



FR. KENT KAUFMAN
Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Whenever someone is interested in baptism or becoming Catholic if they were baptized in another denomination, our **OCIA** (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Team offers a tour of our church. Inevitably they love learning about the nomenclature of what furnishings and objects you find in every Catholic church as well as the artwork and layout of our church that makes it unique and particular.

Whenever “cradle Catholics” join in the church tour, they usually report that they, too, are still learning about the special features of our faith—especially as they are found within the sacred place where we gather each week on the Lord’s Day.

Something here at St. Charles—that is extremely important for our sacramental life, but somewhat hidden—is our **ambry**. The ambry is the place where the church reserves three oils that are blessed or consecrated by the bishop each year at the Chrism Mass held in the first part of Holy Week.

In the Diocese of Toledo, we have been celebrating the Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week for the last forty years or so. At this Mass, all of the priests serving in the diocese are gathered by the bishop at the cathedral. First, the priests and the bishop renew their priestly vows and recommit to their vocation of serving God’s people.

A Closer Look at the Holy Oils

After the renewal, three oils are brought in procession before the bishop. Deacons carry the oils in large urns and place them on tables before the altar after presenting them solemnly to the bishop while we sing about the important use of each oil.

The **Oil of the Sick** (or infirmed) is draped in purple and is used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. We call down God’s healing gifts for all who will be refreshed with this sacrament throughout the next year.

This might be a good time to remind you that we are always ready to anoint anyone who is seeking healing in mind, body, or spirit. When I visit someone in the hospital or someone tells me of an upcoming surgery, I will normally anoint them. The Sacrament of the Sick is not intended to be reserved until someone is on the brink of death. Rather, it is intended to help the sick person find healing—whether physically, spiritually, or emotionally. It’s repeatable through the person’s life when the conditions change or something different emerges.

The **Oil of Catechumens** is draped in green. Green gives hope as the person prepares for baptism. The Oil of Catechumens will strengthen them to not give up

the journey that leads to celebrating the sacrament in the saving waters of baptism.

For infants and young children, the Oil of Catechumens is used before we move to the font. It is coupled with an exorcism prayer to cast out any evil or anything that would keep the person from moving freely to the saving waters of baptism. For adults, the oil is used throughout the period of the catechumenate—the extended period of formation that leads up to the First Sunday of Lent.

Finally, the **Sacred Chrism** is draped in white. The procession for this oil also includes those bearing pitchers of balsam. The sweet-smelling perfume is then added to the oil which is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. As part of the ritual prayer, the bishop literally breathes on the oil while invoking the Holy Spirit to infuse new life in the Spirit for those celebrating these

life-changing sacraments.

After the Chrism Mass (which this year took place on April 15th, the bishop sends out bottles with the three oils to each parish and Catholic institution for their use in the next year. The old oils are then burned in the fire prepared for the Easter Vigil.

See FR. KENT - page 3



The ambry in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Kevin McGraw Ordination & Open House



BRYNNA SCHROEDER
Parish Multimedia Specialist

It’s an exciting time for our very own Kevin McGraw! On Saturday, May 24th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., he will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Toledo at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo. There is a reception following the Mass when we can greet the newly ordained as they offer their first blessing. Food will be provided at the reception as well.

Then the celebration continues the next day, Sunday, May 25th, back here at St. Charles. The newly ordained Father Kevin McGraw will celebrate his first **Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:00 a.m.** All are welcome to celebrate with him! Following the Mass, there will be an open house in the St. Charles church basement from 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. where Father Kevin will confer “First Blessings” at 11:35 a.m. Stop by and wish Father Kevin well on his next assignment or leave a card! Light appetizers and refreshments will be provided.

With all this being said, I’d like to inform you on how you can sign up for the bus to go to the ordination in Toledo. Just go to the link here, <https://forms.gle/WrUUP7xr5fsyNVD7> or use the QR code, and it will take you to a sign-up form. You can also access the info in the bulletin or on our website at <https://stcharleslima.org/>. Just scroll down to the bottom of the homepage and find the article titled, “Kevin McGraw Ordination” underneath the Parish News section. Last but not least, if you prefer, you can skip the tech savvy sign-up and just call the Parish Office at 419-228-7635 to sign up the good ‘ol fashioned way. The bus seats 55, and we hope to fill it up fast, so sign up now, and let’s show Kevin McGraw our support!



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Building Our Foundation for the Future: The Importance of Our Parish Endowment and Visitation

LAURIEANN CAMPBELL
Director of Operations

As members of St. Charles Parish, we are blessed with a strong faith community and a legacy of service that continues to inspire generations. To ensure that our parish remains vibrant for years to come, it is essential that we plan ahead and build a stable financial foundation. One way to do this is through our parish endowment — a lasting resource that provides ongoing support for our church, school, and ministries.

What is a Parish Endowment?

A parish endowment is a permanent fund where contributions are invested, and the earnings are used to support the needs of the parish. Unlike regular donations that are spent immediately, endowment funds grow over time, ensuring that St. Charles Parish has the financial stability to continue serving our community well into the future.

Why is This Important?

As we look to the future, the needs of our parish will continue to evolve. A well-funded endowment allows us to maintain our facilities, support our ministries, and provide for unexpected expenses. It is an investment in the long-term sustainability of our faith community and ensures that future generations will have a strong foundation on which to build.

A Call to Our Retirement-Age Parishioners

If you are at or nearing retirement age, we encourage you to consider including St. Charles Parish in

your financial planning. When meeting with your financial advisors, attorneys, or estate planners, please remember to ask about ways you can contribute to our endowment. Whether through a bequest in your will, a charitable trust, or designating the parish as a beneficiary of your retirement account, your gift can leave a lasting impact.

How You Can Help

Discuss with Your Advisor – Speak with your financial or legal professional about planned giving options that can benefit both your estate and the parish.

Consider a Bequest – A simple way to support the endowment is by naming St. Charles Parish in your will.

IRA & Retirement Accounts – You can designate the parish as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement accounts.

Gifts of Stock or Property – Donating appreciated assets may offer tax benefits while supporting the endowment.

By planning today, we can ensure that St. Charles Parish remains a place of faith, worship, and community for generations to come. If you would like more information on how to contribute to our endowment, please contact the parish office.

Supporting the Future Through Our Visitation Campaign

With your generous support, we have made significant progress on essential projects, including the completion of window repairs, interior upgrades, and Phase I

of the concrete replacement surrounding the church. Now, we turn our attention to the next phase of improvements, focusing on key initiatives:

Concrete Phase 2: Continuing the vital replacement of aging sidewalks and concrete surfaces around the church and school to ensure safety and accessibility for all.

Entryway Updates and Design Planning: Enhancing the church entryways to create a more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing entrance.

Asphalt Sealing of the Parking Lot: Extending the lifespan of our parking surfaces to maintain a well-kept exterior.

Additionally, the new elevator project is progressing well, with installation anticipated in 2026. Thanks to the generous contributions from the Living Christ Campaign, much of the funding is secured. However, resources from the Visitation Fund remain essential to address any unforeseen contingencies and necessary drainage work connected to the project.

Your continued support through the Visitation Campaign and endowment contributions allows us to invest in the future of St. Charles Parish. If you would like more information regarding endowment donations, feel free to call the parish office or email me at campbellstcharleslima.org. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and commitment to building our foundation for the future.

Online Giving

It's safe,
It's Easy,
It's Convenient, and
It helps St. Charles Save Money



Sign up today by visiting
stcharleslima.org
and clicking on the
Online Giving icon or QR code below.



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

PARISH INFORMATION

The various activities and ministries of the parish will be posted to our parish website at stcharleslima.org and to social media. Our FaceBook page is St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church-Lima

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

St. Charles Men's March Weekend Retreat

Theme: "Here I Am, Lord"

By J.J. Sreenan

Over the course of a powerful and spirit-filled weekend, 32 men from St. Charles Parish gathered to retreat from the noise of the world and draw nearer to the voice of God. Centered on the theme "*Here I Am, Lord*," the weekend offered a meaningful blend of prayer, reflection, fellowship, and honest conversation about faith and discipleship.

The retreat featured six thoughtfully prepared sessions, each one diving into a distinct facet of the Christian journey. The weekend opened with "*A God-Sized Hole*," a call to examine the deep ache in every human heart that only God can fill. "*Finding God in Prayer*" reintroduced the beauty of silence and the personal nature of prayer, encouraging men to carve out time for stillness in their daily lives. In "*Growing Closer through Community*," the importance of brotherhood was brought into focus, affirming that men are not meant to walk this faith journey alone. "*The More We Know, The More We Can Love Him*" challenged attendees to go deeper in learning the faith—not for head knowledge alone, but to stir the heart and love God more fully. "*Ragamuffins*" followed—a raw, grace-filled look at our shared brokenness and the radical mercy of God that invites even the messiest among us into intimate relationship with Him. Finally, "*The Cost of Discipleship*" closed

the series with a firm but loving charge: following Christ demands something of us, and that "yes" is always worth it. Each talk was followed by small group discussion, where men engaged in honest, encouraging, and meaningful conversations about their faith. Many men shared deeply, offering testimonies, struggles, and insights that made it clear the Holy Spirit was very much at work.

simply sitting in stillness, each man was given space to process the weekend and hear God's voice in a personal way. The weekend also included opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, quiet Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Mass—reminding all in attendance of the centrality of Christ in their lives and in their brotherhood.

One participant shared, "*Each session I found quite uplifting and gave me some very much needed spiritual food for thought.*" Another remarked, "*From the excellent preparation and planning, to the serene setting of Maria Stein, and the sincere sharing of the presenters, 'Here I am Lord' was a landmark event in my spiritual journey.*" And perhaps summing up the experience in true Catholic guy fashion, one man added, "*Plenty of good food, great talks, and awesome men! I slept great in my own room!*" Saturday evening offered a joyful culmination of the weekend's spiritual depth: a bonfire

under the stars, good beverages in hand, and the laughter and camaraderie of men rediscovering the strength of community. Bonds were renewed, new friendships sparked, and the atmosphere was one of gratitude and grace.

The Holy Spirit clearly showed up—and so did the men, responding with open hearts and a resounding, "Here I am, Lord."



Time for personal prayer and reflection was intentionally built into the schedule, much of it inspired by the *Walk to Emmaus* gospel passage. Like the disciples on the road, the men were invited to recognize Christ walking beside them in their own stories—sometimes unnoticed at first, but always present. Whether journaling, walking alone in silence, visiting the relic chapel, or

FR. KENT - from page 1

Here at St. Charles, we reserve the oils in our ambry which is located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The three oils are placed in crystal jars which are placed in shelves directly opposite the tabernacle.

This year, the Sacred Chrism bears special significance for us at St. Charles. Bishop Thomas will use this oil on Saturday, May 24, when he ordains our three new priests including Fr. Kevin McGraw, who grew up here at St. Charles and whose parents are still parishioners.

I have discovered that many of our parishioners here in Lima have never had the opportunity to visit and pray in our cathedral. I hope that you will consider the opportunity of this upcoming ordination to connect better with our diocesan Church. You can read about all of the details elsewhere in this issue—including a free bus ride there and back! Oh yes, and the reception to follow that will be a free lunch!

Even better, let's make every effort to help Kevin celebrate not only with his family and friends, but our entire parish family at his first Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 25! **This Mass will begin at 10:00 a.m.** in order to better accommodate the other two newly ordained priests who will be celebrating their first Masses at noon and 3:00 p.m. in the nearby communities of Bluffton and Glandorf.



Most importantly, let's hold in our prayer all who will be receiving sacraments with these new oils—whether they are infirmed, or preparing for baptism or celebrating Baptism, Confirmation, or Holy Orders.

Fr. Kent

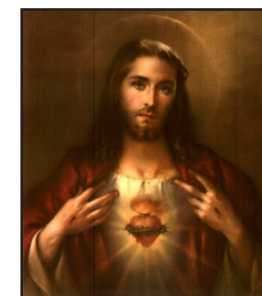
May 2025 Month of Our Lady

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.



June 2025 Month of the Sacred Heart

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer You this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.





JEREMY HOLLIS

Director of Youth Discipleship
and Evangelization

Congratulations to all of our 8th graders who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, a true milestone in their journey of faith. After months (or even years) of preparation, prayer, and reflection, each of you stood before the bishop and the Church and were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. But what now?

Confirmation is not a graduation; it is a commissioning. You were anointed with sacred chrism, the same holy oil used to ordain priests and consecrate altars. Why? Because you are now set apart, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and sent into the world to live and defend the Catholic faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: "It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost" (CCC 1302).

In other words, what happened to the apostles in the upper room at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) has now happened to you. The same Spirit that gave them courage, wisdom, and strength now dwells in you in a new and powerful way.

At Confirmation, you received the fullness of the Holy Spirit and His seven sanctifying gifts:

Wisdom – to see things from God's perspective.

Understanding – to grasp the truths of the faith more deeply.

Counsel (Right Judgment) – to discern God's will in difficult situations.

Confirmed in Christ: What Comes Next?

Fortitude (Courage) – to stand firm in faith, even when it's hard.

Knowledge – to know how to live as a disciple of Christ.

Piety (Reverence) – to worship God with love and devotion.

Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe) – to recognize God's greatness and avoid offending Him.

These gifts are not abstract ideas, they are spiritual tools meant to be used in your daily life. Like muscles, they grow stronger the more you exercise them.

your faith at school, on social media, in your friendships, and even when no one is watching. You may be the only Gospel someone reads today.

Jesus did not call us to be passive spectators. He said, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8). That word "witness" in Greek is *martys*, from which we get the word martyr. You are now a witness to Christ: in your words, your actions, and your love.

Don't wait for the Church to give you permission to serve; Confirmation *was* your permission. Get involved in our parish. Volunteer. Join a ministry. Pray regularly. Read Scripture. Learn the teachings of the Church. And if you fall, go to Confession and start again.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is not a one-time gift. He remains with you, guiding, comforting, and strengthening you every day. Stay close to the Eucharist, your weekly (or daily) source of grace. Build friendships with other Catholics who are serious about their faith. And don't be afraid to ask questions. The saints weren't born holy, they became holy by seeking Christ daily.

Confirmation is not the end of your spiritual journey; it's a bold beginning. As St. John Paul II once said: "Do not be afraid to be saints. Follow Jesus Christ, who is the source of freedom and light. Be open to the Lord so that He may lighten all your ways."



The early Church Fathers often described the confirmed Christian as a *miles Christi*, a soldier for Christ. St. Cyril of Jerusalem, writing in the 4th century, said: "You are called a Christian; be true to your name... Having been anointed with the chrism, you now share in Christ's mission."

This doesn't mean you go looking for arguments. It means you live with conviction. It means standing up for

You have been sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. You belong to Christ forever. Now go and live as a witness to the world.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Needed

Our parish relies on the help of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion both at Mass and also in bringing Holy Communion to those confined to their homes or living in area care facilities. Is God calling you to offer yourself for this ministry?

Deacon Fred will be offering a formation session for those interested in ministry as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on Thursday, May 29, 2025 in the Church. He will cover Eucharistic theology and the procedures for ministering the sacrament. Commissioning will take place at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday, June 8, 2025

To register for this ministry, just contact our Parish Office!



Memorial Day Mass
Monday, May 26th, 11:30 a.m.
Sponsored by
Chiles Laman Funeral Home and
Cremation Services
2001 Spencerville Road
Lima, Ohio 45805

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.



MELODY KEARNS
Family Formation Coordinator

Family Formation spent some time to prepare for our Lenten Season. We read Mathew 6: 1-6 to begin our discussion of what Jesus was asking us to do? The reading encouraged the children not to boast or brag about themselves when giving to the poor, praying for others, and fasting. The children recognized we were supposed to do these things with a genuine heart while not looking to impress others.

The children were given papers to take home so they could work with their parents on what each wanted to do or give up for Lent. Of course, since we deal with grades K-5, adjustments were made according to grade level. Next, the families and the children created their own **"Our Family Lent Jars."** Each jar had 20 pre-made items inside and the families created another twenty things each could do for one day in Lent. Parents and children were very creative with their ideas and tasks. Every family left with 40 hearts in their jars which allowed the children to take turns each day of Lent to draw a task from the jar involving prayer, fasting, or almsgiving. Some examples were: Take time to pray for someone you really do not like, Jesus did many difficult things – today give up sweets, pack your lunch and save the money to give to the church offertory basket, or Go to Ash Wednesday Mass. Family Formation hopes your Lenten Journey was successful and has helped you drawn closer to Jesus!

March 2nd, Frank Kill presented the parents with information on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All of the information he presented encouraged parents to go to confession with their children regularly and receive the grace given so generously by Jesus. He also told the parents how encouraged he was to see so many in attendance. Frank told them their children would not forget them being present for their formation. Frank kept his presenta-

Reconciliation, Lent, and Holy Week

tion down to earth and spoke to them as a parent himself. Frank reminded us that Reconciliation also helps to strengthen us from temptation to sin. He even included a demonstration.

Our 4th and 5th grade students led the other children in the Stations of the Cross. They used the book, *I Pray the Stations of the Cross*, from Pauline Kids. The older children did a beautiful job leading the Stations of the Cross. We then completed a Lectio Divina using material from, *Stay with Me* by Catholic Sprouts. Even though



4th and 5th grade children leading the Stations of the Cross.

this Lenten Devotional is for older kids, it provided perfect information about Jesus' first hour and a half at the Last Supper. The children listened attentively as I recalled the story. We then read John 14: 31-35 in our bibles 3 times. The students were then instructed to write down a word that captured their thoughts. They could use a phrase, or they could draw a picture. Children could share what they had put on paper with the group if they

desired. The Lectio Divina was a success as all of the children's words, phrases or drawings were right on target! My hope is to enable parents to be comfortable using this tradition of praying holy scripture.

I did not realize how competitive the parents were until we began the game with nearly 100% participation. Everyone enjoyed the Kahoot! Following the Kahoot, Emily's presentation demonstrated how we live out Holy Week through the lens of the liturgy. She included pictures of our own church so parents could visualize each element presented. Parents were encouraged to attend the Chrism Mass at the Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, especially if they have not attended before. We were also reminded of Pope Francis words, **"Easter belongs to Christ. Moreover, it is good for us to ask for the grace to be ever more His disciples, allowing Him to be the one to show us the way we should follow."**

Family Formation plans to attend the Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour and spend time with Jesus!



W.O.G. Log Winners for February are Norah Jones, 2nd grade and Maddie Froehlich 5th grade.



March W.O.G. Log Winners are a sister/brother combo. Maddie Froehlich, 5th grade and Benjamin Froehlich, 3rd grade.



CHRIS JONES
Coordinator of Outreach and Hospitality

On Saturday, April 5th our adult OCIA elect and candidates completed their initiation on retreat here at St. Charles. For the candidates already baptized, the retreat provided the context for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The elect (unbaptized) had their sins remitted through their Baptism at the Easter Vigil on April 19. They had time for fellowship, studying the Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Penance, and Examination of Conscience as well as thoughtful individual prayer. They learned about prayer as a gift, prayer as a covenant, and prayer as communion. As the group continued with their journey to full communion, the faithful were asked to keep them in their prayers. Please welcome these OCIA elect and candidates when you see them at Mass! Thank you.

Adult OCIA Elect and Candidates

Olivia Stolly

Hi! My name is Olivia Stolly. I am married to my wonderful husband, Ben, and have three kids (Mason-6, Beckham-2, Hayden- 6 months). I am so grateful to be able to go through the OCIA process and look forward to diving deeper into my faith.

Kathy Stahler

I am married to Nathan Stahler and we have two kids, Levi (2 1/2) and Edee (4 months). We usually attend 8am mass, I'm sure you hear our children! I have worked for Superior Credit Union & its affiliates going on 19 years, currently at Superior PLUS Realtors. I have had my real estate license since 2005 but did not actively practice since I was also a mortgage loan originator. I have enjoyed attending Mass and the OCIA program at St Charles, as well as meeting and getting to know everyone!

Sydni Paniagua

I discovered my place within the Catholic Church. Becoming a member has provided me with comfort, direction, and enriched my spiritual journey, not only for myself but my children as well.

Kirk Niemeyer

My name is Kirk Niemeyer and I am very excited to offi-

cially become part of the Catholic community I've known since marrying my lovely wife Tami in 2000. We started attending St. Charles church in 2002 after moving back to northwest Ohio for work and to be closer to our families. Our two children, Nate and Annika, have been truly blessed with a Catholic education at St. Charles and LCC. I look forward to continuing my faith journey here at St. Charles.

Cody Smith

I am from Lima, OH and grew up Methodist. I was introduced to Catholicism by my wife Missy. We have three children, Cameron, Peyton, and Carson. We typically attend 8 a.m. Mass and sit in the St Charles section. I am excited to continue the Catholic journey and officially become a member of the Catholic church.

Isaac Tavernier

Issac was born in Fairbanks, Alaska and moved to Lima in August of 2024. He is currently a student at UNOH studying with the automotive program. He grew up with grandparents who are Catholic and this sparked his interest to learn more about the faith and become a member of the Catholic church.



EMILY NIESE

Director of Liturgical
Music Ministries

What comes to mind when you consider your vocation? Do you see your vocation as an emblem of hope that God is providing for this world and his people?

I know I never quite considered vocation this way, until a good friend pointed out this definition to me as described in Pope Francis's Message for the 62nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. World Day of Prayer for Vocations falls on the same day as Mother's Day this year - May 11th.

Speaking through the lens of the Jubilee year theme - Pilgrims of Hope - Pope Francis emphasizes that every vocation in the Church (and that person's "yes" to their vocation), "is a sign of hope that God has for this world and for each of his children," making each of us living out our vocation a pilgrim of this hope, "generously offering [our] lives as a gift." I hope that you may read the entire message from Pope Francis, only about two pages long (linked below), but I will elaborate on a few of his points here.

Pope Francis states, "Every vocation is inspired by hope, marked by confident trust in God's providence. For Christians, hope is more than mere human optimism: it is a certainty based on our faith in God... [who] at every step accompanies those who entrust their lives to him." Pope Francis continues, "the world pushes you to make hasty decisions and bombards you with a constant blare that prevents you from experiencing a silence that is open to God who speaks to the heart. Have the courage to pause, to listen to what your heart tells you, and to ask God about his dreams for you." Notice how the Pope encourages us to pray, asking God to reveal his dreams *for* us. Oftentimes, we may fall into the habit of asking God, "What do you want *of* me?" But that prayer can unintentionally transform God into a taskmaster, asking

things *of* us, without the emphasis of his care *for* us, leading to our losing trust that we are anything more than his "workers" in the vineyard. Rather, the Lord reminds us that we are his beloved sons and daughters. We are even his friends - "I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends," (John 15:15). Knowing that our God desires our vocation *for* us and not just *of* us, is crucial to having an open heart to hear his voice and freely discern his will for our lives. Pope Francis also emphasizes asking God about



his *dreams* for us. Encounter School of Ministry (based in Brighton, MI), introduces the concept of a "kingdom dream," defined as a dream that *arises from* our deep intimacy with God and is of such goodness and ambition that *we cannot accomplish it* without the grace and power of God to aid us. I am convinced that each of us has a kingdom dream, and that our vocation aligns with it.

Pope Francis refers to "the heart" six different times throughout his message, and how the heart plays such a significant role in a person perceiving their

vocation. Paragraph 2563 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the human heart as, "our hidden center, *beyond the grasp of our reason and of others*; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully." This is one of my favorite paragraphs of the Catechism. Speaking from the path that led to my coming to St. Charles, it was the conviction of my *heart* just as described by the catechism. A conviction that exceeded my own and others' reasoning. A conviction that God alone could provide and fully understand. A conviction that for some unrecognizable reason brought unprecedented hope to my journey. A journey that was clear would demand my full reliance on the Lord's providence (and still does) - it was my kingdom dream. I pray for each of you, that you may enter into the depths of your own heart, where intimacy with our Lord abides, and hope is alive. I pray that you may seek there, the kingdom dream he has planted in your heart, or maybe that is already growing there, and then join with our God in continuing the good work he has begun in you - the work of your vocation.

Link to Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/vocations/documents/20250319-messaggio-62-gm-vocazioni.html>

NEW PARISHIONERS

Aaron & Lia Lee
Jeremiah & Theresa Grades
Dane Querry
Christine Jimenez-Medina
Stephen & Susan Francis
James & Connie Minnick

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Jett Thomas Torres
Mariella Jay Saine
Briggs Michael McKinley
Fanella Belle Jean Francois

IN MEMORIAM

Clarence (Jim) Snook
Carl Seech
Beverly Schlagbaum
Sylvan Essick
Mary Jo Klocinski

Walking with Purpose and Blaze

By Jeanna Stallkamp

In March, the Walking with Purpose ladies had their last Connect Coffee of the season. We will start back up in the fall with Grounded in Hope and Opening Your Heart. Blaze Belong also finished up March 10th. Thank you so much to all of the volunteers that make Walking with Purpose, Blaze, and the Blessing Bag Ministry possible at St. Charles. You are making a difference in the spiritual lives of all ages.





The Redwing Reader

St. Charles Catholic School



MEGAN SCHEID

Principal

As the 2024-2025 school year draws to a close, it is once again a time for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. This academic year has brought its share of challenges and triumphs, and I am incredibly proud of our school community for the perseverance, growth, and faith-filled spirit you have shown throughout.

Academic Updates:

As we approach the end of the school year, we are especially proud of the progress our students have made in improving their reading skills. Throughout the year, our teachers have worked intentionally with students to help them set personal reading goals and develop the habits and strategies needed to become confident, thoughtful readers. By fostering a love of reading and helping students reflect on their growth, we are building a strong foundation for lifelong learning. While the school year is winding down, learning should never stop! We strongly encourage families to make reading and skill practice a part of their summer routine. Consistent practice, even just a little each day, can prevent the “summer slide” — the learning loss that can occur during long breaks. Whether it’s through visiting the library, participating in a summer reading program, or setting small family learning goals, keeping young minds engaged during the summer months will ensure that students return in the fall ready to succeed.

Faith and Service:

Our Catholic faith continues to be the guiding light in all that we do. As we move through the season of Easter, we are reminded of the message of hope, renewal, and unconditional love that the Resurrection offers. Throughout the year, our students have actively participated in service projects, living out the values of compassion and empathy. These acts of service reflect the heart of our mission, and we pray that

the lessons of kindness and community remain with them always.

Upcoming Events:

May Crowning:

We will honor the Blessed Virgin Mary with our cherished May Crowning ceremony on May 2nd. This beautiful tradition reminds us of Mary’s enduring example of humility, devotion, and grace.

Graduation Ceremony:

We look forward to honoring the St. Charles Class of 2025 during our graduation ceremony on May 21st at 6:30 p.m. As we send our 8th-grade graduates forward, we do so with pride and prayers for the bright futures that await them.

Last Day of School:

The last day of school will be May 22nd. We invite the entire school community to join us for our traditional End-of-Year Closing Mass and Awards Ceremony. The day will begin with Mass, giving thanks for the blessings of the school year, followed by a ceremony recognizing student and staff achievements in academics, leadership, service, and more.



Positive Addiction Week:

Scheduled for May 5–9, Positive Addiction Week continues to be a highlight in our school calendar. Originating here at St. Charles in 1983, this tradition celebrates its 42nd year of promoting health, wellness, and wise choices. Students will take part in workshops focused on drug awareness, alcohol education, and mental health, with targeted sessions for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The week will conclude with our beloved 5K race, uniting the Lima Catholic CommUNITY on May 9th.

First Holy Communion:

Our second graders have been faithfully preparing to receive their First Holy Communion, which will be held on Sunday, May 4th at 1:00 p.m. This sacred milestone marks a meaningful step in their faith journey, and we are deeply grateful to our dedicated teachers and catechists who have guided them along the way.

Field Day:

On May 16th, our Parent Task Force will host Field Day to celebrate another successful school year. This much-anticipated event promises a day of fun, fellowship, and school spirit as students come together to reflect on the joys of learning and friendship.

Parental Involvement:

We are profoundly grateful for the commitment and energy of our parents and guardians, especially those who participate in the Parent Task Force. Events like the father/daughter and mother/son nights, Trunk or Treat, the Santa Social, and Field Day would not be possible without your involvement and support. We are especially grateful to April Sroufe for all of her work in getting the program up and running. As we look toward the 2025-2026 school year, we warmly invite new and returning parents to consider joining this vital group. For more information, please contact Ashley Blake at ashley.blake@cityhall.lima.oh.us or Kelly Gossard at kellygossard0912@gmail.com.

Closing Thoughts:

As we prepare to close this school year, let us give thanks for the lessons learned, the friendships formed, and the growth we’ve witnessed in every student. May the coming summer months be filled with rest, family, laughter, and new adventures. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being part of our St. Charles family. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones abundantly.

Fourth Grade Has Been Busy!!!

By Ariel Ketchum

Winan's Chocolate Company Visits Fourth Graders for a Sweet End to Their Roald Dahl Unit

As part of their culminating activity for the Roald Dahl unit, the St. Charles fourth graders had the sweet privilege of hosting a visit from Winan's, our beloved local chocolate company. The kids had spent weeks reading Roald Dahl's classic story *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and to wrap up the unit, Winan's brought the magic of a real-life chocolate factory straight to their classroom. Though the students couldn't take a physical tour of the Winan's factory, the talented team at the company made sure to bring the experience to them with a fun and interactive virtual tour.

The workers explained the chocolate-making process, sharing insights about everything from selecting cocoa beans to crafting the perfect bar of chocolate. The kids were captivated by the details, fascinated by how chocolate is transformed into their favorite treats.

But the real treat was the enormous array of chocolate samples the Winan's team brought along. Each student got to taste a variety of decadent chocolates, from the deepest rich dark chocolate to the creamy milk chocolate. The room was filled with happy smiles as the kids

delighted in each bite, discovering new flavors and learning more about the artistry of chocolate-making.

As a special surprise, Winan's also donated a jaw-dropping 4-foot-tall, 20-pound chocolate bunny named Max to the class. Max became the centerpiece of the day, and the kids couldn't believe their eyes! To make the gift even more special, the chocolate bunny is being raffled off to raise money for field trips at St. Charles School.

The visit was the perfect way to end the unit, bringing the magic of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to life in a way that no textbook or movie could. The fourth graders learned about the fascinating world of a real

chocolate factory, and they became big fans of Winan's chocolate in the process. Not only did they deepen their understanding of chocolate-making but they also experienced firsthand the generosity of a local business committed to supporting their community.

With full bellies, big smiles, and Max the chocolate bunny in their sights, the St. Charles fourth graders are feeling inspired and connected to both the story they loved and the community they are a part of. It was truly a sweet and memorable day!



Lima Symphony Orchestra Visits Fourth Grade Class with a Blind Pianist

Recently, the 4th graders at St. Charles Catholic School had the unique opportunity to attend a presentation by the Lima Symphony Orchestra's conductor, Andrew Crust. The kids were so pleased to have him visit



and that he brought a special guest along—a talented blind pianist named David Lai. This incredible visit not only introduced the students to the world of classical music but also demonstrated the power of perseverance and passion in the face of challenges.

The students were amazed as the David, who has been performing professionally for years, played a selection of beautiful pieces on the piano. Through the performance, the pianist shared how they navigate the world of music without sight, using memory, touch, and an incredible sense of sound to create beautiful melodies.

One of the most exciting parts of the visit came when the pianist invited the students to interact with him and help him create music. David invited the kids to join in the performance by playing the black keys on the piano as he performed a melody on the white keys. The students were thrilled to experience how music can be a collaborative, creative process, with everyone adding their own touch to the performance.

Together, Andrew and David explained the various parts of a grand piano and how each part contributes to creating a complex musical piece. The kids were excited to learn about the different parts of the piano and had the chance to ask questions about music, performance, and the life of a professional musician.

This visit not only sparked the students' interest in music but also taught them a valuable lesson about overcoming obstacles and following your dreams, no matter the challenges you may face. It was a memorable day blending education, inspiration, and the magic of music!

Fourth Graders Bring Joy to Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

On March 21st, a group of enthusiastic fourth-grade students went on a heartwarming field trip to *Our Daily Bread*, a local soup kitchen dedicated to providing meals for those in need. The students didn't just visit—they rolled up their sleeves, got their hands dirty, and made a real difference in their community.

Upon arriving at the center, the fourth graders were excited to learn about the work that goes into feeding the homeless. They were quickly put to work, helping prepare a delicious meal. One of the first tasks was brushing BBQ sauce onto chicken, making it flavorful and ready to cook. The students worked together, ensuring every piece of chicken was perfectly coated. Their teamwork was a true reflection of how they were coming together to help others.

In addition to preparing the meal, the students also got involved in washing and drying dishes, ensuring that the kitchen remained clean and organized as they worked. After the meal was cooked, the kids helped to

make homemade potato chips, adding a personal touch to the meal they were preparing for others. Their excitement was contagious as they helped prepare this special treat, which would bring comfort to those who had little.

Once the meal was ready, the students took on the important role of distributing meals to the homeless guests who had gathered at *Our Daily Bread*. With smiling faces, the students served the hot, home-cooked meals, greeting each guest with kindness and warmth. Many of the people they served were moved by the students' genuine care and compassion, and the atmosphere in the center was filled with a sense of community and gratitude.

In addition to the meal prep and service, the students also made a special donation to the center. They donated over 40 birthday party kits, each filled with decorations, cake mix, candles, and other supplies necessary to throw a memorable birthday celebration. This thoughtful gift will ensure that regular visitors at *Our Daily Bread* can be celebrated on their birthdays, even when they may not have the means to do so themselves. The students' generosity brought an extra layer of joy to the center, making the celebration of life feel even more special.

The experience left a lasting impression on the students, who not only learned about the challenges faced by the homeless, but also saw firsthand the positive impact of giving back. Their efforts brought so much joy to the center, showing them the power of kindness and the importance of helping those in need.



As they left *Our Daily Bread*, the students carried with them the lessons of empathy, teamwork, and community service, making this field trip an unforgettable experience that they will remember for years to come.

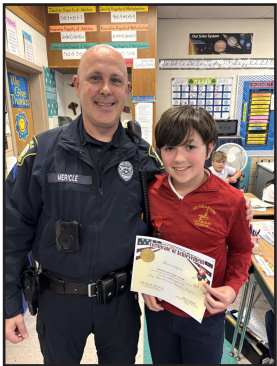


Exciting Times in Fifth Grade: A Look at Our Busy Classroom!

By Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Bollinger

This has been an exciting and eventful time for the fifth graders, with a lot happening across all subjects! From writing essays to exploring history, and preparing for field trips and fun runs, there's never a dull moment in our classrooms.

One of the highlights of our recent activities was the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, where our fifth graders worked hard on writing essays about the lessons they learned throughout the program.



Connor Sroufe



Orion Turner

Each class had a winner, with Connor Sroufe and Orion Turner earning top honors for their essays. But the excitement didn't stop there for Orion! He was chosen as the school winner and got the special opportunity to go out to eat with the DARE officers and other winners from local schools. It was a proud moment for our classes and a great way to celebrate Orion's achievement!

In our Social Studies classes, we've just wrapped up an exciting unit on the American Revolution. Students have been diving deep into the history of this important event, learning about the brave figures and key battles that shaped our nation's past. It's been an enriching experience, and many students have developed

a greater appreciation for the historical foundations of the United States.

In Language Arts, we are currently enjoying the novel *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls. This heartwarming story about a young boy and his two beloved dogs has captured the hearts of our fifth graders. It's been an enjoyable and thought-provoking read that brings out lots of emotion and reflection.

In Math, we've made great progress! We can now confidently add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions. The students have worked hard to master these important skills, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they tackle more complex math problems. The hard work is paying off, and students are feeling more and more successful with every lesson.

Our fifth graders are looking forward to an upcoming field trip to the Mazza Museum at Findlay College. This museum, known for its collection of children's book illustrations, will give students a chance to explore art and creativity in a unique way. We can't wait to see how the experience inspires our students and expands their understanding of art and literature!

In Physical Education, the students are getting ready for Positive Addiction Week, and a big part of that is training for the one-mile fun run. It's a great way to encourage fitness, perseverance, and teamwork. The students are excited about this challenge and are working hard to improve their endurance and speed as they prepare for the run.

With all of these exciting activities, our fifth graders have a lot to look forward to in the coming weeks. Between celebrating achievements, diving into new subjects, and gearing up for field trips and fun runs, it's clear that this school year is shaping up to be one full of learning, growth, and fun. We can't wait to see what's next!

From the Art Room

By Becky MacDonald



Blythe and Theo, both kindergarten students, are working on their colorful Easter crosses in the art room.



Second grade art students, Vivian, Justin, and Rose, display their artwork. The art projects will be featured in the St. Charles Spring Art Show on May 7th starting at 6 p.m. at school.



delayed by two days. We were blessed to welcome eight chicks! This was a wonderful opportunity to care for God's creation! The third grade spent two days caring for the chicks and enjoying how they change from day to day. Getting the chance to watch a chick hatch from an egg is something the students will never forget.

Spring Means New Life

By Laura Knarr

Hatching chicken eggs in the classroom is a fantastic and educational experience that can spark curiosity and excitement among students. The third grade partnered with the OSU Extension Office to bring in chicken eggs to incubate. After twenty-one days, the eggs hatch. This year, our incubator didn't seem to keep up and the hatching was



Josiah and Milo, second grade students, working on their cutting skills in class for a snowflake project.

Fifth Grade Trip to Mazza Museum

By Becky MacDonald

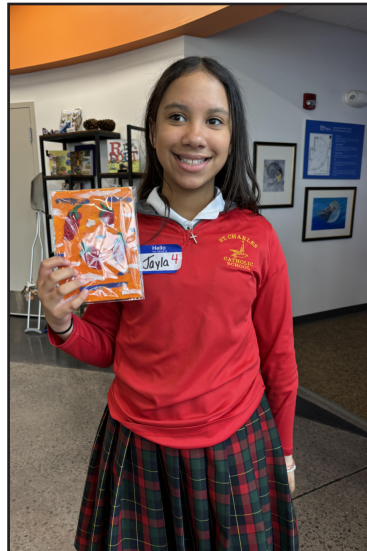
On Friday, April 11th, the Fifth-grade class, along with their teachers Mrs. Bollinger, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. MacDonald took a field trip to the Mazza Museum. The trip was made possible through a



grant from the Art Study Club of Lima for students in Allen County. The Mazza Museum, located on the campus of Findlay University, is the first and largest teaching gallery specializing in original art found in children's literature.

Docents lead small groups of students through the gallery discussing the thought process of various illustrators from dummy books to published works. The students were educated on the collaborative (and sometimes not so collaborative) process between publishers, authors and illustrators. They also got to check out the paper engineering (also known as Pop-up books!) room featuring a Harry Potter Theme. The museum is home to over 2000 pieces of original artwork.

We all had an opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled bus ride, create some art in the Mazza's new STEAM room (taking part in a fun art activity involving clay painting!), eat our lunch in the common area, and finally tour the museum. The trip was unique and educational for all.



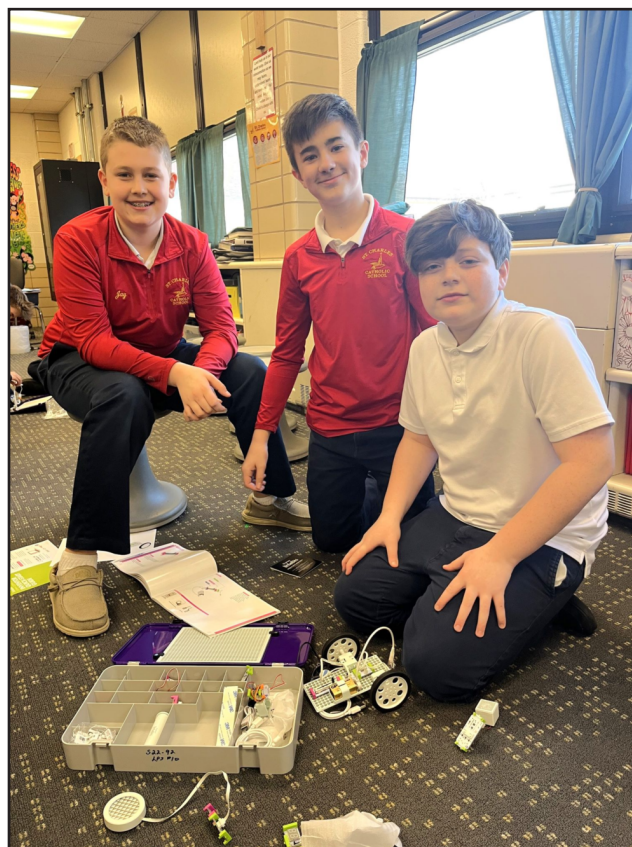
Mrs. MacDonald focused on artists and authors this year in art class like Eric Carle as a way to prepare students for our annual field trip. Thank you to Mrs. Thompson for coordinating the trip details, along with Mrs. Henderson and Mrs. Bollinger. We were happy to have this opportunity with our fifth graders and we were very proud of the way they represented our St. Charles School community.



School Librarian for a Day!

By Jen Thompson

On Thursday, April 3rd, I had the absolute privilege of hosting Ms. Kaya St. Clair for Librarian for a Day! This exciting event was won for Ms. St. Clair last year, during our school auction. She gained an insider's perspective on the daily operations of a school librarian. She learned how to process new books, became an expert in checking books in and out, and even got to do lunch duty! The day passed quickly, but it was a joy watching her share her love of books with others. Keep an eye out for future school auctions, as you may have the opportunity to offer this incredible experience to your St. Charles student.



Sixth graders Jay, Grant and Austin are working on building a moving vehicle using the part in their STEM Invention kit.



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For **THIRD QUARTER HONOR ROLL** - See page 12

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Grade 7: Olivia Barhorst, Elaine Brickner, Luke Bryan, Nicklaus Gronas, Cooper Wende
Grade 8: Addilyn Baldauf, Braylie Bensinger, Josie Declercq, Alana Hefner, Gracy Malcom, Mataya Miller, Corie Schnieders, Piper Schumm, Gwen Wolfcale

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Grade 6: Gretchen Barhorst, Reed Bell, Gaby Bryan-Lanche, Aidan Carter, Harper Fields, Sophia Mack, Corbin Sherrick, Savannah Stolly, Alec Thines, Emma Venturella, Grant Williams, Charlotte Wolford
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Grade 8: Eli Fields, Zoe Huber, Austin McCain, Reese Merschman, Hayden Nolte, Carter Pester, Jo Rogers, Sam Venturella, Luke Weitz, Landon Wilson

HONORS

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