation.

Charitable Gift Annuities

Charitable gift annuities can be established at age 65 or older, and must be for a gift of \$10,000 or more. You, and your spouse if desired, will receive annual annuity payments based on age and life-expectancy. Gifts of this nature allow you to receive a tax deduction at the time of gift, and the balance of funds remaining at the death of the annuitant(s) will be disbursed to the parish as you designate.

Matching Gifts

Many companies have a matching gift plan to encourage employee philanthropy. Often, they come with restrictions that must be adhered to in order to qualify. Please be aware that many companies exclude religious organizations. If you are considering a matching gift, please obtain the application from your company to see if gifts to the campaign would be eligible for a match.

- » Jewelry, art, and other tangible objects of value should first be sold by the donor and the proceeds donated to the campaign.
- » We encourage donors to contact their professional legal and/or financial advisor to determine which gift type meets their needs. A tax substantiation letter will be provided
- » To learn more about giving methods to St. Christopher Parish please contact Reverend John Chlebo or Joseph Williams at 440-331-4255 or info@stchrisparish.com

Campaign Leadership Committee



Luke & Rita Clark

Robert & Allison Coale

Kathleen Fayen

Thomas & Susan Goecke

Christopher Gollinger

Karl & Mary Anne Kuhn

David & Marilyn Kysela

Peter & Andrea McGannon

Kurt & Amelia McMaken

Craig Rimlinger

Charles & Sharon Snee

Roberta Trutko

Bonita Twitchell

Erik & Sarah Warren

Breese & Margaret Watson



ST. CHRISTOPHER
A NEW CENTURY OF SERVICE

20141 Detroit Road | Rocky River, Ohio 44116 | (440) 331-4255
info@stchrisparish.com | www.stchrisparish.com