

O R C H A R D L A K E S C H O O L S

CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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

Satisfy us in the morning with Your loving devotion, That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ~ Psalm 90:14

OCTOBER 2025



RING DAY

Ring Day is a longstanding tradition at St. Mary's Preparatory. Each October, the men and women of the junior class in both our Boys and Girls Divisions, alongside their special guests, officially become upperclassmen. It is an opportunity for growth in the 2027 brotherhood and sisterhood, and it is a highly respectable tradition unique to OLSM. At the October ceremony, the students' rings (purchased, personal or borrowed) are individually blessed. This special day marks our juniors moving through their final two years at the Prep.

TODD COVERT Appointed CEO

of Orchard Lake Schools

The Board of Regents is pleased to announce the appointment of Todd Covert as the Chief Executive Officer of the Orchard Lake Schools (OLS). Mr. Covert was appointed by the Board of Regents on August 5, 2025, and graciously confirmed by His Excellency Archbishop Edward Weisenburger on September 5th. He has been a part of the OLS community since before he attended St. Mary's Preparatory and graduated in 1992.

"We are honored that Todd's commitment and leadership will continue to guide our institution for the foreseeable future and continue to build on our traditions of Faith, Education, and Culture for another 141 years ... Ever Forward ..."

- Board Chair Andrew Harrington

Covert's professional career includes senior leadership roles at Sun Life Financial and Mutual of Omaha, where he advanced from Regional Manager to National Director of Strategy. In 2015, he founded a software company that provides compliance solutions for large corporations.

Since joining Orchard Lake Schools as Chief Operating Officer in 2017 and later serving as Vice Chancellor in 2020, Covert has guided the institution through transformative milestones. These include a major financial and management restructuring (2018–2019), navigating the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and spearheading key initiatives that have strengthened OLS's foundation and future. Among his most pivotal accomplishments:

- **Launching the Co-Divisional Model at St. Mary's Preparatory, which has doubled enrollment to 900 students. The Girls Division is now at capacity with a waitlist, while the Boys Division Class of 2025 graduated its largest class in OLS's 141-year history.**

- **Leading the construction of the new 20 classroom Burkacki Academic Center (BAC), renovation of the historic Clarence & Lillian Constantakis Prep Classroom Building, and development of the Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad.**

During his tenure as COO, OLS has also completed a renovation of the Galeria to house OLS's collection of Polish art and serve as the centerpiece of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research, and the successful campaign to complete the Divine Mercy Altar Project at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II.

"Having known and worked alongside Todd for some time, I can attest to his deep devotion to the mission of the Orchard Lake Schools," said Bishop Emeritus Walter Hurley who has recently been assisting with Board of Regents and staff and representing Archbishop Weisenburger. "He leads with a servant's heart and a clear vision for the future."

Personal Commitment to Mission and Community

In addition to his professional expertise, Covert has invested personally and generously in the OLS community. He is a former Regent, a frequent donor, and has consistently supported campus initiatives. His leadership philosophy is rooted in a mantra of daily improvement, guiding the institution toward continuous growth. He is married to Christine Covert and has two daughters, Adyson (Class of 2025) and Alivia (Class of 2028). The Coverts are members of St. Mary Our Lady of Snows in Commerce, MI.

As CEO, Covert will oversee all business and financial operations of the Orchard Lake Schools, ensuring its long-term success as a vibrant and faithful educational institution.



Planning for

Our CAMPUS FUTURE

For an institution like the Orchard Lake Schools, 141 years "young," it is a daily practice to look to our past and celebrate our history. But we wouldn't have survived without the ability to draw upon everything that came before and use that wisdom to form a plan for the future. *Ever Forward*, the Strategic Planning Process, is aptly named. It references our resilience and commitment to providing Catholic education and celebrating our Polish heritage on the OLS campus.

Phase One of the plan, available on the Orchard Lake Schools website, invited voices from across our community – alumni, families, students, faculty, and benefactors – to help shape a vision for the future. That vision includes the creation of a **Campus Master Plan**, which will help us look beyond quick fixes or transactional improvements and instead think strategically about how every resource, every space, and every gift is used to advance our mission.

Why is this so important right now? Because our campus tells a story. It is beautiful, historic, and beloved – but it also requires careful stewardship and sometimes costly upkeep. Because the closure of the Seminary and the extraordinary success of the Boys and the Girls Divisions have reshaped how our spaces are used. Because tuition dollars and philanthropic contributions must be maximized for impact. And because while enrollment is strong

today, Michigan's demographics remind us that we must plan boldly to remain strong in the years ahead.

To guide this work, after a nationwide search we engaged Albert Kahn Associates as our partner in developing the Master Plan. Leading up to their selection, we had completed a full review of every building on campus, assessing function, condition, and importantly its historic value, while also considering the blessing of our natural environment. Their charge is not to limit us, but to help us dream – to imagine how all the pieces of this campus can fit together in a way that is faithful to our mission and inspiring for generations to come. After all, if Fr. Józef Dąbrowski had ever said "this could never happen," we wouldn't be here today to carry on his vision.

What will result is a vision that helps us drive priorities based on the return on investment and, of course, donor interest. It's an essential process. That same spirit of courage and imagination is what will keep Orchard Lake Schools moving ever forward. We look forward to sharing updates on the progress of the Campus Master Plan and invite you to visit the OLS website where the latest information will be posted as this important work unfolds.

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

GO TEAMS!

Crew

Fall crew season brought competition to Orchard Lake on September 27th at the Crew Tri-Meet, their first on home waters for the 2025-26 academic year. Racing took place from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Thanks to all the fans who came out to cheer on our athletes! To learn more about our legendary crew program, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJibl0nAeEM

Soccer

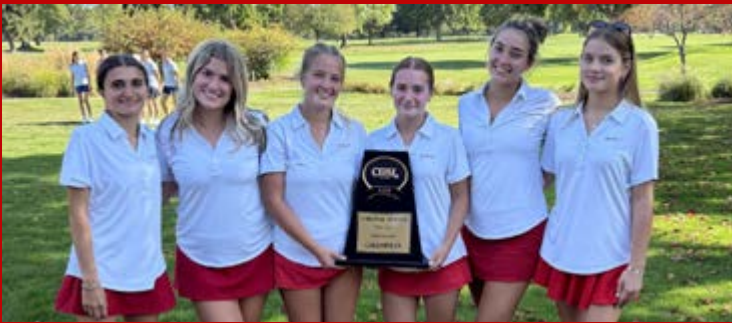
O’Lake soccer is solid this season, showing their opponents that Eaglet teamwork, big goals and assists, and playing the game that they love are bringing home wins for this band of brothers, including the Senior Night (4-0) victory!

Volleyball

Girls Volleyball is on fire! A recent *Oakland Press* headline read, “Orchard Lake St. Mary’s stays unbeaten in Catholic League with sweep at Shrine.” Junior and Georgetown commit Avery Kapeller is one of the numerous varsity team members playing strong and helping the Eaglets bump up their wins and rev up their playing power. And Coach Ross Talbott emphasizes playing quick on their chase for their 4th consecutive league title. Go Eaglets on Senior Night October 1st!

Football

OLSM football is working tirelessly toward defending their 2024 D2 State Championship, the first one in school history! This powerful 2025 season is quick plays, speed and Eaglet teamwork! It’s all about “Team over me,” putting others above ourselves. Team first! At press time, the Eaglets were 3-1.



Girls Golf

Congratulations to our Girls Golf team on their 4-0 season-winning league #1 ranking. They also won the CHSL Championship against competitors Lumen Christi, Green Hills, Divine Child and Gabriel Richard!

COLLEGE VISITS, ADMISSIONS

BY ANN BARTUS
MA, CEP, SENIOR ACADEMIC DEAN/COLLEGE
COUNSELOR | ST. MARY’S PREPARATORY

We have been welcoming colleges to campus all month and have several more visits to go. At this point, 49 of our senior students have been accepted to one or more colleges and have already earned \$720,000.00 in scholarships. We’ve been fortunate to partner with local schools like the University of Detroit-Mercy, Oakland University, and Central Michigan University for onsite admission events, where our seniors are admitted on the spot and can discuss specialty pathways such as direct admit medical, honors colleges, and scholarship competitions.

Later this month, we will host the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Notre Dame, Dartmouth University, Lawrence Technological College, and Western Michigan University, where many of our students want to study aviation. Amidst these visits, we will continue to support our students with college essay development, list building, and application completion.



and more

ALUMNI, LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SEASON!

FOOTBALL FRIDAYS

FIELD-SIDE FOOD, FUN & FESTIVITIES FOR ALUMNI!

“FOOTBALL FRIDAYS” ALUMNI TENT

Join your fellow Eaglet alumni in the designated field-side tent for pregame food as well as the perfect seat to watch the BIG GAME!

AVAILABLE TO ALUMNI ON THE FOLLOWING GAMES:

- Oct. 10th • OLSM vs. Toledo Central Cath. • HOMECOMING
- Oct. 17th • OLSM vs. Br. Rice
- Oct. 24th • OLSM vs. River Rouge

FOR MORE INFO:
Contact Alumni Relations Officer
Robert Mazur at (248) 830-9711
or rmazur@orchardlakeschools.com

On Homecoming night, a special Football Fridays will start at the BBQ & Corn Roast Tailgate area outside the Dining Hall. Come pregame with your fellow alums and enjoy the big Chili Cookoff, Corn Roast, BBQ and more at this HOCO pregame tailgate tradition!

BBQ & Corn Roast TAILGATE

3rd Annual Homecoming Chili Cookoff!

COME SEE US BEFORE THE GAME, WE’RE FAMILY!

OLSM STUDENTS & FAMILIES, ALUMNI & ALUMNI PARENTS:
Join us in celebrating an OLSM tradition!

M HOMECOMING WEEKEND

BBQ & Corn Roast

TAILGATE

BEFORE THE GAME

3rd Annual
Homecoming
Chili
Cookoff!

Campus groups compete to see who can
cook up the tastiest tailgating chili!

SPONSORED BY:

- Moms & Dads Club
- Alumni Association

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!

Fri, Oct 10th • 5:00-7:00 PM

EXTRACURRICULAR & ATHLETIC OPEN HOUSE



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9TH 2:00-4:00PM

PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH ATHLETIC AND CLUB
OFFERINGS AT OLSM. THIS "FAIR STYLE" EVENT WILL ALLOW FAMILIES TO VISIT WITH
CLUB MODERATORS, STUDENT MEMBERS, COACHES, AND STUDENT-ATHLETES.

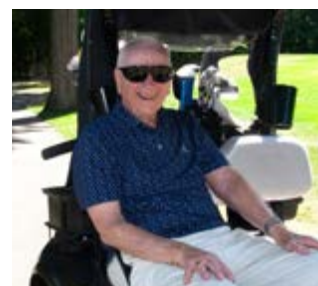
- EXPLORE OVER THREE DOZEN EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES AT OLSM.
- GATHER INFORMATION ON THE BOARDING PROGRAM.
- TOUR ATHLETIC FACILITIES.

WWW.OLSMADMISSIONS.COM



Teeing off for SCHOLARSHIPS

This year's 8th Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Outing to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund was picture perfect in every way. From the beauty of Oakhurst Golf & Country Club in Clarkston to the perfect weather conditions to the camaraderie amongst all attending the special event, this time-honored tradition exemplifies events that bring us together to help support our Eaglets and their success. All proceeds from this event make a difference in the Alumni Scholarship Fund awards each year for four junior students' tuition assistance for their senior year. In January 2026, OLSM juniors will have the chance to enter the essay contest for the opportunity to earn a partial scholarship to be applied to their senior year tuition. In February, the winners will be announced at the annual Alumni Scholarship Awards held in the Galeria on the campus.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Prep Class of 1970

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FAITH-Filled JOURNEYS . . .

Daniel Whalen (P'18)

is entering his final year of seminary formation and was ordained a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Detroit on April 12, 2025, by Detroit auxiliary Bishop, Robert Fisher. He will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Detroit on May 23, 2026.



Deacon Daniel Whalen (second from left in photo) at the historic and deeply moving moment at the new altar in the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II.

Brendan Tabone (P'16)

is entering his third year of seminary and received the Rite of Candidacy this past August for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Seminarians receive the Rite of Candidacy when they begin their graduate studies in Theology. It is an important step in seminary as it is an opportunity for a seminarian to express publicly his intention to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders and is then officially declared a candidate by the Archbishop. Brendan is on track to be ordained to the diaconate in December 2028, and to the priesthood in the summer of 2029.



Brendan Tabone, first on the right, after receiving the Rite of Candidacy on August 6, 2025 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament by Detroit Archbishop, Edward Weisenburger.

Staff News

Welcome JEN VALENTE



We are excited to welcome Jen Valente as our new Graphic Designer and Communications Specialist here at the Orchard Lake Schools! She brings with her many years of experience in the field, and we are thrilled to have her creativity and expertise supporting our mission and communications efforts.

Jen is stepping into the role previously held by Martin Doman, who made a lasting impact during his time with us. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication,

creativity, and the many contributions he made to the Orchard Lake Schools. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Jen is already a familiar face in our community – her youngest son, Dominic, is a current senior at St. Mary's. She and her husband are proud parents of three boys. Jen is a Michigan State University alumna; her oldest son recently graduated from MSU, and her middle son is currently studying there.

Please join us in giving her a warm OLS welcome. We're blessed to have her on board!



Jingle all the Way

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AT ORCHARD LAKE ST. MARY'S

VISIT BY SANTA & HIS REINDEER
CHRISTMAS GIFTS MARKET
CRAFTS, CANDY & STOCKINGS FOR THE KIDS
CHRISTMAS CAROLERS
WARM & COZY FOOD!
LIVE MUSIC
HOLIDAY PHOTOGRAPHER
LIGHTED TRAIN RIDES
VISIT CAMELS & DONKEYS



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY • 6:15 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd, 2025

4:00–8:00 PM • OLSM CAMPUS QUAD

REFLECTION

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

This year the feast day of St. Faustina Kowalska falls on Sunday, Oct 5th. From this year, we are in possession of her relic (piece of her bone) which is located in our Shrine Chapel on the right-side altar below the Divine Mercy painting. We can, therefore, celebrate her feast day this year in a special way. We started our spiritual preparation with the novena prayer on September 26th. May the commemoration of St. Faustina be an

occasion for us to revive and ignite our devotion to the Divine Mercy, in which we entrust to Our Heavenly Father all our personal intentions, the intentions of the entire world and the souls in purgatory.

We may read some excerpts from St. John Paul II's homily during St. Faustina's canonization in Rome, on April 30th, 2000.

In the Words of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of Sr. Faustina Kowalska to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time. By divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the 20th century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted His message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people, know well how necessary was the message of mercy.

Jesus told Sr. Faustina: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy" (Diary, p. 132). Through the work of the Polish religious, this message has become linked forever to the 20th century, the last of the second millennium and the bridge to the third. It is not a new message but can be considered a gift of

special enlightenment that helps us to relive the Gospel of Easter more intensely, to offer it as a ray of light to the men and women of our time.

And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of divine mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: Christ Jesus, I trust in you! Jezu, ufam tobie!



ZAPRASZAMY

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

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

Sunday, Nov 2nd • 1:00 PM

- Polish Dinner after the Mass in the Dining Hall - Cost: \$20
- Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, October 29th.
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com.

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



POLISH INDEPENDENCE DAY MASS & CELEBRATION



Mass at 1:00 pm

POLISH LUNCHEON AFTER MASS IN CAMPUS DINING HALL

PRICE \$20

Centrum Liturgiczne Św. Jana Pawła II zaprasza na specjalną Polską Mszę Świętą z okazji dnia niepodległości celebrowaną 9 listopada o 13:00 z udziałem Chóru Filaretów. Po Mszy będzie Polski Obiad w cenie \$20. Zgłoszenia na obiad do 5 listopada.

Please RSVP for the luncheon by November 5.
Call (248) 602-7579 or email bernardwitek@yahoo.com

Sunday, November 9 • 1:00 PM

Celebrating the Enduring Legacy of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Karol Wojtyła, son of Emilia and Karol Sr., was born on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland, where he lived for 18 years in a modest tenement at Kościelna Street 7. Recalling his roots during a later visit, he said, “With filial devotion I kiss the threshold of the family home, expressing gratitude to Divine Providence for the gift of life handed to me by my parents ... for the love of my dear ones that gave me a sense of security and strength, even when the time came to encounter the experience of death and the hardships of everyday life in difficult times.”

Through war, loss, and faith, young Karol rose from small-town beginnings to become Pope John Paul II —one of the most influential spiritual leaders of the 20th century. Before his election to the papacy on October 16, 1978, he twice visited the Orchard Lake Schools in Michigan. In 1969, as Archbishop of Kraków, he celebrated Mass and met with students, offering wisdom and encouragement. When he returned in 1976 as Cardinal, he delivered a powerful

address emphasizing the importance of Catholic education and Polish heritage. His visits left a legacy, inspiring generations of students and strengthening Polish American ties.

In recognition of these historic visits and his deep connection to the Orchard Lake Schools, the Archdiocese of Detroit designated the Shrine Chapel on campus as the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II. The designation honors not only his physical presence on the grounds but also the spiritual impact he had on the Polish American community and the broader Church. The chapel now serves as a place of pilgrimage, prayer, and reflection, celebrating his enduring legacy of faith, courage, and cultural pride.



SHRINE OF ST. JOHN PAUL II: JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE SITE

Did you know that the Archdiocese of Detroit has designated our Shrine Chapel at Orchard Lake one of 12 Detroit-area pilgrimage sites ahead of the Jubilee 2025; a place for pilgrims to visit and receive a plenary indulgence?

The Church celebrates ordinary jubilees every 25 years. In December 2024, the late Pope Francis ushered in the Holy Year 2025 by opening the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for a year of grace, forgiveness and renewal — centered on the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.”

In 1470, Pope Paul II established the practice of celebrating jubilees every 25 years, instead of 50, to allow more people to experience a Holy Year within their lifetimes.



THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS joyfully celebrates a special Sunday Mass commemorating — THE FEAST OF — **ST. JOHN PAUL II** Saturday, October 18



FEAST DAY CELEBRATIONS ON SATURDAY, OCT 18

Holy Mass
WITH BISHOP WALTER HURLEY
& Filarets Choir
5:00 PM

Polish Dinner after Mass
CAMPUS DINING HALL
Cost \$20
Please RSVP by Oct 14

Pizza is available for children under 16 for \$5

To RSVP, call (248) 602-7579 or email bernardwitek@yahoo.com

WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE



ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR'S SENATE

A MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
THAT IS AN EMBODIMENT OF AN "INNER CIRCLE,"
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MEMBERS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SENATE ARE
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AND COMMUNITY BUILDERS . . .
TAKE-CHARGERS WHO HELP US MAP OUT HOW WE MOVE FORWARD
BY ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION.

Support the **HEART** of Orchard Lake.
BECOME A SENATE MEMBER.



If you would like to join the Chancellor's Senate, scan code now or
contact Lisa Gray at (248) 392-9974 or lgray@orchardlakeschools.com

THOSE WHO ENROLL NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1, 2025 WILL RECEIVE
AN INVITATION TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S SENATE DINNER.

CHANCELLOR'S SENATE RECOGNITION DINNER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11th • 5:30 PM
PINE LAKE COUNTRY CLUB • WEST BLOOMFIELD TWP, MI

OCTOBER at ORCHARD LAKE

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

Celebrating Polish Heritage Together

October is here, and with it we celebrate Polish American Heritage Month. For us at Orchard Lake, this month is more than a calendar observance – it is a living reminder of the traditions, values, and resilience that Polish immigrants carried with them to Michigan and passed down to their children and grandchildren. Those roots remain strong in our community today.

Our fall season has begun in the most inspiring way. On September 13, Polish pianist Jacek Kasjan opened our season with a performance that stirred every heart in the Galeria. His interpretation of Bach, Chopin, and Szymanowski was both moving and masterful, and the audience responded with thunderous applause. Soon after, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Alex Storożyński shared his new book, *Spies in My Blood*. His family's story of courage, espionage, and resilience reminded us of the strength that runs deep in Polish history.

We now look ahead with more excitement. On Sunday, October 5, the Friends of Polish Art Fine

Arts Competition returns after several years away. From 2:00–5:00 PM, with awards presented at 3:00, the Galeria will once again be filled with the creativity and vision of artists inspired by Polish themes. We are proud to work in partnership with the Friends of Polish Art on this important competition, which uplifts artists while honoring the enduring inspiration of Polish culture.



Later this month, we are privileged to host the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan seminar on October 18. These gatherings are always rich with knowledge and stories, helping us discover and preserve our family roots. Registration closes on October 5, and I encourage all who are interested to join. Then, on October 24–25, the Polish Consulate from Chicago will be with us for passports and consular needs. Appointments can be scheduled by phone on October 14–15 only, with details in the *Communicator*.

And on October 22, we honor the feast day of Saint John Paul II. His presence on our campus remains a cherished memory. His example of faith, courage, and devotion continues to inspire us as we work to preserve culture and community here in Orchard Lake.

This month is a time to remember with gratitude the faith, family, and culture our ancestors brought with them – and to carry that same spirit forward. May we celebrate not only their history, but also the living heritage we share today.

Serdecznie zapraszam do udziału w naszych wydarzeniach i wspólnego świętowania polskiego dziedzictwa w Michigan.



PICROL at the XLVII MAB

Conference in Rome

From September 8–12, 2025, representatives of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake – Director Dr. John Radzilowski and Archivist Sister Genowefa Potaczala – participated in the XLVII Sesja Stałej Konferencji Muzeów, Archiwów i Bibliotek Polskich na Zachodzie (MABPZ) in Rome.

This annual gathering unites Polish cultural, academic, and heritage institutions from across the world. Hosted this year at the Church and Hospice of St. Stanislaus the Bishop and Martyr, the conference focused on the theme: “The Fate of Poles Abroad after the End of World War II.” Participants examined the complex history of the Polish diaspora and explored ways to preserve archives, artifacts, and memory for future generations.



As part of their visit, Dr. Radzilowski and Sister Genowefa joined fellow delegates in a pilgrimage to Monte Cassino, the resting place of thousands of Polish soldiers who gave their lives during World War II. A wreath was laid at the Polish military cemetery, honoring the sacrifice of those who fought for freedom. Their time in Rome also included the profound privilege of attending a general audience with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, a moment of blessing and encouragement for all involved in the work of preserving Polish heritage.

As Sister Genowefa so beautifully expressed: “To nie tylko konferencja, ale akt troski o dziedzictwo.” This is not just a conference, but an act of care for heritage. Through their participation, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research continues to stand in solidarity with cultural institutions worldwide, committed to protecting the memory, history, and legacy of Poles abroad.

Spotlight

29th FRIENDS of POLISH ART FINE ARTS COMPETITION

We are delighted to shine a spotlight on one of this season’s most anticipated events – the 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition, held in partnership with our Institute. After a hiatus of several years, this treasured tradition is once again bringing together artists, community, and heritage to the Galeria.

The Opening Reception will take place on Sunday, October 5, from 2:00–5:00 PM, with the awards ceremony at 3:00 PM. Guests will have the opportunity to view a wide range of inspiring works and to meet the artists behind them. Many of the submitted pieces will be available for purchase, offering a rare chance to take home an original work of art that reflects Polish creativity and inspiration.

The exhibit will remain on view in the Galeria from October 5 – November 16, giving ample opportunity for visitors to experience the diversity and richness of artistic expression. We are proud to work in partnership with the Friends of Polish Art on this significant cultural tradition, now marking its 29th edition.



29TH FRIENDS OF POLISH ART FINE ARTS COMPETITION

in Partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research



image: detail of painting by Richard Kubinski

OPENING RECEPTION 2-5 PM ON OCTOBER 5, 2025

at the Galeria, 3535 Commerce Rd. Orchard Lake, MI

Awards to be presented at 3 pm

Send questions to Elijah Majeski, Galeria Manager: emajeski@picrol.org

VISIT THE POLISH INSTITUTE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

We invite you to explore our social media pages for more photos and news.
(Online readers can click below)

FACEBOOK: [Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake](#)

INSTAGRAM: [@picrOrchardLake](#)

Upcoming CONSULAR VISIT

October 24–25

The Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago will once again hold a consular visit at Orchard Lake, hosted in the Galeria. This visit provides an important opportunity for members of our community to submit passport applications and receive consular assistance without traveling to Chicago.

Advance registration by phone is required for passport services. Appointments must be made on October 14 and 15, 2025, by calling the Consulate at (312) 337-8166 ext. 1, between 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM (Central Standard Time, CST), or until all appointments are filled.



We strongly encourage anyone in need of consular assistance to take advantage of this opportunity to access services locally. For additional information, please visit the Consulate's website: Polish Consulate – Passport Information

PULASKI DAY CELEBRATION

in Wyandotte

On Sunday, October 12, 2025, the Polish Army Veterans Association of America Post 95 in Wyandotte will host its annual Pulaski Day celebration, honoring General Kazimierz (Casmir) Pulaski, the “Father of the American Cavalry” and a hero of both Poland and the United States.

The day begins with a special Mass at 1:00 PM at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish. Following Mass, participants will gather on Superior Street in front of the church and proceed in parade to Pulaski Park (12th Street between Cedar and Walnut), where ceremonies will take place to honor General Pulaski's sacrifice and legacy.

The celebration will continue afterward with a gathering at PAVA Post 95 (2935 11th Street), where fellowship and remembrance will carry on the spirit of the day. Pulaski Day in Wyandotte is not only a tribute to a great hero of Poland and America, but also a moment for our community to come together in pride and gratitude for our shared heritage.



An Evening in

THREE B-FLAT

Thank you for joining us for the Opening Night of our 2025–26 Season! The Galeria was filled with music, beauty, and appreciation as we welcomed acclaimed Polish pianist Jacek Kasjan for our season opener, “Three B Flat.”

Kasjan took us on a stirring journey through Johann Sebastian Bach's “Sheep May Safely Graze” from the Birthday Cantata, Frédéric Chopin's Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35 (the Funeral March Sonata), and Karol Szymanowski's Theme and Variations in B-flat minor, Op. 3. His artistry illuminated each work – Bach's pastoral calm, Chopin's dramatic tension and famous Funeral March, and Szymanowski's colorful variations that unfolded with both delicacy and power.

The audience was captivated – rising to their feet in thunderous applause and calling for an encore, which Kasjan graciously gave. It was a true evening of artistry and inspiration.

Guests also experienced our current exhibition, “Selections from our PICROL Art Collection.” This exhibit is meaningful because it is not the vision of a single collector, but a reflection of the generations who have shaped Orchard Lake. The works on display mirror the tastes and sensibilities of the priests, professors, students, and community members who lived and worked on this campus, leaving behind not only art but also a cultural testimony of memory, identity, and faith. Together, these pieces form one of the largest Polish art collections outside of Poland – living proof of how deeply heritage has been valued and preserved here for over a century.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous sponsors, Gasser Bush Associates and Niagara Murano, whose support made this extraordinary evening possible. We are grateful to everyone who joined us in the Galeria and helped us begin our new season in such a powerful way.



Photos taken by Stephen Satkiewicz and Ania Bieciuk

PICROL

at the Muskegon Polish Festival



The Muskegon Polish Festival, held August 29-31, 2025, was a vibrant celebration of Polish heritage on Michigan's lakeshore.

We at the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake were proud to be part of the festival's History Tent, where Dr. John Radzilowski gave a presentation on the mission of the Polish Institute and introduced our Galeria to the western side of the state. His remarks helped connect new audiences in Muskegon with the cultural treasures and programs we preserve at Orchard Lake.

Visitors also experienced the launch of the Edward Kling Memorial Project: Digital Windows Exploring Polish History, a new visual initiative developed in partnership with the University of Michigan Mintify Project Team and supported by PICROL's academic and technical expertise. Phase I debuted at the festival, featuring a dynamic video on the changing borders of Poland through the centuries along with a QR-linked Polish Culture Quiz that provided an engaging entry point into Poland's history and traditions. Looking ahead, Phase II (2026) will expand the project with interactive tablets, giving festivalgoers the ability to explore history in a hands-on, exportable way.

This collaboration with the University of Michigan brings together scholarship, technology, and heritage preservation, creating a modern way to share the richness of the Polish story. It was a joy to stand alongside so many others dedicated to celebrating our heritage, and we are grateful for the opportunity to bring PICROL's mission to Muskegon.

THE GALERÍA

OPEN HOURS & EVENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
Open for Polish 1st Sunday and the Opening Reception of the 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition
2:00–5:00 PM, awards at 3:00 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
Open for the Feast Day Celebration of Saint John Paul II
4:00–7:00 PM

THE GALERIA IS ALSO OPEN BY APPOINTMENT.
TO ARRANGE A VISIT, PLEASE CONTACT US AT
(248) 836-1284 OR [INFO@PICROL.ORG](mailto:info@picrol.org)

SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship makes our concerts, exhibitions, and programs possible while giving your business or family valuable visibility. Each season we welcome hundreds of guests to the Galeria and reach thousands more through newsletters, social media, and press. Sponsorship places your name at the heart of these cultural experiences, linking you with heritage, education, and community.

“Support culture.
Gain visibility.
Become a sponsor.”

To learn more about supporting our season and increasing your visibility, please contact us at
(248) 836-1284 or info@picrol.org.

47th Annual Genealogy Seminar

presented by the
Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan
Includes live presentations with Q&A, a syllabus, and door prizes
Open to the public
Webinar or In Person
Saturday, October 18, 2025
In-Person Registration 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Seminar 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Optional In-Person Walking Tour 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (all times U.S. Eastern Time)

The in-person session is at a new location this year:
Polish Institute of Culture & Research, 3535 Commerce Rd., Orchard Lake Village, Michigan.
The in-person session includes continental breakfast and lunch with Polish food.
In-person seating is limited – please register soon.

Speakers and Presentations:
Dr. Anna Muller
“The People of Hamtramck: Reflections on Belonging, Agency, and Being Polish American”
Nancy Loe, M.A., MLS
“Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussian Genealogy Records”
and “Finding Prussian Ancestors in Online Archives”
Dr. John Radzilowski
“Fr. Leopold Moczygemba and Fr. Jozef Dabrowski: Pioneers in Polish American Education”

Visit pgsm.org to register and pay by credit or debit card (online registration closes October 8).
To register and pay by check, fill out the form below and mail it with your payment to:
PGSM, P.O. Box 85987, Westland, MI 48185-6087
Registrations paid by check must be postmarked by October 5.
For more information about PGSM or the seminar, visit pgsm.org

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan 2025 Seminar

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email (required): _____
Phone Number: _____

Webinar - \$20.00 ☐ OR In Person - \$45.00 ☐



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.**

YOU CAN DONATE BY:

- 1) Purchasing a brick paver. Order forms are available at the gate or online at the link 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*

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

All donations are tax deductible. EIN: 82-5453994



The Mary Project



After many years of thoughtful footsteps, the pathways of the Marian Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Orchard Lake St. Mary's have given way to age and are in need of repair. The Mary Project needs your help to sustain this prayerful space.

We are soliciting your support to repave the walkways and paths, starting with the walkway from the Grotto towards the lake. It will be paved with custom bricks to make it much more attractive and durable than poured concrete, and we are asking that you donate one or more of the bricks.

You may individualize a brick for you, or your family, honor a loved one or create an in-memoriam message. The donated bricks will become a part of the Grotto, paving the way for generations of visitors. As a friend of the Grotto and Orchard Lake Schools, please take advantage of this exceptional opportunity to have your commemorative brick(s) become a permanent part of this prayerful space.

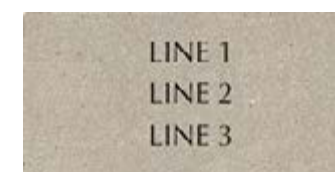
Construction of Phase 3 will begin in early November. Sales for Phase 4 (continuing towards the lake) begin September 15, 2025. There is plenty of space for additional commemorative bricks. Bricks purchased for Phase 4 are \$150 each and will be installed in November 2026.

The bricks are 4" x 8" x 2 1/4" and are engraved using state-of-the-art laser technology. Every brick engraving is guaranteed for life!

All donations are tax deductible. EIN: 82-5453994

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

PLEASE PROOF READ CAREFULLY! \$20.00 FOR CHANGES MADE AFTER ORDER IS PLACED.



\$150 - 4x8 Brick

3 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

The Mary Project
3535 Commerce Road
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

The Mary Project



WIGILIA ORCHARD LAKE

Organizowana przez Centrum Liturgiczne św. Jana Pawła II
Sponsored by the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center



"POKLON PASTERZY" Zofia Stryjeńska (1891 Kraków-1976 Genewa)

Saturday, December 13

All proceeds will benefit the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center

Archdiocesan Shrine

4:30 ~ Music by the Filarets Choir

5:00 ~ **Holy Mass**

Campus Dining Hall

6:00 ~ **Polish Vigil Supper***

Tickets for the Supper are \$50
Seating is limited.

To pay by check:

Please send checks to Orchard Lake Schools
ATTN: Margaret Wozny
3535 Commerce Road - Orchard Lake, MI 48324
and write "Wigilia" on memo line

For questions, please contact:

Margaret Wozny at info@sjp2liturgicalcenter.com
or call (248) 392-9279 Ofc. / (586) 907-6788 Cell.



Scan code to purchase tickets online
or visit www.sjp2liturgicalcenter.com/events

Sobota, 13 grudnia

Cały dochód zostanie przeznaczony na rzecz Centrum Liturgicznego
św. Jana Pawła II

Sanktuarium Archidiecezjalne

4:30 ~ Kolędy w wykonaniu

Chóru Filaretów

5:00 ~ **Msza Święta**

Jadalnia kampusowa

6:00 ~ **Polska kolacja wigilijna***

*Bilety na kolację w cenie \$50

Liczba miejsc jest ograniczona.

Bilety muszą być wykupione do 5 grudnia.

Płatność czekiem:

Czek proszę przesłać do Orchard Lake Schools
Do wiadomości: Margaret Wozny
3535 Commerce Road - Orchard Lake, MI 48324 oraz
napisać "Wigilia" na polu notatki.

W razie pytań prosimy skontaktować się z

Margaret Wozny, mailowo info@sjp2liturgicalcenter.com
lub telefonicznie: (248) 392-9279 biuro.
/ (586) 907-6788 kom.

October 2025

upcoming EVENTS highlights

- 1 Girls Varsity Volleyball vs. Regina @ 7:00 PM
- 2 Academic Open House (Half Day for Students)
- 4 XC @ Oakland Co. Championship (Girls @ 10 AM; Boys @ 10:30 AM)
- 5 Polish 1st Sunday 1:00 PM Mass | Polish Meal to Follow
- 5-24 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition (Opening Reception Oct. 5)
- 6 Boys Varsity Soccer vs. Notre Dame Prep @ 7:00 PM
- 7 Girls Varsity Volleyball @ CHSL Tournament TBD
Girls Golf @ MHSAA Regionals @ 9:30 AM
- 8 Boys Varsity Soccer @ MHSAA Districts TBD
- 9 Girls Varsity Volleyball @ CHSL Finals TBD
- 10 BBQ & Corn Roast Tailgate & Chili Cook-off 5-7:00 PM @ Dining Hall Tent
Homecoming Football vs. Toledo Central Catholic @ 7:00 PM
- 11 Huron Henley @ Kensington Metro Park, Milford
XC @ Gabriel Richard Invitational (Girls @ 8:45 AM; Boys @ 9:20 AM)
Homecoming Dance
- 13 Columbus Day
- 17 End of 1st Card Marking
Girls Golf @ MHSAA D2 Finals @ Bedford Valley TBD
Varsity Football vs. Brother Rice @ 7:00 PM
- 18 Feast of St. John Paul II Mass @ 5:00 PM | Polish Dinner @ Dining Hall After Mass
- 19 Junior Class Ring Day
- 21 Boys Varsity Soccer @ MHSAA Regionals TBD
- 23 NO SCHOOL (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
- 24 NO SCHOOL
Varsity Football vs. River Rouge @ 7:00 PM
- 25 Blake Haxton Regatta @ Columbus, OH
XC @ MHSAA Regionals @ TBD
- 29 Boys Varsity Soccer @ MHSAA Semifinals TBD
- 31 Halloween

Visit olsmathletics.com for more information on MHSAA playoffs,
and check for results on Instagram and Facebook.



Photo by Painted Impression Media



Photo by Elvis the Cat Photography

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 August.

DODA BOJAJ	RUTH ANN KACSIN	ALLEN SMERECKI
DR. WAYNE BREECE	GEORGE MARSH III	CHAD STECKER
BLAIR & BROOKE HARBER	KATHRYN LEE MUSSAT	JILL SUSAN TOOMEY

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

October 2025

MASS schedule

MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Daily Rosary Prayer at the Grotto at 6:30 PM

(In case of rain, the Rosary prayer will be in the Shrine Chapel)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

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, OCTOBER 12

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Mass for Feast of St. JP II

5:00 PM	BP. HURLEY ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	SEMINARY CHAPEL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

*Feed for the Live stream of the Polish Masses: facebook.com/olsnews

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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DEVOTIONS FOR ST. JOHN PAUL II FEAST

MONDAY 10/13	NOVENA FOR ST. JOHN PAUL II FEAST BEGINS
FRIDAY 10/17	ALL NIGHT ADORATION BEGINS AFTER 7:00 PM MASS
SATURDAY 10/18	ALL NIGHT ADORATION ENDS BEFORE 9:00 AM MASS

CONFESSIONS

MONDAY-FRIDAYS	5:30 – 6:20 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
SATURDAYS	8:00 – 8:55 AM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

