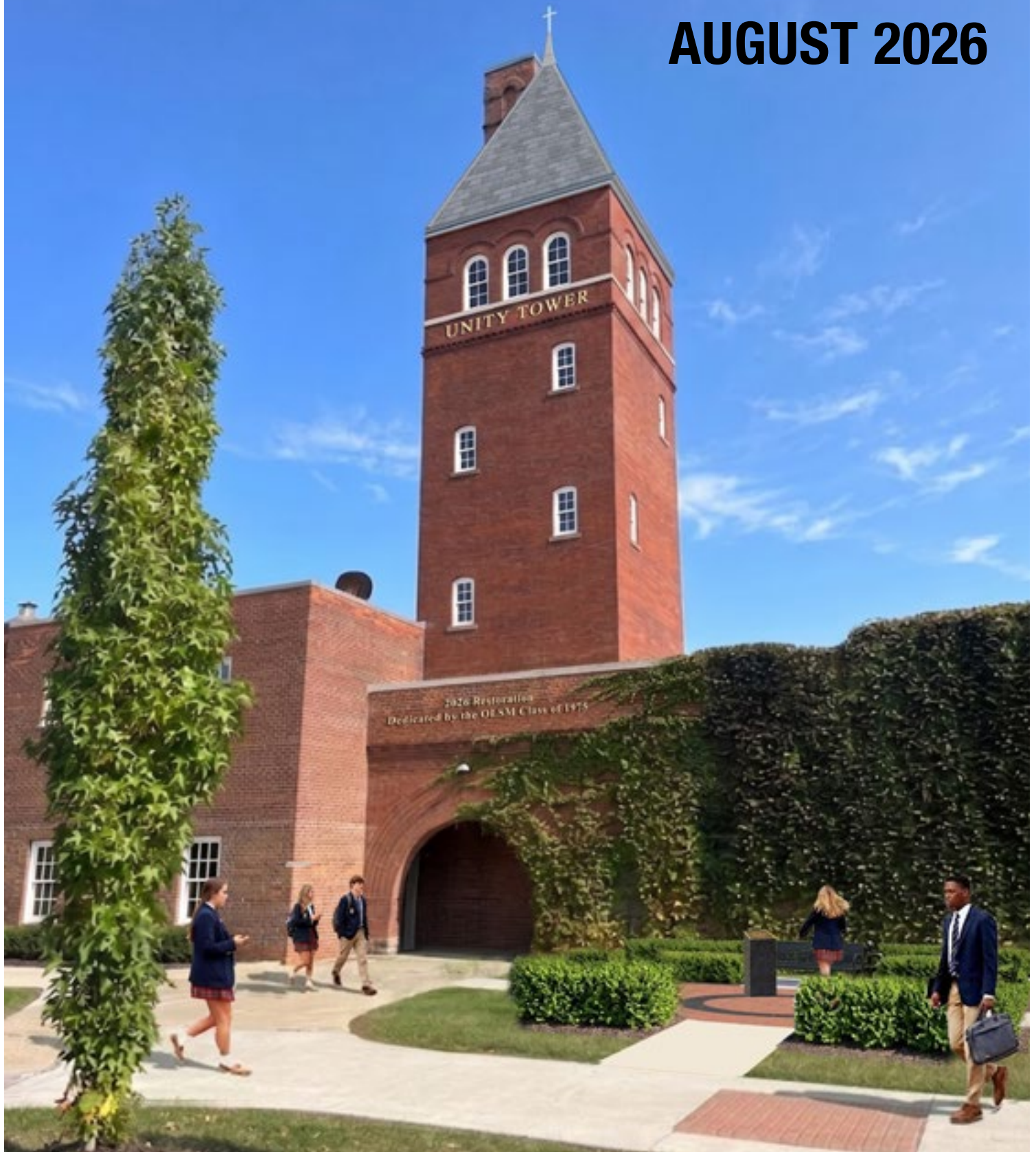


ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER ♦ ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY ♦ POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH

"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" ~ Psalm 133:1

AUGUST 2026





2026-27

The Events Guide

The OLS Development Department has put together this academic year Event Guide to introduce or reacquaint you to many of the annual events that take place in and around campus for you to experience and add to your traditions! Welcome to the Orchard Lake Schools community!

What is:

THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS?

Since 1885, the Orchard Lake Schools (OLS) has been a prestigious center of faith, education and tradition that began with the mission and vision of our founder, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski, a Polish priest. The OLS is comprised of three main institutions within its primary OLS foundation (brand), each of which helps strengthen the other.



ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY

A Catholic college preparatory school where young men and women learn to lead through service, wisdom, and courage.



ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER

Stands at the heart of campus life, uniting faith, culture, & education in the spirit of St. John Paul II, who visited campus twice during his lifetime.



POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH

Preserves the history, faith, & cultural legacy of Polish & Polish-American life, reflecting the deep roots of OLS and their enduring importance in America.



ON THE COVER

THE UNITY TOWER

The Orchard Lake Schools have embarked on the restoration of the historic campus tower, one of the institution's most recognizable landmarks. A new roof, restored windows, exterior cleaning, architectural lighting, and a new cross crowning the tower will renew this enduring symbol of Orchard Lake's rich history and Catholic faith. Upon its completion, it will be dedicated as the Unity Tower—a name inspired by the St. Mary's Preparatory Class of 1975 that celebrates the enduring bond among generations of Orchard Lake alumni and the shared responsibility each inherits to preserve this remarkable institution for those who will follow. *Please turn to page 10 to learn more.*

Follow Us

For more information, visit the OLS website at orchardlakeschools.com, follow us on social media, and look for our email news!



facebook.com/olsnews



youtube.com/@orchardlakeschools9385



instagram.com/orchardlakeschools

Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Commerce Road | Orchard Lake, MI 48324
(248) 682-1885

Campus Abbreviations

ADMIN	OLS Administration Building
ARK	The Ark Building (Classrooms; Polish Institute)
BAC	Burkacki Academic Center
CAC	Marian Hall (Classrooms)
DH	Dining Hall
LIB	Adam Cardinal Maida Alumni Library
PREP	Clarence & Lillian Constantakis Prep Classroom Building
QUAD	Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad
SMAC	St. Mary's Athletic Complex, Ice Arena, Fr. Dombrowski Fieldhouse
WOTTA	Fr. Wotta Center (Crew practice facility)

BACK-TO-SCHOOL ORIENTATION

Welcome to a new school year at Orchard Lake! Orientation events help students and families connect with our campus, meet faculty, explore traditions, discover student life, and build lasting friendships. From campus tours and parent gatherings to athletic events and community celebrations, we look forward to beginning another year of faith, learning, service, and Eaglet pride together.

Tues-Thurs.,
August
18-20

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS

Calling all alumni and your families! Kicking off **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**, this field-side food, fun and festivities in a fabulous location especially for alumni is the perfect place to watch the game! Join your fellow Eaglet alumni and catch all the Eaglet plays at Friday night home games: **SEPTEMBER 11, 18, OCTOBER 9 AND 23!** For more info, contact Alumni Relations at **(248) 830-9711** or rmazur@orchardlakeschools.com.

Friday,
September
4

POLISH 1ST SUNDAY

Join us for our Polish 1st Sunday tradition, held the first Sunday of each month (may vary due to a holiday or other celebration). Celebrate 1:00 PM Mass in the Shrine Chapel, then gather in the Dining Hall for a traditional Polish lunch (September-June; no lunch served July-August. This cherished Orchard Lake tradition brings together faith, fellowship, and Polonia. For more information, visit: www.sjp2liturgicalcenter.com

Sunday,
September
6



Saturday,
September
12

FRIENDS OF POLISH ART FINE ARTS COMPETITION

Each year, the Friends of Polish Art, in partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, invites all to experience this all visual arts media exhibition at the Galeria on campus. This juried show runs mid-September through late October.
 Learn more at: www.picrol.org

Monday,
September
14

ANNUAL ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF OUTING

Join alumni, parents, friends, and supporters for this annual St. Mary's event benefiting the Alumni Scholarship Fund and expanding opportunities for future Eaglets. New this year, teams can compete for the inaugural Team Trophy. Gather your foursome, enjoy a great day of golf, and support a meaningful tradition.
 For more information or sponsorship opportunities, visit: www.orchardlakeschools.com/2026-alumni-and-friends-golf-outi

Friday,
September
18

HOMECOMING BBQ & CORN ROAST & TAILGATE

There's so much school spirit here on campus during the daily spirit week themes that lead up to the Friday, September 18th Homecoming Football Game. Before kickoff, gather with alumni, families, students, and friends for the annual BBQ & Corn Roast Tailgate in the Dining Hall—a favorite St. Mary's tradition filled with team spirit and fellowship. www.orchardlakeschools.com/homecoming

Thursday,
October
8

ACADEMIC OPEN HOUSE

Each fall, aspiring students and their families are welcomed to campus to experience the heart of St. Mary's Preparatory, shadow with a Prep student, and learn about what it means to be men and women of St. Mary's Preparatory.
 Visit our admissions website at: www.olsmadmissions.com

Sunday,
October
11

RING DAY

Ring Day is a cherished St. Mary's tradition celebrating the Junior Class as they become the newest upperclassmen. Held separately for the Boys and Girls Divisions each October, this milestone marks their growth as Men and Women of St. Mary's and strengthens their connection to the school's enduring legacy.



THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

On October 16, 1978, white smoke from a Vatican chimney signaled to the world that we had a new pope, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, who twice visited OLS (1969 and 1976) and learned much about American Polonia and the U.S. He was inaugurated Pope John Paul II on October 22, 1978, and was the first Polish pope. A relic of St. John Paul II is enshrined in the Shrine Chapel.
 Each October, we celebrate his Feast Day with a Mass.

Saturday,
October
18

ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS DAYS

Each November, the Orchard Lake Schools community observes All Saints Day and All Souls Day through prayer and remembrance. These sacred days invite students, families, alumni, and friends to honor the saints, remember loved ones who have died, and reflect on the hope of eternal life.

Sun. & Mon.,
November
1&2

EXTRACURRICULAR OPEN HOUSE

Each fall, aspiring students and their families are welcomed to campus to experience the heart of St. Mary's Preparatory, shadow with a Prep student, and learn about what it means to be men and women of St. Mary's Preparatory. The Athletic and Extracurricular Open House offers aspiring students the opportunity to take a closer look at what it means to be an Eaglet.
 Visit our admissions website at: www.olsmadmissions.com

Sunday,
November
8



CALLING ALL PREP PARENTS!

Our OLSM families power all the good things coming out of the Moms and Dads Club – a group made just for you, our Prep parents. With the help of our parents volunteers, we support a wide variety of activities, including: Ring Day, Spirit Week, Homecoming, Class Masses, Ring Day, Staff Holiday Lunch, Teacher Appreciation Days, Senior All-Night Party, and so much more that directly impacts the students and the campus! www.mndclub.com



Join us in celebrating an OLSM Tradition!
OLSM Students & Families, Alumni & Alumni Parents



Friday, September 18 | 5-7 PM

DINING HALL

Bring your family

Don't miss the opportunity for your children or grandchildren to stand with the Eaglets on the red turf during pregame festivities.

We hope to see you there!



RELIGIOUS BOOKS
(AND SELECT RELIGIOUS ITEMS)
ON SALE.

Through August get 20% off.

248.392.9964



FIELD-SIDE FOOD, FUN & FESTIVITIES FOR ALUMNI!

Join your fellow Eaglet alumni in the designated field-side *Alumni Tent* for pregame food as well as the perfect seat to watch the big game!

Sept. 4 | OLSM vs. King

Sept. 11 | OLSM vs. St. John Jesuit

Sept. 18 | OLSM vs. St. Francis De Sales | Homecoming*

*Pregame Homecoming tailgate | Dining Hall | 5-7 PM

Oct. 9 | OLSM vs. CC

Oct. 23 | OLSM vs. U of D



For more info:

Contact Alumni Relations Officer, Robert Mazur at 248-830-9711 or rmazur@orchardlakeschools.com

POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY

We recognize Poland's National Independence Day on November 11 as the Orchard Lake Schools honors the restoration of Poland's sovereignty in 1918. This annual observance celebrates Polish heritage, remembers those who fought for freedom, and reflects the enduring cultural and historical mission of the Orchard Lake campus.

Wednesday,
November
11

JINGLE ALL THE WAY TREE LIGHTING

Kick off the Christmas season at Orchard Lake with the annual Jingle All the Way Tree Lighting. Enjoy family-friendly activities, Christmas carolers, holiday shopping, Santa, festive treats, train rides, and the ceremonial tree lighting as the campus comes together to celebrate the joy and spirit of the season (Generally, event falls on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving each year.). For more information or sponsorship opportunities, visit: www.orchardlakeschools.com/jingle-all-the-way

Sunday,
November
23

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Advent by Candlelight is a cherished Christmas tradition hosted by The Mary Project. Guests gather for Mass in the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II, followed by an evening of fellowship, beautifully decorated tables, and seasonal hospitality. This annual celebration welcomes the community to prepare hearts for the Christmas season.

Thursday,
December
3

FATHER & SON LUNCHEON

The annual Father & Son Luncheon, hosted by the St. Mary's Prep Baseball Program, brings together fathers, sons, alumni, and friends for an inspiring afternoon of fellowship and connection. Featuring a special guest speaker from the world of sports, this tradition celebrates mentorship, character, and the bonds that define the St. Mary's community.

January
February



Saturday,
February
6

PINK IN THE RINK

Pink in the Rink is an annual St. Mary's Prep Hockey tradition honoring loved ones impacted by cancer while raising awareness and support for cancer research and patient care. The event brings together students, families, and fans of hockey, remembrance, and community support benefiting the Karmanos Cancer Institute and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Thursday,
February
25

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS & NETWORKING EVENT

This event celebrates the rich connections and traditions shared by Orchard Lake Schools alumni. We come together for a strolling dinner and witness the year's junior class essay finalists as they present their heartfelt entries on the profound impact of being an Eaglet and compete for senior year scholarships. Learn more at: www.orchardlakeschools.com/alumni-scholarship-event

February
March

PACZKI DAY

Here at Orchard Lake, the Polish Institute brings in Paczki to remind everyone that on Fat Tuesday, we're all a little Polish! It's the prequel to our Lenten season leading up to Easter Sunday.

March

PISANKI WORKSHOP

The Polish Institute of Culture & Research also offers a hands-on workshop experience in the intricate art of Polish egg decorating during the Lenten season. This event always sells out, so be sure to reserve your spot early. For more information, check back at: www.picrol.org



AMBASSADORS BALL

The Ambassadors Ball is an elegant evening celebrating the mission and heritage of the Orchard Lake Schools. Held at a premier venue, this signature gala brings together an esteemed group of alumni, benefactors, and friends for fine dining, fellowship, and philanthropy that make a lasting impact on the Orchard Lake Schools in education, our Catholic faith, and Polish heritage. Learn more at: www.orchardlakeschools.com/ambassadors

Saturday,
April
24

GRADUATION

Graduation celebrates the achievements of St. Mary's Prep seniors through commencement rehearsals, class gatherings, family breakfast and brunch, separate Boys and Girls Division Commencement ceremonies, and the cherished Grotto prayer and cap toss. Together, these traditions celebrate the lifelong brotherhood and sisterhood that define the St. Mary's experience.

Sunday,
May
16

FOUNDER'S DAY

In early June, we celebrate the founder of the Orchard Lake Schools, Fr. Joseph Dabrowski, each year with golf, reunion class gatherings, Mass at the Grotto, and our Founder's, Alumni & Friends Dinner celebration and annual alumni awards. Check out our photo gallery and more at: www.orchardlakeschools.com/founder-s-day

Saturday,
June
12

SUMMER CAMPS

Orchard Lake Schools Summer Camps offer young students opportunities to learn, grow, and have fun through athletics, leadership, and enrichment programs. Open to a variety of age groups, these camps that take place June through August introduce participants to our beautiful campus while fostering friendships, confidence, and Eaglet spirit. Specialty camps featuring some of our alumni who have gone on to play college and professional sports are fantastic opportunities for aspiring athletes. Visit www.orchardlakeschools.com/summer-camps

June
July
August

Dear Fellow Eaglets,

For generations, our historic campus tower has stood as one of the most recognizable symbols of Orchard Lake Schools. Upon its restoration, it will be dedicated as the Unity Tower—a name inspired by the Class of 1975 that celebrates the enduring bond between generations of Eaglets. While every class writes its own chapter, we all share one Orchard Lake legacy.

The vision for the Unity Tower began with the generosity of a fellow alumnus who believes deeply in preserving that legacy. His hope has never been simply to restore a historic landmark, but to inspire alumni from every generation to come together in support of the place that helped shape our lives.

Rather than hearing more from me, I'd like you to hear from him.

With gratitude,

Ken Smerecki
Alumni Association President (P'63)



Dear Fellow Alumni,

Like you, I have carried Orchard Lake with me throughout my life.

Although many years have passed since graduation, I can still picture the campus that shaped so many of us—the classrooms where we learned, the chapel where we prayed, the athletic fields where lifelong friendships were formed, and the familiar silhouette of the tower standing watch over it all.

Those memories inspired me to make one of the most meaningful commitments of my life—the lead gift to begin restoring our beloved campus tower. I did so not because it is simply a historic building, but because it represents something much greater.

For generations, this landmark has quietly watched over thousands of students as they grew into people of faith, character, and service. It has witnessed friendships formed, lessons learned, and lives forever changed by Orchard Lake.

Today, it is our turn to care for it. The Unity Tower is more than a restoration project. It is a promise that the values and traditions we inherited will continue to inspire future generations of Eaglets long after we are gone.

This was never meant to be my project alone. The Unity Tower belongs to every graduate who has ever called Orchard Lake home.

Whether your gift is large or small, your participation is what matters most. Together, we can ensure that this enduring symbol continues to stand as a reminder that while each class writes its own chapter, we are all part of one lasting Orchard Lake legacy.

When the Unity Tower is dedicated, my hope is that every alumnus who helped make it possible will look upon it with quiet pride, knowing we preserved something far greater than bricks and mortar.

We preserved the place that shaped us. We strengthened it for those who will follow. I hope you'll join me.

With gratitude,

A Fellow Eaglet
CLASS OF 1975

THE UNITY TOWER RESTORATION FUND

A LANDMARK. A LEGACY. A SHARED COMMITMENT.

The Unity Tower honors every graduate of the Orchard Lake Schools. Inspired by a leadership gift from the Class of 1975 and strengthened through the support of the Orchard Lake Ambassadors, this historic restoration will preserve one of our campus's most recognizable landmarks while adding a cross that reflects the faith and mission that have guided the Orchard Lake Schools since 1885.

Join generations of Orchard Lake alumni, family, and friends in completing this lasting symbol of our shared legacy.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY

Your gift to the **Unity Tower Restoration Fund** will help preserve this historic landmark while ensuring it continues to inspire generations of Eaglets for years to come.

WAYS TO GIVE:

Scan the QR Code to make a secure online gift



Mail your gift to:

UNITY TOWER RESTORATION FUND
Orchard Lake Schools | 3535 Commerce Road
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

DONOR RECOGNITION

Every donor will be recognized as a Founding Supporter of the **Unity Tower Restoration Fund**.

Donors making a gift of \$100 or more will receive a commemorative Unity Tower baseball cap.

Donors making gifts of \$5,000 or more will also be eligible for a personalized engraved brick paver within the Unity Tower Dedication Circle, subject to design specifications and available space.

For more information, contact **Chris Czarnik**
at cczarnik@orchardlakeschools.com
or call 248-392-9267





ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY'S FOOTBALL

cordially invites you to join us for

UNIFYING CHAMPIONS



Honoring Hall of Fame Coach George Porritt

NINE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ONE BROTHERHOOD

As the 2026 Eaglets pursue a third consecutive state championship, we celebrate the generations of players, coaches, and families who built a tradition of excellence and honor Coach George Porritt for his extraordinary contributions to St. Mary's football.

This special evening will help equip the new Lillian DeRose Constantakis Center for Eaglet Student-Athletes with state-of-the-art weight room equipment while supporting the current and future needs of St. Mary's Football.

Return to the "Old Gym"

FR. RAKOCZY GYMNASIUM

Saturday, August 22 | 6 PM

COCKTAIL RECEPTION | SILENT AUCTION | DINNER | OPEN BAR

Tickets: \$150



SUMMER COCKTAIL ATTIRE

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE
RSVP BY AUGUST 11
SCAN CODE TO REGISTER



THE MARY PROJECT

AT ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

Please visit and enjoy the NEW

WALKING ROSARY AND REFLECTION AREA

in the Marian Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Mary's Preparatory.

**WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS TO HELP DEFRAY
THE COST OF THIS ADDITION TO THE GROTTO.**



3 WAYS TO DONATE:

1. **PURCHASE A BRICK PAVER.** Order forms are available at the gate, by scanning the QR code, or online at www.orchardlakeschools.com/ways-to-give
2. **LEAVE A DONATION** in the donation box at the Grotto inside the candle area.
3. **MAIL A CHECK** (payable to The Mary Project) to:
The Mary Project | 3535 Commerce Road | Orchard Lake, MI 48324



SCAN CODE

For naming opportunities, please contact Maureen Gross at
themaryproject@myyahoo.com.

All donations are tax deductible. EIN: 82-5453994

REFLECTION

BY FR. BERNARD WITEK
DIRECTOR | ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER

Each year on August 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. It commemorates the biblical event when Jesus Christ revealed his divine glory to the Apostles Peter, James, and John on a high mountain. The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain,

and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white. Tradition names Mount Tabor as the site of the revelation. A church first raised there in the fourth century was dedicated on August 6. A feast in honor of the Transfiguration was celebrated in the Eastern Church from about that time. Western observance began in some localities about the eighth century. Here is the address of St. John Paul II delivered on August 6, 1999, during the commemorative Mass for Pope Paul VI

In the Words of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Today, the Eucharist which we are preparing to celebrate takes us in spirit to Mount Tabor together with the Apostles Peter, James and John, to admire in rapture the splendour of the transfigured Lord. In the event of the Transfiguration we contemplate the mysterious encounter between history, which is being built every day, and the blessed inheritance that awaits us in heaven in full union with Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

We, pilgrims on earth, are granted to rejoice in the company of the transfigured Lord when we immerse ourselves in the things of above through prayer and the celebration of the divine mysteries. But, like the disciples, we too must descend from Tabor into daily life where human events challenge our faith. On the mountain we saw; on the paths of life we are asked tirelessly to proclaim the Gospel which illuminates the steps of believers.

This deep spiritual conviction guided the whole ecclesial mission of my venerable Predecessor, the Servant of God Paul VI, who returned to the Father's house precisely on the Feast of the Transfiguration, 21 years ago now. In the reflection he had planned to give at the Angelus on that day, 6 August 1978, he said: "The Transfiguration of the Lord, recalled by the liturgy of today's solemnity throws

a dazzling light on our daily life, and makes us turn our mind to the immortal destiny which that fact foreshadows". Yes! Paul VI reminds us: we are made for eternity and eternity begins at this very moment, since the Lord is among us and lives with and in his Church.

As we commemorate my unforgettable Predecessor in the see of Peter with deep emotion, let us pray that every Christian will know how to draw courage and constancy from contemplating Christ, who "reflects the glory of God and bears the very stamp of his nature" (Heb 1:3), in order to proclaim and witness faithfully through his words and works.

May Mary, our tender and caring Mother, help us to be bright rays of the saving light of her Son Jesus.



St. John Paul II Liturgical Center Celebrates

USA'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL



On Sunday, July 5, 2026, the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center sponsored a joyful and heartfelt celebration of America's 250th anniversary — and the dawn of its next 250 years. The theme woven through the entire 1:00 PM Polish Mass was simple and powerful: gratitude for the past, hope for the future.

Speaking for the Polonia community, Joe Majcher shared deep appreciation for the United States, a country that welcomed millions of Polish immigrants from the earliest days of Jamestown, Virginia. Those men and women arrived with courage, skills, and dreams, and although their lives were not easy, they helped build a nation that offered their children and grandchildren opportunities beyond what was possible in Poland at the time.

Among those immigrants was Fr. Józef Dąbrowski, whose journey to America made possible something

profoundly meaningful to all of us: the founding of the Orchard Lake Schools in 1885. His vision, sacrifice, and belief in the future of Polonia and the United States created the very campus we cherish today. Without his immigration — without his willingness to leave Poland in search of a place where faith and culture could flourish — the Orchard Lake community as we know it might never have existed. His legacy stands as a living testament to what one immigrant's courage and determination can build for generations.

Today, as large waves of immigration fade into history, the torch passes to the younger generation. They are now the guardians of Polish language and culture in America — and during the celebration, they shone brightly. The youth choir Laurki, lovingly organized by our organist, Mrs. Kinga Kostreva, filled the church with Polish hymns and later honored the United States with touching performances of "God Bless America" and "America the Beautiful." Their voices beautifully united two identities: Polish roots and American home.

Mass was celebrated by our own Fr. Bernard Witek and a visiting priest from Poland, and the entire liturgy became a moment of unity, remembrance, and heartfelt emotion — a reminder that gratitude binds generations, and hope carries our heritage forward.

ZAPRASZAMY

You are invited to join us for Polish 1st Sunday!

A special Mass at the Orchard Lake Schools to pray for Polonia

Sunday, Sept. 6th • 1:00 PM

- Polish Dinner after the Mass in the Dining Hall - Cost: \$20
- Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, September 2nd.
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com.

at the Shrine of St. John Paul II, celebrated by Fr. Bernard Witek





ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER • ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY • POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH

3535 COMMERCE RD. • ORCHARD LAKE, MI 48324 • (248) 682-1885

www.orchardlakeschools.com

July 2026



The Orchard Lake Schools has been informed that Father Bernard Witek, SDS, has been called by his Provincial Superior of the Society of the Divine Savior—the Salvatorian Fathers—to conclude his current assignment at the Orchard Lake Schools (OLS) and return to the Salvatorian community, effective January 2027. During his time with us, Fr. Witek has served as Director of the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center and has contributed meaningfully to the sacramental and spiritual life of our campus and surrounding community. Through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, pastoral guidance, spiritual programming, and his commitment to Orchard Lake, Fr. Witek has helped strengthen the institution's Catholic identity and its historic mission of service to the Church and Polonia.

On behalf of the Orchard Lake Schools and the Board of Regents, we extend our sincere gratitude to Fr. Witek for his faithful priestly ministry, his care for our students and community, and his dedication to preserving and advancing the spiritual legacy entrusted to OLS. We will work closely and in consultation with the Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger, Archbishop of Detroit, to identify a priest to succeed Fr. Witek and to ensure the continued celebration of the sacraments and the ongoing pastoral and spiritual care of the OLS and Polonia community.

Additional information regarding this transition will be shared as plans are finalized. In the months ahead, the OLS community will have an opportunity to express its appreciation to Fr. Witek and to recognize his service. We ask our community to join us in prayers of gratitude for Fr. Witek's ministry and to pray that the Lord will continue to bless and guide him as he prepares for the next chapter of his priestly service.

Todd Covert
CEO, Orchard Lake Schools

Joseph Majcher
Chairman, St. John Paul II Liturgical Center

UPDATE

BY ANIA BIECIUK
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR POLONIA AFFAIRS, POLISH
INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH AT ORCHARD LAKE



As summer draws to a close, we pause with deep gratitude for what has been one of the busiest and most rewarding seasons in recent memory at the Polish Institute of Culture & Research. More than 200 guests joined us this summer for the

North American premiere of Patrick Ney's two documentaries and the opening Michigan concert of Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, sponsors, campus partners, and faithful supporters, our mission of preserving, celebrating, and sharing Polish history and culture reached audiences across Michigan and beyond.

At the North American premiere of ***Covenant of Blood: The Last Soldiers of World War II***, we were honored to welcome filmmaker Patrick Ney from the United Kingdom for an unforgettable evening of history, discussion, and reflection. Guests also viewed ***947 Days in Auschwitz***, a moving documentary about the extraordinary mission of Witold Pilecki. Together, these films offered a powerful reminder of Poland's struggle for freedom and the courage of those who refused to surrender their ideals.

On July 10, **Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua** from Poniatowa, Poland opened their Michigan tour here at the Galeria. Their breathtaking performances of Renaissance and Baroque sacred music captivated audiences throughout the state, but their time at Orchard Lake was much more than music. Lifelong friendships were formed as students, volunteers, faculty, staff, sponsors, and members of our community welcomed these talented young ambassadors with genuine warmth and hospitality.

POLISH INSTITUTE UPDATE



Our heartfelt thanks go to the many donors and partners who made the Orchard Lake portion of the Scholares Minores tour possible. Your generosity and hospitality created an unforgettable experience for these remarkable young ambassadors of Polish culture and made Orchard Lake a true home away from home.

We gratefully acknowledge: • Polish-American Federal Credit Union • Związek Harcerstwa Polskiego (Polish Scouting Organization) • Irena's Pastry & Bistro • Srodek's Quality Polish Foods • Banner of Hetman Potocki • Orchard Lake Schools • Polish Institute of Culture & Research • Ann and Wlodek Bankowski.

There is still time to visit our current exhibition, ***Faces of Polonia***, on display in the Galeria through the end of August. Inspired by the work of the Polish Media Center and brought to fruition by the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, the exhibition commemorates **America's 250th anniversary** by honoring the people and organizations that have shaped Metro Detroit's Polonia. Through photographs and stories, Faces of Polonia celebrates the individuals, institutions, and organizations whose leadership, service, and dedication have strengthened our community and preserved its rich heritage for future generations.

The **30th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition** will be on display in the Galeria from September 12 through October 24, showcasing works in a wide range of media by talented artists from across the region. We invite you to join us for the Opening Reception on September 12 and the Closing Reception on October 24 as we celebrate another outstanding season of artistic achievement.

Our **Literary Salon Series** returns on Friday, September 25, as we welcome Wisconsin author Janis Falk for a conversation about her historical fiction novel, **Not Yet Lost**. Set in Detroit's Polish community during the 1930s, the novel tells the story of a Polish immigrant woman working in the city's cigar factories as she fights for workers' rights while navigating family expectations, prejudice, and the realities of immigrant life. It promises to be an engaging evening exploring a compelling and often overlooked chapter of Detroit's Polish American history.

August also offers an opportunity for reflection. On August 1, we commemorate the anniversary of the **Warsaw Uprising**, honoring the extraordinary

courage and sacrifice of those who fought for Poland's freedom in 1944. On August 15, Poland celebrates the **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** and the **Day of the Polish Armed Forces**, two observances that beautifully unite faith, patriotism, and remembrance. These occasions remind us that Polish heritage is preserved not only through remembrance of the past, but through the music, art, literature, scholarship, and community we continue to cultivate today. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Galeria and the Polish Institute this fall.

Drodzy Przyjaciele,

Z całego serca dziękujemy za Państwa obecność, życzliwość i nieustanne wsparcie. Dzięki Wam możemy pielęgnować polskie dziedzictwo, promować naszą historię, kulturę i sztukę oraz budować miejsce, które łączy pokolenia Polonii. Życzymy Państwu pięknego zakończenia lata i serdecznie zapraszamy na nasze jesienne wystawy, spotkania autorskie, koncerty i wykłady.

Do zobaczenia w Galerii i w Polskim Instytucie Kultury i Badań w Orchard Lake!

EVER FORWARD!
ZAWSZE DO PRZODU!
STRATEGIC MASTER PLANNING PROJECT

The “Ever Forward” Strategic Plan has been approved, and the Orchard Lake Schools has initiated a new path. We are moving on to the second phase of the Master Plan for campus. “Ever Forward” charts a path forward for the OLS and its three major operational divisions.

That path goes in the direction Fr. Dąbrowski envisioned – it leads toward OLS providing the best possible organizational structures and activities to enable the spiritual formation and educational growth of the people OLS serves.

For more information, visit www.orchardlakeschools.com/Ever-Forward

Filmmaker Patrick Ney's North American

DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE



During his stay, Ney spent a day exploring the archival collections of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake and visited Holy Sepulchre Cemetery where many Blue Army veterans are laid to rest. A stop at Detroit's historic Sweetest Heart of Mary Church further deepened his appreciation for the faith, sacrifice, and perseverance that have sustained Polish communities on both sides of the Atlantic.

On June 20 at the Galeria, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research (PICR) welcomed more than 100 guests for a memorable evening celebrating history, sacrifice, and the enduring legacy of Polonia. The program featured the North American premiere of *Covenant of Blood: The Last Soldiers of World War II* and our special exhibition, *Faces of Polonia: America's 250th Anniversary Edition*.

Fresh from its premiere in England, *Covenant of Blood* introduced North American audiences to the story of the Żołnierze Wyklęci (the “Cursed Soldiers,” members of the Polish anti-communist resistance) who continued their struggle for freedom in the aftermath of World War II. Filmmaker Patrick Ney, a native of the United Kingdom who currently resides in Poland, traveled to Michigan to present the documentary and spent the weekend immersed in the history and traditions of Detroit Polonia. Following the screening, he engaged guests in a lively Q & A session, sharing insights into the making of the film and the importance of preserving these stories for future generations.

Guests also enjoyed *Faces of Polonia: America's 250th Anniversary Edition*, a special exhibition commemorating America's 250th anniversary and highlighting the lives, stories, and contributions of metro Detroit Polonia. Through photographs and personal memories, the exhibit celebrates a community whose devotion to faith, family, and country has enriched both Michigan and the nation.

Together, the film and exhibition offered two powerful and complementary narratives: one recalling the heroism of those who resisted communist oppression and the other celebrating generations of Poles and Polish Americans who helped build and strengthen America. It was an evening filled with reflection, discovery, and pride—a fitting tribute to freedom and to the enduring Polish spirit.

The PICR extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for this historic occasion and to Patrick Ney for bringing *Covenant of Blood* to North America and for embracing the rich heritage of Detroit Polonia during his visit.



Scholares Minores:

A TOUR TO REMEMBER



This July, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research (PICR) was honored to welcome Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua from Poniadowa, near Lublin, Poland, for the first stop of their Michigan tour. More than 200 guests joined us at the Galeria at Orchard Lake for an unforgettable evening with these extraordinarily talented young musicians.

For more than 50 years, Scholares Minores pro Musica Antiqua has preserved and shared Poland's musical heritage around the world. Founded by the Danielewicz family in Poniadowa, near Lublin, the ensemble continues its remarkable legacy under the direction of Anna Karwat, inspiring audiences through Renaissance and Baroque music performed on period instruments in authentic historical costume while serving as outstanding young ambassadors of Polish culture.

We were privileged to support the ensemble throughout their Michigan journey. Beyond hosting their Orchard Lake concert, Polish Institute staff

accompanied the group on a historical tour of Detroit, introducing them to the story of Detroit's Polonia before joining them at historic St. Albertus Church for Mass and their inspiring performance. We were delighted to reunite with the ensemble in Indian River during their visit to the Cross in the Woods and to celebrate the conclusion of their Michigan tour at their final concert in Grand Rapids on July 22.

Our sincere thanks also go to the Polish cavalry reenactors, whose Renaissance-inspired attire and historical interpretation added another layer of authenticity and depth to an evening already rich in music, culture, and living history.

What began as hosting a visiting ensemble quickly became something much more. Over shared meals, conversations, sightseeing, music, and prayer, lasting friendships were formed between our staff, volunteers, hosts, and these remarkable young people. Their enthusiasm, kindness, curiosity, and joy left a lasting impression on everyone they met.



This remarkable tour would not have been possible without the dedication of many individuals. We offer our deepest gratitude to Julia Colingsworth, whose vision and perseverance made bringing Scholares Minores to Michigan a reality. We also thank Alina Klin, Doug Fackler, Mike Furlong, Robert Mazur, and Ania Bieciuk, whose planning, hospitality, and tireless behind-the-scenes efforts helped guide the ensemble throughout their time in Michigan. Finally, we are grateful to the many volunteers, sponsors, host families, reenactors, and generous donors whose support kept the tour moving across the state and made this extraordinary cultural exchange possible.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Director Anna Karwat, the devoted chaperones, and every member of Scholares Minores for allowing us to share in this unforgettable journey. It was a privilege to accompany them across Michigan and witness how music, history, and hospitality can preserve heritage, strengthen ties between Poland and Polonia, and create friendships that will last a lifetime.



Open Call for Submissions

30th Friends of Polish Art
Fine Arts Competition

In Partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research



Detail of painting by Richard Kubicki

All visual art media are welcome
Please submit by August 17, 2026
Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/FPA-Competition-Submission>

Accepted works will be exhibited at the Galeria
on the Orchard Lake Schools campus located at
3535 Commerce Rd, Orchard Lake, MI, 48324

Opening Reception
September 12, 2026

Closing Reception
October 24, 2026

Send questions to Elzbieta Majeski, PICROL Galeria Manager
emajeski@picrol.org

THE POLISH INSTITUTE LITERARY SALON SERIES

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT LITERARY SALON

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 | 7:00 PM

FEATURING
JANIS FALK
WISCONSIN AUTHOR

IN CONVERSATION ABOUT HER NOVEL
Not Yet Lost



Set in Detroit's Polish community during the 1930s, *Not Yet Lost* tells the story of a young Polish immigrant woman working in the city's cigar factories. Through family struggles, labor activism, and the pursuit of the American dream, the novel vividly captures the resilience and sacrifices of Detroit's early Polish neighborhoods. Richly researched and deeply human, it brings an important chapter of Polish American history to life.

FREE EVENT. PLEASE REGISTER.
www.picrol.org

GALERIA
ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
Not Yet Lost is available
on Amazon and
other major bookstores.

POLISH ARMED FORCES DAY

Sunday, August 16, 2026



St. JOHN PAUL II
LITURGICAL CENTER
ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

1:00 PM:

Polish Mass in the Shrine Chapel of St. John Paul II

Celebrated by Fr. Bernard Witek

Singing by Filaret Choir

2:00 PM:

Polish Dinner

Campus Dining Hall

\$20/person



PLEASE RSVP BY AUGUST 12, 2026

Contact Fr. Witek at: (248) 602-7579 OR bernardwitek@yahoo.com

August 2026

Upcoming EVENTS highlights

2	POLISH 1st SUNDAY 1:00 PM Mass Galeria Open to the Public 12:00 – 3:00 PM
15	Assumption of Mary
16	Polish Armed Forces Day 1:00 PM Mass @ Shrine Polish Dinner to Follow
18-19	Freshmen Orientation (½ Day)
20	Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors Orientation (½ Day)
21	Classes Begin (All Students/Full Day)
22	Unifying Champions Football Event Fr. Rakoczy Gym 6:00 PM
27	Varsity Football vs. Muskegon Mona Shores 7:00 PM
July-August	Orchard Lake Schools Summer Camps

IN MEMORIAM . . .

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
+ MAY THEY REST IN PEACE +

HENRY E. JULKOWSKI (P'77)
July 14, 2026 ~ Age 67
Lindenhurst, Illinois

HENRY J. KNITTER (P'76)
December 14, 2020 ~ Age 62
Rochester Hills, Michigan

MOLLY MULQUEEN HITTINGER
July 8, 2026 ~ Age 65
Pearland, Texas

MARY ANNA WHALEN
[MOTHER OF FR. TIM WHALEN (P'70)]
July 19, 2026 ~ Age 96
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

FRANK J. SELINSKY, SR.
November 28, 2017 ~ Age 104
Northville, Michigan
Northville, Michigan

+ Remembering our loved ones who recently passed into eternal rest.
You can view previous years by visiting our website at: www.orchardlakeschools.com/in-memoriam
To inform the OLS of the passing of a friend or alumnus of the Orchard Lake Schools,
email us at: info@orchardlakeschools.com

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS

Throughout the year, donors to the Orchard Lake Schools enroll their loved ones in the “Friends of the Orchard Lake Schools”. Prayers are offered at every mass at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II for those names enrolled. These names are those that have been added from the month of June.

KATHERINE ALLEN	MARK HAFELI	LORRAINE PRIEBE
NASSIR "MIKE" BABBY	RAJA HAJJI KINAYA	GENE SHANK
PATRICIA M. CHROSZ	STELLA KRISTY	MARY SHEA
ALICE JEAN CLEMENTE	CHARLOTTE MCPHERSON	ANTHONY S. WALAWENDER
	ROSE PIERRO	HELENA WSZOLEK

For more enrollment information, please contact Lisa Gray at lgray@orchardlakeschools.com

August 2026

MASS schedule

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	MSGR. BROWNE LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1:00 PM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	FR. MCDONELL LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

7:00 PM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	MARIAN GROTTO
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SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	FR. MCDONELL LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1:00 PM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	FR. MCDONELL LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	MSGR. BROWNE LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE



*Polish Mass is now live streamed at:
www.youtube.com/@orchardlake-schools9385/streams

"Then press "Live" for the current Sunday live broadcast."

DAILY MASSES

MONDAY-FRIDAYS	7:00 PM ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
SATURDAYS	9:00 AM ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SHRINE OPEN HOURS

SUNDAY & SATURDAY	8:00 AM – 9:00 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
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EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS

1 ST THURSDAY 8/6	MASS 7:00 PM *FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1 ST FRIDAY 8/7	MASS 7:00 PM * FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1 ST SATURDAY 8/7	MASS 9:00 AM * FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
THURSDAY 8/20	BIBLE STUDY AFTER MASS 7:45 PM	SEMINARY CHAPEL
FRIDAY 8/21	DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS 7:45 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
	KRAĞ BIBLIJY 8:00 PM	SEMINARY CHAPEL

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY-FRIDAY	6:00 – 6:55 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
SATURDAYS	8:00 – 8:55 AM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE