



ST. CHARLES BORROMEO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

# THE CHIMES

St. Charles Parish

November/December 2024

Volume 24 Issue No. 2



FR. KENT  
KAUFMAN  
Pastor

## Restored Windows, Eucharistic Adoration, and Grant Received

Dear Friends in Christ,

So many of you have shared your joy and appreciation for our recently restored stained glass windows at St. Charles. The clarity and the colors are like new!

We are grateful for the careful planning and execution of our own Denny Berelsman, Director of Facilities, and Laurieann Campbell, Director of Operations, for seeing through the myriad of details and coordinating effort. We are also appreciative of Cullen Art Glass, Tuttle Construction, All Service Glass, and Cotterman Roofing who teamed up to carry out the project so efficiently. Finally, we are grateful for all who continue to support our Visitation Fund that helps us to restore, renew, and upgrade the facilities of our church and school campus.

In fact, with the windows like new, Tom Cullen, the local artist who designed, created, and installed the windows in 2001 has offered to provide tours to learn more about the imagery and creative process that provided our beautiful cupola windows. You and the public are invited to take part in either presentation on:

**Sunday, November 10 at 1:00 pm**

**Thursday, November 14 at 1:00 pm**

The presentations are the same and will last about one hour. Your questions will be welcomed!

One window in our church that has taken on a

special importance at this point in time, is the window depicting the “eighth day of creation.” This represents the “new creation” and truly our life in Christ. If you look closely, you will see the monstrance and the Eucharist radiating out to all the world.

Certainly, you have heard by now about the national Eucharistic Revival. The last issue of The Chimes related the experience of our parishioners who took part in the National Eucharistic Congress at Indianapolis in July. The next national congress is now scheduled for 2033 - which will be the 2,000th anniversary of Christ’s pouring his love upon the cross for our salvation and that of the whole world.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Chimes you will learn about the vision of Bishop Thomas for our continuing effort to deepen our faith in and love for the Eucharist.

Here at St. Charles, Emily Niese, our Director of Liturgical Music Ministries, together with the Liturgical Commission—have organized another year of Sunday evening “Night of Worship” offerings that include Eucharistic Exposition. The first was held September 29

(Recognizing Liturgical Ministers)

**Sunday, April 27 - 3:00-4:00 p.m.** (Divine Mercy Sunday)

I want to especially highlight the February 23rd date. At this prayer our Liturgical Commission has something special in mind for the hundreds of parishioners who give of their time and talent to serve our God through the liturgy.

Also, this year we are introducing additional Eucharistic Days on one Thursday each month. In conjunction with St. Charles Catholic School we will have Eucharistic Exposition beginning with the end of the 8:00 a.m. morning Mass (about 8:30 a.m.). Adoration will continue in church until 2:25 p.m. when we close with Benediction.

On these days we especially need help from our parishioners to fill the morning hours. Then starting about 1:00 pm the school children will cover the hours. We need at least two adorers in church at all times in order to have Eucharistic Exposition.

If there would happen to be a funeral on the same day of adoration, we will temporarily suspend exposition one hour prior to the funeral and then resume it again after the funeral. The adorers scheduled for that time frame may move to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for their prayer time or choose to participate in the funeral Mass.

The Thursdays for this special time of prayer (8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) are:

**November 21, December 12, January 9,  
February 20, March 20,**

**April 24, May 15**

We will need people to sign-up in advance so that all times are covered. You can find out more or offer your name for a block of time by using the QR code here or calling the parish office, 419.228.7635.



Finally, it is with great joy that we just received word that our parish has received the Rev. August Schaefer Grant once again this year. These grants are for special liturgical needs and all parishes in our diocese are eligible to apply. This year, Emily wrote a grant for purchasing a canopy and four poles that we can use whenever we have an outdoor procession—such as Holy Thursday and Corpus Christi. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 17 and Sunday, June 13, 2025 when we hope to inaugurate use of our new canopy!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Kent*



in conjunction with the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Still remaining this year are:

**Sunday, November 24 - 5:30-6:30 p.m.**  
(Solemnity of Christ the King)

**Sunday, February 23 - 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

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## A Season of Gratitude and Growth

**LAURIEANN  
CAMPBELL**

Director of Operations

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving and Advent, my heart is full of gratitude for the ongoing support and generosity you've shown to St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Our community continues to thrive because of your commitment, and I'm proud to be part of such a dedicated and faith-filled parish.

We are blessed with a rich tradition at St. Charles, and the upcoming Visitation is a testament to that. Originating with our founding pastor, Reverend Walter T. Hanley, this special event was initially created to help pay off the debt for our school and church buildings. Now, years later, we continue this tradition, not just to maintain our facilities, but to ensure our church remains a beautiful and welcoming place of worship for all who come through our doors.

If you've been to Mass these past months, you may have noticed the window repairs in progress. We got to briefly enjoy crystal clear views through the newly installed double-pane windows. Although the brightness during a few services took us by surprise, the sight of the blue sky and bell tower above us during worship was a wonderful reminder of God's beauty, and the beauty of this church. Now, with those critical repairs complete, we can focus on interior upgrades and repairs, which include:

\*Repairing water-damaged walls, ceilings, and pews.

\*Upgrading the church entryways and stairwells by replacing the worn wainscoting and repainting the walls and trim.

\*Refreshing the lower level with new paint for the walls, trim, and doors.

In addition, our new elevator project is moving for-

ward with the hope that all is in place by the 2025-26 year. Many thanks go out to the donors of the Living Christ Campaign. Their incoming pledges are projected to cover the primary funding of the project; however, additional resources in our Visitation fund are important for any contingencies that may arise. Additionally, the project will include necessary drainage work for the basement and adjacent parking lot. We anticipate resealing the parking lot and completing replacement of our church sidewalks as this important project progresses toward completion.

At the same time, we are evaluating what upgrades and major repairs are needed for our school campus in the near future. We are making plans for those to take place during the summer when school is not in session. This work is crucial to preserving our parish's legacy, and we rely on your generosity to see it through. With your help, we will continue to be a beacon of faith, fellowship, and service for generations to come. If you'd like to contribute to Visitation Sunday, donations can be made with your Sunday offertory (mark your donation "Visitation Sunday"), or by scanning the QR code for online giving. Every gift makes a difference!



### A Special Reminder: Annual Catholic Appeal

We're also excited to announce that we are only \$964 away from reaching our fundraising goal for this year's Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)! If you haven't yet made your pledge, now is the perfect time to do so. Your support will help us cross the finish line—let's reach that goal together!

Wishing you peace and blessings in this special season of gratitude,

For the photo story of the window replacement journey, see page 10.

To see the photos in color, go to the online copy of The Chimes which can be found on our website under the drop-down menu About Us.

### NEW PARISHIONERS

Michael Schimpf  
Yvette Pierre  
Valerie Thomas  
Emily Niese  
Ashley conaway  
Kevin Lazama  
Cassie Rumble

### IN MEMORIAM

Jim Carder

### Please Let the Parish Know

If you have a family member or loved one in a nursing home or assisted living facility, please notify the church office, (419) 228-7635, in order that the parish may minister to him or her.

Father Kent or one of the Communion distributors will be happy to visit at any time.



### St. Charles Borromeo

Our Parish Goal:	\$1,260,000.00
Our Parish Pledge Total:	\$1,553,670.00
Cash Collected to Date:	\$776,855.70
Percent of Cash Collected to Date:	35%
Parish Share to Date:	\$272,013.25

As of 8/31/24

### St. Charles Catholic Church Mission Statement

**To build a community of faith  
united with Christ in the Eucharist,  
living as disciples,  
sharing God's love and grace.**

Pastoral Council, June 2018

### The Chimes Staff

Cathy Huber  
chimes@stcharleslima.org

### MISSION STATEMENT



## THE CHIMES

The mission of The Chimes is to foster parish unity, to promote Christian ideals, and to publish newsworthy events within the Parish community.

St. Charles Parish  
2200 West Elm Street  
Lima, Ohio 45805  
chimes@stcharleslima.org





**JEREMY HOLLIS**  
Director of Youth Discipleship  
and Evangelization

When we hear the name “St. Nicholas,” many immediately think of Santa Claus, the jolly figure who brings gifts to children on Christmas Eve. However, behind the modern-day myth of Santa lies the story of a real person, St. Nicholas of Myra, a 4th-century bishop known for his generosity, his defense of Christian orthodoxy, and his enduring legacy as a model of charity and compassion. The true story of St. Nicholas reveals a saint whose actions inspired a tradition of giving and whose life continues to be celebrated by the Church on December 6th.

St. Nicholas was born around 270 A.D. in the town of Patara, located in the region of Lycia in present-day Turkey. His parents were wealthy and devout Christians, and they raised Nicholas in the faith. Tragically, his parents died while he was still young, leaving him with a substantial inheritance. Nicholas, deeply moved by his Christian upbringing and the teachings of Christ, decided to use his wealth to help those in need rather than for his own comfort. This choice would come to define his life and legacy.

As a young man, Nicholas became a priest, and later, he was appointed Bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia. He was known for his piety, his strong defense of the Christian faith, and his care for the poor and oppressed. During his time as bishop, Nicholas faced the persecution of Christians under Roman Emperor Diocletian, which resulted in his imprisonment for his faith. He was released only when Emperor Constantine ascended to power and legalized Christianity.

One of the most famous stories about St. Nicholas, which has contributed to his association with gift-giving, involves his secret generosity toward a poor family. According to tradition, a man in his diocese had fallen on hard times and could not afford dowries for his three daughters. Without dowries, the daughters would have been unable to marry and faced the grim possibility of being sold into servitude. Hearing of this, Nicholas decided to help, but he did so in secret.

On three separate occasions, Nicholas threw bags of gold through the man’s window (or, in some versions of the story, down the chimney) during the night. The gold provided the dowries for the daughters, saving them from a life of hardship. This act of secret charity would become one of the foundational stories behind the modern tradition of St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, delivering gifts to children during the night.

In addition to his generosity, St. Nicholas was also known for his staunch defense of Christian orthodoxy. He participated in the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., where he joined other bishops in opposing the heresy of Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ. According to legend, during the council, Nicholas became so incensed by the arguments of Arius, the proponent of the heresy, that he slapped him across the face. Though this story may be more legend than fact, it highlights Nicholas’ fierce commitment to defending the core teachings of the Christian faith.

St. Nicholas’ reputation for generosity and his role as a defender of the faith spread far and wide after his death on December 6th, 343 AD. His feast day be-

came a time when people would exchange gifts in his honor, a tradition that would later evolve into the modern practice of gift-giving associated with Christmas.

Over the centuries, St. Nicholas became one of the most popular saints in both the Eastern and Western Christian traditions. His story traveled to Europe, where different cultures began to incorporate elements of the saint into their local customs. In the Netherlands, for example, the figure of “Sinterklaas” emerged, a gift-giving figure based on St. Nicholas who would later evolve into Santa Claus in America after Dutch settlers brought the tradition to the New World.

The transformation of St. Nicholas into the modern figure of Santa Claus happened gradually, particularly in the 19th century. In 1823, the poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas” (more commonly known as “The Night Before Christmas”) was published, solidifying the image of Santa as a jolly, plump figure who travels in a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Over time, commercial depictions of Santa Claus in Coca-Cola advertisements and popular culture further cemented this modern image, which, while very different from the historical St. Nicholas, still retains the essence of his spirit of giving.

While modern-day Santa Claus has taken on a life of his own, the true story of St. Nicholas is a powerful reminder of the impact that selfless love and generosity can have on the world. St. Nicholas’ example of secret giving, caring for

the vulnerable, and standing firm in the faith has inspired Christians for centuries. His life teaches us that true joy comes not from receiving but from giving, especially to those in need.

As we celebrate St. Nicholas’ feast day or enjoy the Christmas season, it is important to remember the real man behind the legend—a humble bishop who lived out the Gospel in word and deed, embodying Christ’s call to love our neighbor and give generously from the heart. His legacy invites us to continue the tradition of giving, not just material gifts, but the gifts of love, service, and compassion.



**Sinterklass**



**MAUREEN KASKEL**  
Director, Christian Corner  
Community Center

## Monthly Health Visits Planned at CCCC

On November 6, the Ohio Northern University Healthwise Van, in partnership with Mercy Health St. Rita’s will begin monthly visits to the Christian Corner Community Center! Parishioner, Dr. J.J. Sreenan has facilitated this wonderful service. The van is staffed by Pharm D. students from ONU along with Resident Physicians from Mercy Health. Services offered will be: comprehensive primary care, physical assessments, blood pressure checks, hemoglobin A1C, blood glucose and cholesterol screenings, immunizations and vaccinations (including flu and Covid-19, detailed medical and pharmacy history review, medication delivery and free vitamin program for those 12 and under as well as 50 and over.



The monthly van visits are planned for Wednesdays, in concert with the West Ohio Food Bank distribution, also located at the Christian Corner Community Center.

On October 5, the CCCC had a successful ‘Fun Fest and Bake Sale’. Along with a wide variety of baked goods, the children enjoyed large and small jump houses, painting & bracelet making, as well as a variety of yard games. We were blessed with a beautiful fall day and many hard-working volunteers. Thanks everyone!

### “2024 Cup of Christmas Tea” in memory of Grace Stechshulte!

Ladies, mark your calendar! St. Charles will be having their Christmas Tea on Tuesday evening, December 10, 2024. We are looking for interested persons who would like to be a hostess or help with this event by decorating or preparing the food. Please contact Mary Shak at [mshak@woh.rr.com](mailto:mshak@woh.rr.com) or call the Parish Office at 419-228-7635 for more information or to help with this event.





# Women's Retreat: Made New in Christ

By Sarah Mayse

Women of our parish attended a retreat both at St. Charles Church and at the beautiful Transfiguration Center for Spiritual Renewal in Ludlow Falls, Ohio. The women had a beautiful weekend with great weather to truly enjoy the restfulness and tranquility that the retreat center provided in this wonderful natural setting. The women listened to many speakers who were women from their own parish, shared in small groups, participated in different prayerful stations around and in the center, and shared fellowship on a scripture walk and at meal times. The women had time to renew their spiritual and prayer life through adoration, confessions,

and attending mass together. The women took part in a craft called Kintsugi, which is the Japanese art form of repairing broken pottery with gold dust in the glue. This went along with our theme of made new in Christ that we are broken pieces and God mends our hearts and heals those broken pieces. The gold used makes the pottery that was broken but is now fixed



more valuable. God can turn our brokenness into his beautiful masterpiece if we let him heal our hurts. Trust in God's beautiful plan that he has in store for you!

The women were joined by Fr. Steve Blum and Fr. John MacQuarrie during the retreat. We thank both priests for their time and willingness to help with the sacraments. Fr. MacQuarrie gave us some background on the beautiful Trans-

figuration Center that the land was willed to the church with three requests to be a place for prayer, a place for retired priests, and a nature preserve. This beautiful landscape and retreat center provided all three. It truly is an amazing property to visit and enjoy the scenery.

Next year, our women's retreat will be moving to the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein on October 31-November 2. The retreat team is always looking for new members who would like to help plan the next retreat. Please contact Mary Anne Froehlich at [maryanne.froehlich@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.froehlich@gmail.com) or call her 330-219-0011.



**EMILY NIESE**  
Director of Liturgical  
Music Ministries

National Vocation Awareness Week is celebrated this year on November 3-9. I am excited to share about an initiative that will kick-off here at St. Charles that very week to encourage prayer for vocations.

The program is referred to as the "Traveling Chalice." It involves a "traveling item" which will be taken home by a different family or individual each week who will focus on praying for and delving deeper into vocations for that week. The transfer from family to family will occur at the 10:30 a.m. Mass each weekend, beginning on November 3rd. Here at St. Charles, the "traveling item" will be a chalice that belonged to Father Norbert Howe. It will be passed from person to person each week in the leather carrying bag that Father Howe used. The carrying bag is filled with many other items to foster prayer and venturing deeper into vocations for the week including prayer books, a movie about vocations, coloring pages for kids, and many other items! The chalice may be set out in the home as a continual reminder throughout the week to pray for vocations and to have an extra openness of heart towards how the Lord might be inspiring you to assist in the vocational discernment of your family, friends, and community. May the chalice also serve as a reminder to commit and renew

## Encouraging Vocations

daily your vocational vows in whatever state in life the Lord has called you to!

This program is sure to offer fruits of discernment, inspiration, and exposure to all ways of life that God may call his people to. Within the context of the family, it is a safe and encouraging place for children to learn about these different vocations, the importance of them, ask questions, and seek deeper support when desired. It is a wonderful opportunity for families to delve into their children's potential vocations *together*, coming to an understanding together as to the details of each way of life, hopefully helping prevent any future confusion or misunderstandings that can sometimes result from vocational discernment.

The program is intricate and beautiful, having many moving pieces that require steadfast stewardship to lead the program successfully. Thanks to the inspiration and commitment of Gino Dimattia and Kevin Kidd, and the sponsorship of the Lima Area Serra Club and the St. Charles Liturgical Commission, this program is in great hands and I pray will sow many seeds in the hearts of those who take part.

As I speak with many young adults discerning some of the most seemingly permanent decisions of our lives (including vocation) and struggling to fathom the fact that our "plans" may not be what God has in-store, there is a specific comfort and encouragement that I always bring them back to which I pray we can keep at the forefront of vocational discernment and that is: There

is no fear in discerning what God has in store for you! There are only two options, either your plan is *in line* with God's, or his is *better*. There is no such thing as "losing out" when you include God, but you are shorting yourself when you keep him out of it. He is capable of giving deeper and greater and grander than our human imaginations could even begin to invent, and he wants your good more than you want it yourself. Give him your full trust in this, let yourself be surprised by surrendering the reins, and I guarantee He will not disappoint you. His love for you cannot be outdone. Thank God, we get to live out this love through our vocations.



### Please Note:

**Since December 8, 2024, is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9, 2024.**





**MELODY KEARNS**  
Family Formation Coordinator

## Prayer Centers, Bibles, and Spiritual Bouquets

Our first session for the new Family Formation year started on September 8th, 2024. At the beginning of each Family Formation year, we encourage families to provide a special place in their home for prayer. Many of us say our prayers around the dinner table or kneeling at our beds. While each of these is important and special, it is also meaningful for your family to have a place where you can all come together for family prayer. A prayer center also encourages more prayer individually and makes a great way to initiate conversation with your family members as well as prayer. All Catholic families should consider placing a prayer center in their homes. Your home is your Domestic Church and the prayer center will become a focal point of your Domestic Church.

Together as a family, decide on a good place in your home to locate your prayer center. Include your children in this decision so they will take ownership in this unique location. If you already have a prayer center you may want to update it. Decide together what your family will include at the prayer center. For example, a Bible, prayer booklet, a religious picture, a statue, rosary, holy card, Holy Water, flowers, etc. Place a crucifix and a candle there. We encourage flameless candles because of convenience and safety for children. The light of the candle is a sign of Jesus' presence in your home. Your prayer center table or mantle can be as elaborate or simple as your family chooses. Changing the items around or adding new items will keep it interesting for your children. You could use simple cloths in the liturgical colors as the seasons change. A basket of rosaries might be better than a single rosary. Also include a Holy Rosary Prayer Booklet or Pamphlet nearby.

Everyone was excited to have Father Kent bless our new Bibles. The catechists and myself were so happy to have these Bibles in two of our classrooms. I encourage all parents with children between 2nd and 5th grade to purchase *The Catholic Children's Bible* by St. Mary's

Press. Grades K-1st is currently using *My Catholic Picture Bible Stories* by Jan Godfrey and Angela Joliffe published at Ascension under The Great Adventure Kids series. Family Formation's focus this year is on the Bible. Sunday, October 6th, Deacon Fred talked to the parents and shared many facts about the Bible. During his time with us he encouraged the parents to read scripture with everyone in the family. Deacon Fred referred to the Bible as a love letter from God. He talked about both the Old and New Testaments. He shared his favorite books of the Bible. Deacon Fred offered suggestions on how to use the Bible and had an informal discussion with the parents.



**Deacon Fred is with our winners. On the left is Scarlett Curtis, Grade K and to the right is Madelyn Jones, Grade 5.**

We drew for our September W.O.G. Log winners. Madelyn Jones was our winner from grades 3rd-5th. Scarlett Curtis was our winner from grades K-2nd. The W.O.G. Log stands for Word of God. Parents sign the date children read scripture or listened to scripture, listen

to a Bible story or storybook. Family Formation's hope is to encourage life long readers of scripture. We will draw winners each month and winners receive a gift card from Dunkin's/Baskin Robbins or Five and Below.

The children met with their catechists and learned who Bishop Daniel Thomas is. The children found out what Bishop Thomas looks like and all about the job he does as well as his responsibilities in caring for the Toledo Diocese. Bishop Thomas' 10th Anniversary is on October 22, 2024. The children became a part of the "Spiritual Bouquet" that will be presented to him to thank him for all he does for us and our church.

We decided to make a Spiritual Prayer chain. Each child was given a paper link and each child selected which prayer of the Rosary they were going to practice in honor of Bishop Thomas. The children also chose a Spiritual or Corporal Work of Mercy to complete before October 20th when we meet again. Our youngest children chose any act of kindness. The children wrote their choices on these paper links and took the paper link home to remind them to practice their prayer and complete their service. On Sunday, October 20th the children will recite the Rosary with their parents in his honor.

They will also complete their posters which tell about themselves. These are looking pretty awesome, so you might want to come down in the basement to read and



**Our K-1 Class with their prayer chain links.**

meet the children in Family Formation. The children have worked very hard on them.

### Calendar

October 31	All Saints' Day – Mass 7:00 p.m.
November 1	All Saints' Day – Mass 8:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
December 9	Feast of the Immaculate Conception – Mass 8:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.
November 28	Thanksgiving – Mass 9:00 a.m.
December 15	Advent Reconciliation Service 3:00 p.m. at St. Rose
December 24	Christmas Eve – Mass 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day – Mass 10:30 a.m.
December 31-	Mary Mother of God – Mass 4:00 p.m.
January 1	Mass - 10:30 a.m.

### Leading - from page 9

sion. The Eucharistic Congress introduced what's next with the "Walk with One" initiative. Just as Jesus invited people one by one to follow him, each one of us is invited to follow him more closely, and to "walk with one" person to a new or renewed experience of God's love. Walking with one is a simple four stage process of accompaniment: 1. Identify someone in a spirit of humility, 2. Intercede for that person in communion with the Holy Spirit, 3. Connect in Eucharistic Friendship and 4. Invite that person on a path most suitable for him or her. It's that simple! (You can find information on this nationwide initiative here: [www.eucharisticrevival.org/wlk-with-one](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org/wlk-with-one); and on our diocesan engagement here: [www.toledodiocese.org/revival](http://www.toledodiocese.org/revival)).

So what's next? We are! After the Congress, one of our pilgrim couples wrote to me: "The Congress (Revival) far exceeded our expectations. Our hearts were set on fire for the living Christ in the Blessed Sacrament and our call to share this good news with others. We find that

we have this burning desire to share what we have received with others as we seek to walk with one." There is no doubt that each of us knows someone whom we could accompany: back to Catholic faith and practice, to first time attendance at Sunday Mass, into the Catholic faith, into deeper Catholic faith, into belief in themselves and in Christ who saves, accompanying someone thru doubts, questions, or old wounds to embracing Christ and His Church.

Please join me in prayer and in action that, for the spiritual and pastoral health of our diocese, we may each go out as Eucharistic missionaries, embracing the Vision of this *National Eucharistic Revival*: "A movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – and sent out on mission 'for the life of the world'.

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
August 30, 2024





# The Redwing Reader St. Charles Catholic School



**MEGAN SCHEID**  
Principal

## Nurturing Core Values through Parent Involvement

As we approach the close of another calendar year, I find it important to reflect on the values that shape our school community and guide us as we partner together in the education of our children. At St. Charles Catholic School, we remain deeply committed to cultivating a learning environment that is rooted in our core values of respect, integrity, service, and excellence. These values are not only foundational to our Catholic identity, but also essential in shaping the character of our students as future leaders.

involvement. Our parents are key stakeholders in the mission of our school, and their participation enriches both the academic and spiritual development of our students. Whether it is through volunteering at school events, supporting classroom

One of the most powerful ways we see these values come to life is through parent

activities, or simply modeling faith at home, parents play an irreplaceable role in reinforcing the lessons and values taught at school.

As the principal, I encourage parents to continue finding ways to engage with the school community.

small—has a lasting impact. Together, as educators and parents, we can help our children internalize the values of faith, compassion, and responsibility, equipping them to navigate the challenges of the world with confidence and grace.

As we celebrate the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent, let us give thanks for the gift of partnership in this sacred work of education. May God continue to bless our school community as we work hand in hand to foster an environment where our core values thrive.

Wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving and Advent season.



Your involvement—whether great or

## 7th and 8th Grade Honor Society Induction 2024

By Charris Miracle

Friday, September 20, 2024 a ceremony was held for students who were inducted into the St. Charles Catholic School National Honor Society. This organization recognizes students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of scholarship, leadership, citizenship, service, and character. Students secure their place on the St. Charles National Honor Society by earning an overall GPA

of 3.50 during their sixth and seventh grade school years.

Mrs. Scheid, Mrs. Miracle and Mrs. Blubaugh praised the students for diligence in their studies, while they balance other extracurricular activities, in which they are involved. They also challenged the students to make purposeful choices now to impact their future. The students received a certificate in recognition

of their achievement. We also recognized the incredible accomplishment of maintaining this level of academic excellence for two years in a row for Addilynn Baldauf, Braylie Bensinger, Josie Declercq, Alana Heffner, Gracyn Malcom, Austin McCain, Mataya Miller, Corinne Schnieders, Samuel Venturella, Luke Weitz, Samuel Williams, Gwen Wolfcale

**8th Grade:** Addilynn Baldauf, Braylie Bensinger, Josie Declercq, Alana Heffner, Gracyn Malcom, Austin McCain, Reese Merschman, Mataya Miller, Corinne Schnieders, Piper Schumm, Samuel Venturella, Luke Weitz, Samuel Williams, Gwen Wolfcale

**7th Grade:** Olivia Barhorst, Luke Bryan, Elaine Brickner, Nicklays Gronas, Anthony Hinegardner, Gabriel Hodges, Miya Hollis, Isabella Martello, Charlene Rexfore, Audie Sielschott, Eliana Thompson, Katana Walter, Cooper Wende

We *congratulate* the following students on their outstanding academic accomplishments:



Eighth Grade Inductees



Seventh Grade Inductees



# Local Weatherman Visits Fourth Grade Classroom: A Morning of Learning and Fun

By Ariel Ketchum

In an exciting event that brightened up a typical September morning, local weatherman Conner Prince paid a special visit to Mrs. Ketchum's fourth-grade classroom at St. Charles Catholic School. The students, who had been studying weather patterns and climate, were thrilled to meet the familiar face from their evening news broadcasts.

The idea for the visit arose when students asked how to predict weather in Science class. Mrs. Ketchum encouraged her students to reach out to a local professional with their curiosities. The class decided to utilize Mrs. Ketchum's Facebook page to send a private message to WLIO Meteorologist and OSU Alumni Conner Prince. Screams of excitement echoed down the hall as the students received his prompt response to accept an invitation to speak at St. Charles.



Although Prince planned to visit for only an hour, he spoke to our 4th graders for over two hours! He shared that he was enjoying the company of our St. Charles students so much that he preferred to stay longer than anticipated. The students were engaged and absolutely amazed by the intricate weather maps Prince shared. The most shocking piece of information learned? The WLIO Meteorologist studies over fifty weather maps before making just one prediction!

Following his visit, Conner Prince shared with his 10,000+ Facebook followers, "These students were so well behaved and were absolutely tuned in the whole time I spoke- we took a trip to Outer Space to show them real-time satellite pictures including watching the Sun rise along with real-time NWS radar data. I even showed them the fancy data I interpret from weather supercomputer models along with real tornado coverage I have provided. We discussed a LOT of great things, and I believe we have some future meteorologists in the making!"



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## St. Charles School

### Mission Statement

St. Charles Catholic School, in partnership with our parish, will provide a faith-filled environment which challenges students to become upstanding citizens, stewards and scholars through instruction and example.

### Belief Statements

**We believe...** St. Charles Catholic School provides an atmosphere that is permeated by Christian values which recognizes self-discipline, personal responsibility and a call to serve others.

**We believe...** instruction should be student centered which recognizes the dignity and uniqueness of the person so the gifts of each are recognized, developed and celebrated.

**We believe...** our faith community – teachers, staff, students, parents and parishioners – share the responsibility for the support and attainment of the school's mission.

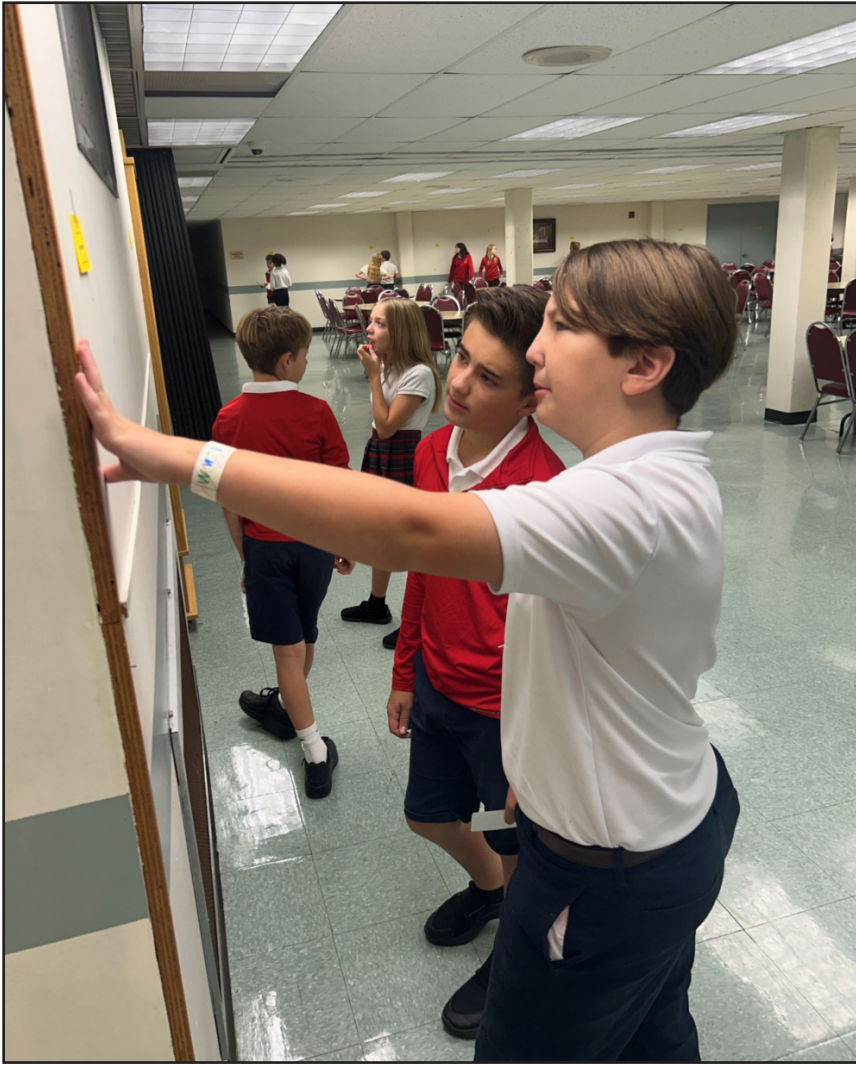
**We believe...** service to others is important to the growth and development of each child as a whole person. Service to others should be purposeful and generated by both faculty and students as a means to develop a child's awareness for the social concerns of others.



## 6th Grade Retreat

By Mrs. Gronas & Miss Niese

The 6th grade students participated in an all-day retreat back on October 9th. They participated in many activities to help them utilize the life skills of problem-solving and common sense in their everyday lives. They also focused on how they can foster God's kingdom here on earth by focusing on **What Would Jesus Do?** The day created a perfect opportunity for the students to share their faith with others beyond the classroom walls!



## Third Grade Groups

By Laura Knarr

Learning together is not only fun, but also beneficial. In today's educational landscape, fostering teamwork among young learners is more crucial than ever. As third graders embark on a pivotal year of growth, the importance of group work in their academic and social development cannot be overstated.

Third graders typically work in groups in all subject areas by playing games, reading to each other, problem solving, observing and discovering. Group work is more than just a fun classroom activity; it is an essential component of third-grade education. As children learn to collaborate, communicate, and take responsibility, they are

not only bettering their academic skills but also preparing for a future where teamwork is vital. Encouraging group work in classrooms lays a strong foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth.







**Left:**  
In the seventh grade, we learned about the artist Henri Matisse, The king of color. Estella completed her still life study of apples in tempera paint.

**Right:**  
Fall watercolor, fun and second grade. Featured, Isaiah, Vivian, and Matthias



Already for over two years' time we have been engaged in our *National Eucharistic Revival!* The focus began on the diocesan level, then moved to the parish level, and recently culminated on the national level with the National Eucharistic Congress held this summer in Indianapolis July 17-21 at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium. Now some people are asking "So what's next?" But before answering that question, allow me a moment to share with you my experience of the National Eucharistic Congress!

Over three hundred pilgrims from the Diocese of Toledo travelled to Indianapolis to participate in the Congress, 150 of us together on three buses, and 150 more on their own! We truly represented the richness of our diocese with laity younger and older, students, senior citizens, married couples, single persons, seminarians, consecrated religious, deacons, priests and this bishop! What a deep joy it was to pray with them, share meals with them, participate in the Congress events with them, kneel next to them in silent Eucharistic adoration, laugh and cry with them during the evening revival sessions, and witness with them the outpouring of Eucharistic faith in such an extraordinary event which will, please God, have a lasting impact on all who attended and indeed on our nation.

And as we "blended into" the over 65 thousand persons gathered, we recognized ourselves as a part of the whole, a representation of Catholics from across the nation, from so many races, languages and ethnic heritages. So many bishops, priests, seminarians and religious

sisters, and even more religious sisters! Most impressively, this was not primarily a group of white-haired folks like me! Thousands upon thousands of young people, young parents and families with babies and young children in arms and in strollers helped us all to recognize and celebrate the vibrancy of the Church in our nation, a Church alive in Christ, our Eucharistic Lord.

Throughout the days of the Congress, we were immersed in the power of Jesus' love flowing from the Holy Eucha-

for 24/7 Adoration! And amid the waiting there was joy, not grumbling, where it was evident people were encountering each other with patience, respect and charity!

As a bishop, it was especially edifying to be in the company of so many brother bishops and priests in love with Christ and His people, to concelebrate Mass with them, and to walk with them in the Saturday afternoon Eucharistic procession through the streets of downtown Indy with the thousands of other pilgrims. Walking side by side with Bishop Robert

sentations offered at the Congress, and invite you to do the same, as those talks are now available on several social media platforms.

Four encounters particularly struck me. Walking to the opening evening event we were stopped by a cordial evangelical Christian who asked us if we were in town for an event. We shared about the Eucharistic Congress, spent a few minutes in conversation, after which he offered his prayers and support for our time, and I offered our appreciation and prayers, inviting him to "come and see"!! Toward the end of the Congress, on the elevator of the hotel where we stayed, I found myself alone in an encounter with one of the staff who asked if I was at the Congress, and then commented that she had

worked in the city for years but had never experienced such a positive, uplifting, enthusiastic, kind group of persons! Our pilgrims related that one of our seminarians was modelling how the Eucharistic Jesus moves us to love, by his stopping to encounter the homeless along the route to the stadium with warmth, humility and genuine concern. And at the last Revival Evening with some 65 thousand others in the Stadium, I experienced the grace of an intimate personal encounter with the Eucharistic Jesus who pierced my heart and called me to deeper love for him and for those whom I am called to serve.

So "What's next?" The Eucharist Revival is not over (truth be told, it should never be over)! We're already into the third year: *The Year of Going out on Mis-*

## Leading the Flock by Bishop Daniel E. Thomas "A Revival. A Congress. What's Next?"

rist and evident in each day's theme: The Greatest Love Story, Into Gethsemane, This is My Body, and To the Ends of the Earth. There was a palpable sense of the presence of the Lord everywhere you went and everywhere you turned. There was a great exhibit hall where I couldn't walk ten steps without joyfully encountering folks I knew from our own diocese and beyond! One of our pilgrims described the Congress as a massive family reunion! Another remarked that the Congress was the Second Vatican Council realized! It was nothing short of edifying to see endless lines of folks waiting for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or to enter the exhibits on the Shroud of Turin or Eucharistic Miracles, to visit the Relic Chapel or the Adoration Chapel, to participate in the several service opportunities for the poor, or to wait to enter the nearby local Church designated

Barron during the procession, how moved I was when I heard a man cry out from the sidewalk: "Bishop Barron, I'm Catholic because of you!" That public witness of faith had one focus, our Eucharistic Lord Jesus, and one purpose, to proclaim the Jesus who is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, in His Church and in His people.

The keynote and countless other speakers who inspired us throughout the Congress were a veritable who's who of Catholics from across our nation, whose talks not only moved those present but are even now moving hearts and minds! (If you haven't seen it yet, don't miss Jonathan Roumie who plays Jesus on *The Chosen*, and don't miss the t-shirt he wore!). I know of several families and even parishes who have been hosting "watch parties" to be enriched by the pre-





All Service Glass taking down each old pane using the scaffolding.



Once the panes were removed, the structure was inspected and necessary repairs were made. The entire panel was removed, but the framework for the window panes was saved and reused.

## Restoring the Stained Glass Windows



Before removal - glass from the double pane glass had failed, leading to stains and condensation.



Tom Cullen and crew meticulously cleaning decades of dirt off of the art glass. Not a single pane was cracked or broken.



Once the clear panels were replaced and cleaned, the art glass was reinstalled.

After replacement - the new glass was installed with the repaired structure and care to prevent water damage in the future.





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