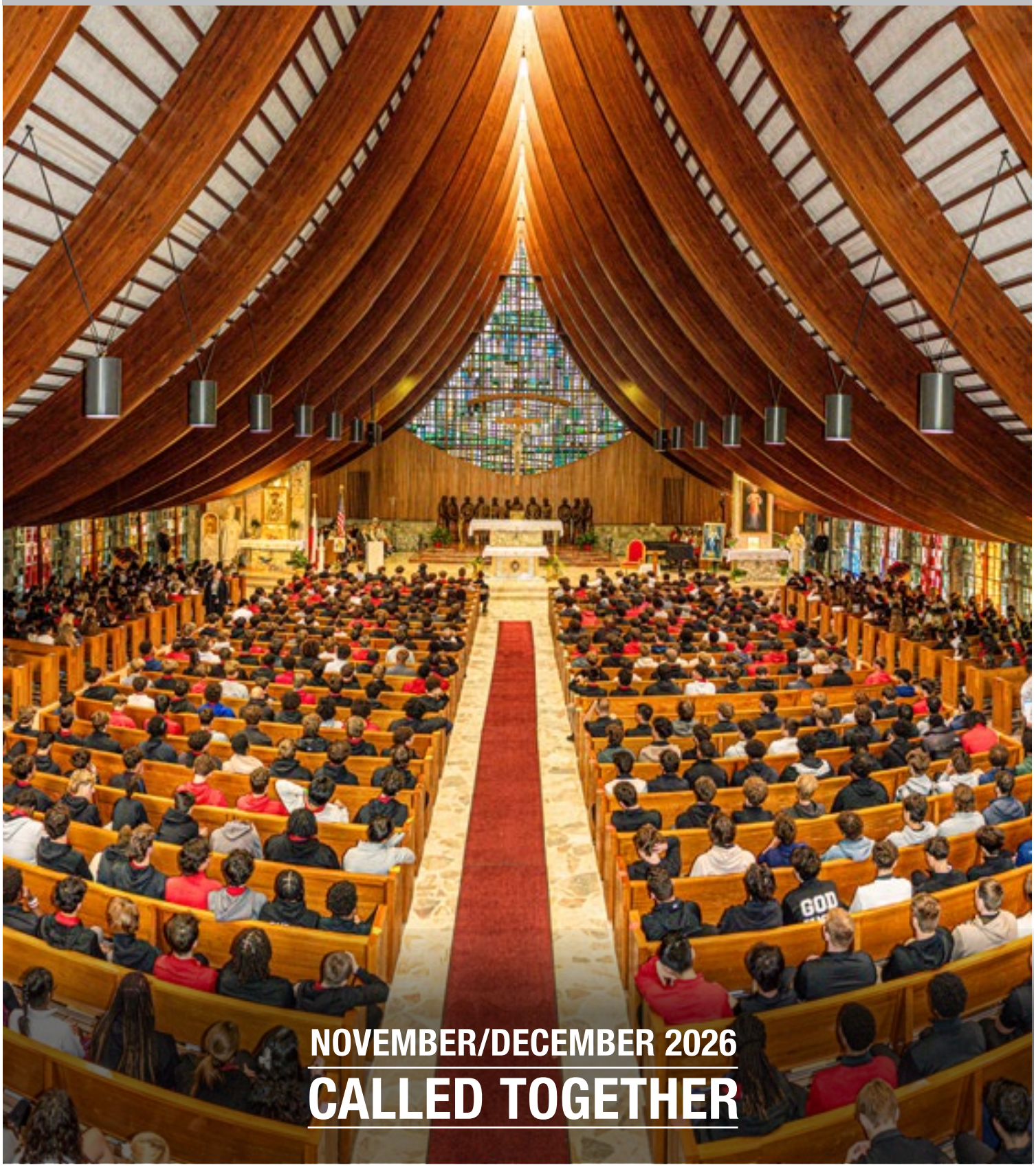
ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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

". . . that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" ~ John 17:21



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2026

CALLED TOGETHER

ONE Prayer – ONE Purpose – ONE People

CONVOCATION ~ A formal, large assembly of students, staff and faculty used to mark a major moment . . . structured, carrying a sense of tradition.

BY **LEN KARSCHNIA**
OLSM HEADMASTER

The new Unity Convocation is a twice-weekly gathering of the entire student body, faculty and staff unified in the Shrine Chapel for a 10-minute assembly used to mark a major moment, thought, or message – a shared reflection that affects all those present in the messages past, present, and future. It is our commitment to the mission and traditions of the Orchard Lake Schools.

On Friday, October 2, 2026, in the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II, St. Mary's Preparatory Headmaster Len Karschnia delivered the first Convocation of the 2026-27 academic year:

Dear Jesus: Lord, we ask that you provide strength and health to our faculty, staff, deans, counselors and coaches as they impart your teachings in the lessons they share . . .

I ask that you help me, Lord – to have the vision and judgment to be a better person – the same thing I ask of our staff and students . . .

And most importantly, we ask that you keep Your children, Lord – our beloved students – in your care – keep them safe – as we gather today in the Shrine Chapel and School named for Your Blessed Mother Mary . . .

The purpose of today's convocation is to better understand the impact of words:

The first words in The New Testament Book of John are as follows – "In the beginning, the Word already existed. The Word was with God. And The Word was God. This Word gave life to everything that was created."

I would like to speak today – at our historic and very first-ever Unity Convocation – about words - the words we speak and write and type and text and post . . .

Some advice – and encouragement – and warnings – come to us in sacred scripture, often from Jesus Himself . . .

The Gospel Writer and Apostle Matthew shares that Jesus said that ". . . on the day of judgment, we will give an account for every careless word we speak – and for the goodness we speak, we will be justified. . ."

In Proverbs we are told that: ". . . a soft answer turns wrath away – and a harsh word stirs up anger . . ."

And in Ephesians: ". . . we are urged to avoid unwholesome talk and instead speak what is helpful for building others up . . ."



ABOUT THE COVER

Cardinal Karol Wojtyla visited the Orchard Lake Schools campus in 1969 and again in 1976. Just two years later, he was elected Pope! Pope Saint John Paul II spoke to us in person in those previous years. He stood on the steps we all stand on just outside the Shrine Chapel and right here inside, like our students gather at Mass and Convocation, a man of great wisdom, vision, and love for God's people, a true spiritual leader – a Saint.

Cover Photo by Tara Johnson



Photo by Tara Johnson

Two more – both again from Proverbs: ". . . reckless words pierce the soul, but the tongue of the wise brings healing . . ." – and ". . . soothing words are the tree of life – but a perverse tongue will crush their spirit . . ."

By now, I think we get the point.

> ***"WORDS: Words can start a war - or bring about peace; Can get us a job – or loose a job; Can bring us love – or break love in two; Can make us money – or cost us money; Can uplift a friend – or destroy a friend – or friendship. Words can heal or harm – and can even bring about life or death."***

The person I would like to speak of – with respect to all of this, but most particularly the last "life or death" statement I made from this pulpit –

Is Jesus Christ.

First of all, if this is our first convocation, the Lord is going first. Period. Enough said. But back to the "life or death" part of what I said earlier. . .

One time, Jesus' words preserved the life of a woman who was Condemned to death – by stoning. He stopped capital punishment. He stopped a death penalty. Simply by speaking words . . . He said, "Let whoever among you that is without sin throw the first stone . . ." People thought about what He said. It impacted them . . . They stopped. They dropped the lethal boulders in their hands and walked away. Christ then told the convicted and conflicted woman to ". . . sin no more – and be on your way."

Talk about powerful . . . wow. And so today, I leave you with two more bits of advice to think about and hopefully carry with you as you exit Chapel today:

Saint John Bosco once said: "Speak much of God, little of yourself, and nothing of others." Let's hear that again: "Speak much of God, little of yourself, and nothing of others."

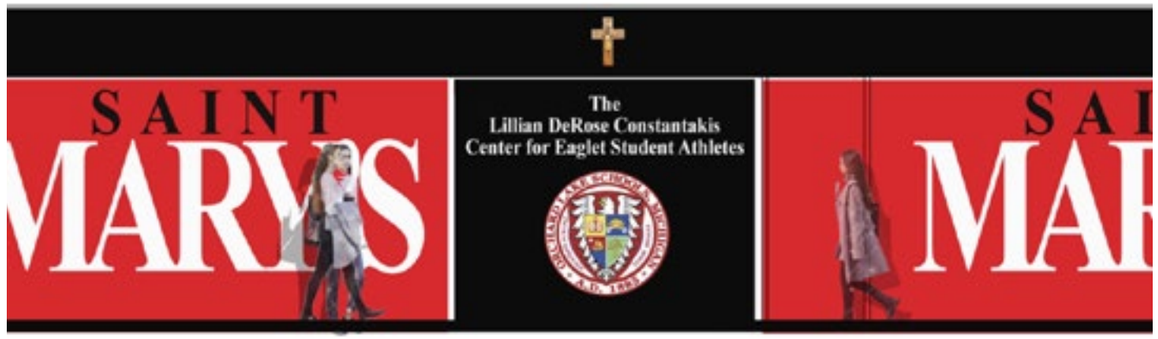
And finally – for those of us who participate in athletics and sport around here – and this is one of my favorites: "When you win say nothing – and when you lose say less." That was Hall of Fame Coach Paul Brown.

I guess he meant "Be humble in victory – and accept defeat quietly rather than loudly."

May we go forth to use our WORDS as Christ-like Leaders for a better world – and to speak in a way that brings His Kingdom of Love and Forgiveness to our friends and families and classmates.

Thank you, God Bless you all – and have a great day and weekend.

CAMPUS Project UPDATES



THE LILLIAN DEROSE CONSTANTAKIS CENTER

Building for Today's Eaglets.
Honoring a Lasting Legacy.

Work continues on the Lillian DeRose Constantakis Center for Eaglet Student-Athletes in the Dombrowski Fieldhouse, with steady progress toward completion later this winter. Construction of the Girls Division locker rooms, team spaces, and support areas is well underway, including dedicated meeting rooms and study space that will provide our female student-athletes with a permanent home.

The project also features a new, expanded fitness center on the second floor that will serve student-athletes from both Divisions, along with an enlarged boys' locker rooms to better meet the needs of our student-athletes.

This transformational project is made possible through the extraordinary generosity of Clarence Constantakis (P'44), whose deep gratitude for his St. Mary's education continues to inspire his commitment to future generations and his belief in the power of a St. Mary's education. The opportunities it provides for young people lives on in this lasting investment in our students and our mission.

The Lillian DeRose Constantakis Center will be a fitting tribute to Clarence and his late wife, Lillian, and provide today's and future Eaglets with the same opportunities for growth, character, and faith that he received and values so deeply.

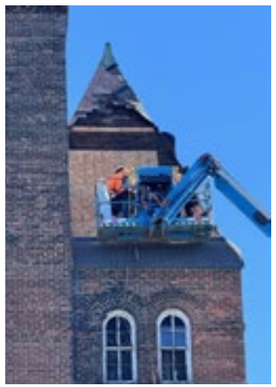
UNITY TOWER RESTORATION

Progress on a Beloved Landmark

The transformation of Unity Tower continues, with the new roof and windows now installed. These improvements were thoughtfully designed to reflect the original architecture of this historic 1885 landmark.

Additional work remains, including signage, architectural lighting, donor recognition areas, and our hope to add a cross to the tower's roofline. We are especially grateful to the Class of 1975, whose members have championed this restoration.

The spirit of unity—connecting generations of Orchard Lake graduates in a shared mission—is already finding expression in the new Unity Convocation, featured elsewhere in this issue.





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

THEN + NOW:
Standing in the Footsteps of a Saint

Visits of CARDINAL WOJTYLA

His Sacred Steps

The next time you stand on the steps of the Shrine Chapel, formally called the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II, take note that you are standing among the footsteps of a saint. This Shrine Chapel is the home of the kayak Cardinal Karol Wojtyla once paddled during his 1976 visit to campus and took a break to explore Orchard Lake – just two years before he became Pope John Paul II.

This is the site of the marble and gold reliquary that holds a first-class relic of St. John Paul II – a piece of his bloodstained clothing from the assassination attempt against him in Rome in 1981.

This is the place where Catholics connect in prayer with Saint John Paul II. This is also the place you will find relics associated with St. Faustina and St. Maximilian Kolbe . . . the place of alumni architecture, and the place of Polish history that had such a strong bond with the future pope, one that began 141 years ago when Fr. Joseph Dabrowski started the institution to educate Polish seminarians to serve Catholic communities in the U.S. and moved it to the shores of Orchard Lake in 1909.

All of this draws us even closer to major history.

Read more about the history of the Shrine Chapel in an upcoming issue of the *Campus Communicator*.



In 2019, the Orchard Lake Schools celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first visit of Karol Wojtyla (Pope Saint John Paul II) to our historic campus. In the photo, Cardinal Wojtyla is walking out of the main doors of what is today the Archdiocesan Shrine in his name. To his left is Msgr. Zdizislaw Peszkowski (1918-2007), a survivor of the 1940 Katyn Massacre, global activist for justice and memorial, and influential OLS faculty. To his immediate right is Fr. Franciszek Macharski (1927-2016), who would go on to succeed Wojtyla as Archbishop of Krakow in 1978, and become elevated to Cardinal the following year.

The Classes of 1977, 1978 and 1979 Return to St. Mary's

A HOMECOMING to Remember



For the returning Eaglets, the weekend overall was about much more than statistics and championship banners. It was about seeing old friends, standing on familiar ground (in the footsteps of a saint), and remembering the school that shaped them.

This homecoming season, St. Mary's welcomed nearly 60 alumni from the Classes of 1977, 1978 and 1979, along with their families and friends, back to the place where so many of their memories began. The kickoff to the Class of '77's reunion year was especially meaningful as the group returned during a weekend that also celebrated Jim Paciorek, honored as the most remarkable athlete in St. Mary's history. Although he graduated with the Class of 1978, many members of these classes were his teammates during one of the most memorable athletic eras in school history.

Paciorek was recently named the "Greatest of All Time" in the more than 100-year athletic history of St. Mary's. During his career, he earned 14 varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track and was a three-time First Team Kodak All-American and Michigan's UPI Player of the Year. As a senior, he helped lead the 1977 Eaglets to a perfect 12-0 season and a Class C state football championship, scoring 27 touchdowns. He then helped St. Mary's complete a perfect 27-0 season and win the 1978 Class C state basketball championship.

The group toured campus, stopping at several of the places that represent both the past and present of St. Mary's, including the Burkacki Academic Center, Fr. Rakoczy Gym, the Tower, Galeria, SMAC, and Dombrowski Field House. One of the most memorable stops was the Historic Room, where Robin shared the collection of historic trophies and athletic memorabilia. Surrounded by pieces of St. Mary's history, alumni had the opportunity to reflect on the teams and accomplishments that helped shape the school they remember.

> ***"For the returning Eaglets, the weekend overall was about much more than statistics and championship banners. It was about seeing old friends, standing on familiar ground, and remembering the school that shaped them."***

The reunion continued at the Homecoming tailgate and game where the Classes of '77, '78 and '79 were recognized, including Jim Paciorek's athletic legacy, and the celebration continued at the Alumni Tent in the end zone. Nearly five decades after their high school years, these Eaglets came home to St. Mary's to see how it has changed, walked in familiar footsteps, and reconnected with one another. The Classes of 1977, 1978 and 1979 helped write an important chapter in St. Mary's history.

Welcome home, Eaglets, to the place where you belong.

Community Partnerships at OLS

STRONGER TOGETHER

Behind a strong school is a community that believes in its mission. At OLS, we are grateful to **REYNOLDS ORTHODONTICS** and **VARSITY AUTO GROUP** for putting that belief into action through their generous annual partnerships. Their support reaches school life, including our events, The Annual Alumni Fund (TAAF), Ambassadors Endowment, alumni initiatives, and more. These investments help meet today's needs while building a lasting foundation for the future. Above all, they reflect a shared commitment to our students, families, and the enduring value of an OLSM education.

These partnerships are built on mutual support. Our business partners gain meaningful opportunities to connect with OLSM families and alumni, strengthen awareness of their businesses, and demonstrate their commitment to the community. In return, our campus community gains resources, relationships, and advocates who help move our mission forward. We thank Reynolds Orthodontics and Varsity Auto Group for investing in our school and the people who make it special. We encourage our families and alumni to support the businesses that support the Orchard Lake Schools. When you visit, be sure to let them know you're part of the OLSM community. It's a simple but meaningful way to show that their partnership matters.

reynolds orthodontics

"At Reynolds Orthodontics, we believe in giving back to the community that supports us, which is exactly why we chose to sponsor St. Mary's Prep. The return on this partnership has gone far beyond just brand recognition; it has allowed us to build genuine, lasting relationships with the incredible students, parents, and faculty of the St. Mary's community. Whether we are cheering on the students or seeing their confident smiles in our office, the connection we've built with this school is truly special. We are proud to stand behind a school that shares our dedication to excellence and community spirit."

— Dr. Jamie Reynolds, Reynolds Orthodontics

VARSITY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
NOVI • WIXOM • ANN ARBOR

"At Varsity Auto Group, we're proud to support Orchard Lake St. Mary's and invest in the students and families who make this community special. This partnership gives us a meaningful way to support education and athletics while connecting with families, alumni, and school supporters. We value the opportunity to build trust and lasting relationships that extend beyond our showrooms. Supporting St. Mary's is an investment in our community's future, and we're honored to be part of it."

— Varsity Auto Group



Cheer | The SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Cheer captured the Spirit of the Game moment with their huge shout-out to our community partner . . . "Varsity Auto Group, you're driving Eaglet spirit! GO, EAGLETS!"

Interested in becoming a community partner with the Orchard Lake Schools? Contact Lisa Gray at 248-392-9974 or Robert Mazur at 248-392-9261 to learn more.



HEADMASTER'S CORNER

BY **LEN KARSCHNIA**
OLSM HEADMASTER

Marking Period 2 has arrived. So much has been accomplished since August 2026 here at OLSM. Parent Teacher Conferences have revealed a great spirit on campus, of which we are proud.

We have rolled out Chromebooks to all freshmen and sophomores as planned. Academic year 2027-28 will see the entire school on this one-to-one platform. Both our new student and new faculty orientations were then conducted. Our "Class of 2030 Night" was a big hit. All Prep faculty and staff celebrated a "Back-to-School" Liturgy, Luncheon and Professional Development session, and the academic year commenced!

Academically, our school's AP Scores/Results came in from Spring 2026 – and 140 students at OLSM scored a "4 or 5" – a remarkable achievement and testament to our staff and students – and the academic rigor inherent to our curricula. New websites for admissions and athletics have been launched, a Professional Development Seminar was conducted regarding technology in the classroom, our wonderful Moms and Dads Club hosted deans and counselors for our "Curriculum Night" for parents and fall sports began in earnest.



More than two dozen OLSM juniors and seniors attended the Archdiocese of Detroit's "Centennial Liturgy" marking the 100th year of the Detroit Catholic High School League (CHSL) at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral with Archbishop Weisenburger; several of our students served on the Liturgical Team to assist with this celebration.

Spirit Week and Homecoming followed; many alumni from the state championship teams of 1977-78 returned to campus for an entire weekend – and LOVE OF SCHOOL came into all of our hearts. Shadow days for prospective students have been at capacity, and feedback is strong from the young men and women visiting. Our "Club Rush" generated more than 40 clubs here at school so friendships and talents can be both fostered and developed.

A large contingent of OLSM student leaders was invited to Wayne State University for the "Get To" Conference, a truly remarkable day. Forming leaders for our communities, our congregations and our country is one of the most pivotal roles our school can work toward. Thank you to our Eaglets.

On the compliance side of things, our Michigan State Police audit was conducted; our Accreditation Self-Study completed with the site team and two AOD Associate Superintendents on campus to confirm and verify all the great things going on here spiritually, academically and in extracurriculars.

Both Boys and Girls Division Ring Day Masses were simply beautiful as AOD Auxiliary Bishop Robert J. Fisher served as Celebrant of the Boys Mass and St. Mary's Prep Alumnus (P'18) Father Daniel Whalen came home to celebrate the Girls Liturgy.

We then were visited by Chancellor Emeritus and Prep (P'70) alumnus Father Tim Whalen as he celebrated Mass here at the Shrine Chapel on the 48th Anniversary of the selection of Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland as Pope John Paul II – now canonized as Saint John Paul II. As most of us know, Cardinal Wojtyla visited the Orchard Lake Schools in 1969 and 1976 and remained in contact and loyal to us for the rest of his life.

Work on the Lillian DeRose Constantakis Center for Eaglet Student-Athletes is progressing within the Dombrowski Fieldhouse. The "Unity Tower" renovation above the Old Gym and overlooking the campus is coming along nicely. And Robin and his team are preparing for the Christmas Tree Lighting.

And finally – we have instituted "Unity Convocation" on Tuesday and Friday mornings as both divisions and staff assemble under one roof for the first time in school history. Though we are two divisions, we are one united **OLSM #1 in Michigan**. The platform of One Purpose – One People has taken root – and we are already seeing the benefits of this endeavor to bring ALL St. Mary's family members together as ONE – past, present and future.



There is much still to do as the holiday rush is near. Winter sports begin soon. Final exams will conclude the semester. Campus Ministry is in the final stages of confirming our grade-level retreats – and we look forward to all these wonderful blessings strengthened together by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Team. Tough. Together. GOD. FAMILY. ST. MARY'S."



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

DECA

This month, we're excited to learn more about what the seniors in DECA are doing to build futures in marketing, finance, hospitality and management - become emerging leaders and entrepreneurs who will help shape the future. Throughout this academic year, read more about groups of seniors who serve, share purpose, and model teamwork.

GOD. FAMILY. ST. MARY'S.



***Boys Division DECA (L to R)**: Mr. Shaw, Landon Draper, Thomas Kakos, Julius Essak , Ellington Cole, Jayven Arafat, Ashton Salem, Jacob Zora, Cj Yi, Daniel Ramos, Pierson Kuhn, Dane Heidisch, Jacob Gardynik, **Seated (L to R)**: Michael Kassa, Ashton Barash, Aiden Mulki, Dominic Prezzato*

DECA Leadership Talk with BOYS DIVISION SENIORS

How has DECA helped you mentor other students? The foundation of DECA is to articulate yourself better while also helping others around you. ***~ Ashton Barash, DECA Boys Division President***

How does DECA help unify our campus community? This DECA experience also helps us bond with the Girls Division DECA group. This year there are even more girls in DECA than boys. It's great to see so many interested in becoming business leaders, entrepreneurs, and difference makers, while unifying their OLSM sisterhood. ***~ Aiden Mulki***

What does being a DECA member mean to you? It's important for you to recognize you stepped up and outside your comfort zone, maybe speaking to a big crowd for the first time, in front of judges, is something you did in high school that helped prepare you for the future. ***~ Dominic Prezzato***

What advice would you give prospective members whether seeking to be part of DECA? It teaches you to lose. I feel like it's a good thing when people lose because when you make that mistake, you're probably going to remember it more, which allows you to have more fun because you're not so worried about it. ***~ Michael Kassa***

CLUB RUSH

brings Student ACTIVITIES to LIFE

St. Mary's Prep students had the opportunity to explore the many ways to get involved on campus during this year's Club Rush. This school year, 44 student clubs exist, showcasing the wide variety of interests, activities, and opportunities available to our students.

During the Seminar period, students visited club tables, met with club leaders and moderators, learned more about upcoming activities, and found new ways to connect with the St. Mary's Prep community. Club Rush was a great way to kick off another exciting year of student involvement and encourage each one of them to find a place to get connected beyond the classroom.



OZOG Student AMBASSADORS

LEADERSHIP Through SERVICE

The Wallace and Joann Ozog Student Ambassador Scholarship recognizes Prep students who demonstrate leadership, service, and a commitment to the Catholic mission of Orchard Lake St. Mary's. Rooted in the Ozog family's long and cherished relationship with St. Mary's and the Orchard Lake Schools, the program celebrates their enduring support of Catholic education and the traditions that make our community special.

Students interested in becoming Ozog Student Ambassadors are invited to complete an application form and share why they believe they would be a good representative of St. Mary's Preparatory. Applicants are selected based on their character, reliability, communication skills, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to serving the school community.

Once selected, Ozog Student Ambassadors represent St. Mary's at key school and Development events throughout the year. Through their leadership, hospitality, and service, they welcome guests, assist with important initiatives, and help strengthen the connections between current students, alumni, donors, and the broader Orchard Lake community.

Serving as an Ozog Student Ambassador is both an honor and a responsibility. The commitment requires participation in school and community events and service above and beyond required student service hours, in addition to students' academic and other responsibilities.

The Ozog Student Ambassador Scholarship is awarded annually to recognize students who embrace this commitment and represent St. Mary's with pride. Through their actions, Ambassadors bring our school's guiding values to life: **God. Family. St. Mary's.**

We are grateful to the Ozog family for their lasting commitment to Orchard Lake St. Mary's and to the students who carry this tradition forward through their example of leadership, generosity, and service.



Our current Ozog Student Ambassadors are (Pictured front row L to R): Leah Roe, Lexie Karcher, Margaret Goodman, Leo Robinson, Elizabeth Romaya, Lucia Lulgjuraj, Scarlett Gatie; (Back row L to R): Kayla Bauss, Sidney Smerecki, Joseph Smerecki, Barron Orton, Michael Kosco, Elizabeth Kiryakoza.

EXTRACURRICULAR & ATHLETIC OPEN HOUSE



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

12:00-2:00PM

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

OLSM BAND'S 6TH ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 7 PM

WHERE: THE GALERIA

ADMISSION: DONATIONS FOR THE SR. JUDIE OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE

ITEMS ACCEPTED (NO GLASS ITEMS):

DIAPERS (NEWBORN TO SIZE 5), CHUNKY PROGRESSO SOUPS, CANNED CHICKEN, BOXED CEREAL, INDIVIDUAL FRUIT CUPS/APPLESAUCE, INDIVIDUAL TREATS FOR LUNCHES, TUNA, MAYO, NUTRIGRAIN/PROTEIN BARS, PASTA/PASTA SAUCE, CANNED VEGETABLES, MACARONI AND CHEESE, CANNED RAVIOLI, TOILETRIES, WASHCLOTHS, DEODORANT, RAZORS, TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, DRY CAT/DOG FOOD, HATS, GLOVES, AND SCARVES.



ATHLETICS

Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory athletics is built on a rich tradition of excellence, discipline, teamwork, and championship-caliber competition—a legacy that continues to inspire each generation of Eaglets to pursue greatness both on and off the field. As the fall 2026 season enters the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) playoff stretch, that proud tradition is on full display across the school's athletics. The dedication and determination of St. Mary's football, soccer, volleyball, crew, cross country, and golf build the competitive spirit Eaglet student-athletes continue to embody. St. Mary's remains grounded in the values that have long fueled its success: hard work, accountability, brother- and sisterhood, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. The fall 2026 season is another opportunity for the Eaglets to honor their legacy while building one of their own.

Football | HOSTING MHSAA DISTRICTS

Varsity football enters the 2026 MHSAA Division 2 District playoffs carrying the confidence of a two-time defending state champion and the ambition to make history with a third consecutive title. The Eaglets finished the regular season (6-3), with signature victories over Brother Rice (48-20), De La Salle (42-6), and U of D Jesuit (56-7) in the regular season finale. The challenge (at the time this issue went to print) is Lakewiew High School on November 6th for the district final. The Eaglets know the road to a state championship three-peat begins with winning one game at a time. Tradition sets the standard. The championship experience fuels the belief.

Volleyball | CHSL HONORS

Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory girls varsity volleyball closed its 2026 regular season with momentum, resilience, and a strong finish as the Eaglets turned their attention to the MHSAA postseason. The team's late-season results included a 3–1 victory over Athens on October 20, highlighted by Avery Kapeller's 22 kills, 12 digs, and 10 aces, and a comeback win over Frankenmuth in tournament play. Those performances showcased the Eaglets' ability to respond under pressure as they prepare for MHSAA District playoffs beginning November 2nd.

We're proud to recognize our OLSM Eaglets who earned postseason honors: **All-Catholic** - Zoey Kapeller; Avery Kapeller; All-League - Lindsey Schwegman; **All-Academic** - Jillian Jackson





Golf | MAKING HISTORY

Congratulations, girls golf, on an O-mazing season! For the first time in St. Mary's history, the Girls Golf team qualified for the State Championship (results not available when the Communicator went to print)! This is a landmark achievement for the program and a proud moment for the entire school community. The milestone reflects the continued growth of Eaglet athletics and the determination of student-athletes who are creating new chapters in the school's storied history.

Soccer | CHSL DISTRICT CHAMPS + COACH OF THE YEAR

Coach Keith Jeffery was named two-time CHSL Coach of the Year. Coach Keith Jeffery was named a two-time winner, receiving the honor for both the men's and women's (spring 2026) programs after another outstanding season leading the Eaglets. On the men's side, Coach Jeffery guided the boys to a first-place finish in the standings, capturing the AA Division championship and securing the program's second AA Division title in four years. The Eaglets' impressive season also earned them the No. 1 seed heading into the MHSAA state tournament.



Under Jeffery, the Eaglets continue to establish themselves among the top programs in Division 2, earning another Top 10 ranking and currently sitting at No. 8. His ability to build competitive teams, maintain a winning standard, and lead both the men's and women's programs to success reflects the consistency and commitment that have defined his coaching tenure.

HONORS

Congratulations to the following Boys Soccer team members on their **CHSL honors**: All-Catholic – Charlie Bear, Miller Burrows, Elvis Caushaj, Mason Lanfear; All-League -- Nick Kavanaugh, Luis Porter, Evan Porter, Emanuel Taylor; All-Academic – Joseph Harb; **MHSSCA District honors**: Charlie Bear, Miller Burrows, Elvis Caushaj, Nicolas Kavanaugh, Kasper Korytko, Mason Lanfear, Evan Porter, Luis Porter, Emanuel Taylor

Crew | Building LEGACY



For Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory Crew, the fall season is about much more than racing—it is a time to build the foundation for success, strengthen team chemistry, and carry forward a tradition of rowing excellence that spans five decades. With Orchard Lake serving as their home course, Eaglet rowers develop the discipline, endurance, technical precision, and trust in one another that define the sport. Fall regattas provide valuable opportunities to compete, measure progress, and prepare for the challenges ahead at local, state, and nationals levels while every practice reinforces the commitment and camaraderie at the heart of St. Mary's Crew.

Cross-Country | League CHAMPS



Congratulations to the OLSM cross country team that ran at Kensington for the CHSL Championship (MHSAA Regional results were not available before publication of this issue)!

A season's reflection from Coach Nick Gischa . . . This fall season, cross country runners achieved either their personal bests or season best. Running is a brutal sport. Mentally. Physically. You can do all the right things and still go months, sometimes years without getting a personal record . . . running is a privilege and a gift . . . those who put in the work and do the right things will always rise to the top.

SERVICE | Making a Difference

Rosary Club | BALLOON ROSARY GRACES GROTTO

On Monday, October 26, members of the Rosary Club, Sisters in Christ, and the campus community gathered at the Grotto for the 2nd Annual Balloon Rosary, *Gathered Through the Beads*. It's a time to come together in prayer and all who came held a lifesize balloon model in their prayers.



Band Christmas Concert Sounding off for SR. JUDIE OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE

Once again, the OLSM Music Program students and band/choir director and teacher Gina Dlugoskielski are supporting the Sr. Judie Outreach Food Drive at their 6th Annual Christmas Concert! Admission to this season's concert, a time-honored tradition, is a donation to the Food Drive. See the list of needs listed on the flyer inside this issue. Join us for the "must see" event and help thosein need.

Sister Judie's Outreach

World Medical Relief | EFFORTS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

OLSM's World Medical Relief club has implemented several days this semester to sort and pack medical supplies for communities in need.





"FIRST LASTS"

ATHLETIC TEAMS | SENIOR Nights*

The end of fall sports season marked the first last time our OLSM seniors had the privilege of representing their team in the regular season. Thank you, seniors, for becoming an Eaglet, for your dedication, hard work, and commitment.







SUPER Fans

Fall sports saw the rise of the Girls Volleyball "Super Fan" competition!



Walter J. Rozycki, Class of 1928

SHRINE CHAPEL ARCHITECT





Walter J. Rozycki (December 23, 1909 – August 11, 1996), Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory Class of 1928, built a legacy that remains an integral part of the campus today. A Michigan architect, Rozycki is best known for designing the Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake, the centerpiece of the Orchard Lake Schools. His architectural vision helped create one of the campus's most recognizable and meaningful landmarks, a place that reflects the spiritual mission and enduring traditions of the Orchard Lake community.

Rozycki's connection to Orchard Lake makes his contribution especially meaningful. Having once walked the same campus as a student, he returned through his professional talents to leave a lasting imprint on the institution. The Shrine Chapel stands as a tribute to his skill and vision, connecting generations of students, alumni, and friends through a shared sense of faith, history, and community. More than a distinguished architectural achievement, it is a lasting reminder of an alumnus whose work continues to enrich the campus he helped shape. Read more about the Shrine Chapel in a special feature coming in the January/February 2027 *Campus Communicator*.

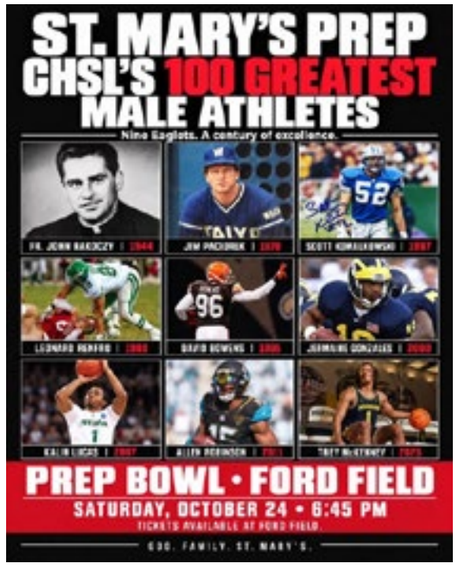
OLSM Alumni Named to Top 100 Male Athletes

CHSL'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Congratulations to the St. Mary's Prep Alumni Athletes who were recently named in the Top 100 Male Athletes in the history of the Catholic League as a part of the CHSL Centennial Celebration (see list by OLSM class year):

John Rakocyz, P'44
Jim Paciorek, P'78
Scott Kowalkowski, P'87
Leonard Renfro, P'88
David Bowens, P'95
Jermaine Gonzales, P'00
Kalin Lucas, P'07
Allen Robinson, P'11
Trey McKenney, P'24

A special presentation recognizing their accomplishments and contributions to the CHSL's Rich History was held at the Prep Bowl at Ford Field on Saturday, October 24, 2026.



OLSM Alumni Formerly in

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

BASEBALL
1911 | **Joseph Peplowsk** | Detroit Tigers
1933 | **Chester Cichosc** | Cleveland Indians
1973 | **Mike Paciorek** | Los Angeles Dodgers
1978 | **Jim Paciorek** | Milwaukee Brewers
1984 | **Mike Ignasiak** | Milwaukee Brewers
2010 | **Devin Arhart** | Los Angeles Dodgers
2011 | **Blaise Salter** | Detroit Tigers

BASKETBALL
2007 | **Kalin Lucas** | Memphis Grizzlies

HOCKEY
2006 | **Jeff Petry*** | Edmonton Oilers*
(went pro prior to graduation)
2010 | **Dan Milan** | Tampa Bay Lightning

LACROSSE
1982 | **Tim Grombola** | Detroit Turbos Lacrosse

BOXING
1989 | **James Lee** | KOTC Light Heavyweight Champion (2006)

FOOTBALL (most recent pro team):
1987 | **Scott Kowalkowski** | Detroit Lions
1989 | **Leonard Renfo** | Philadelphia Eagles
1989 | **Sam Rogers** | Buffalo Bills
1990 | **Vaughn Bryant** | Detroit Lions
1990 | **Filmel Johnson** | Buffalo Bills
1995 | **Dave Bowens** | Denver Broncos; Coach of Dallas Cowboys
1997 | **Bill Teerlinck** | Defensive End Coach, Indianapolis Colts (won Super Bowl XLIV with his father, John, Defensive Line Coach, who coached a total of four Super Bowl teams and won with the Colts and twice with the Denver Broncos; Bill and John | OLSM College Counselor Ann Bartus' brother & father, respectively)
2000 | **Josh Bourke** | Green Bay Packers
2001 | **Charles Davis** | Pittsburgh Steelers
2001 | **Grant Mason** | New Orleans Saints
2001 | **Anthony Sherrell** | Detroit Lions
2004 | **Morgan Trent** | Cincinnati Bengals
2009 | **Dion Sims** | Miami Dolphins
2011 | **Allen Robinson** | Jacksonville Jaguars; Detroit Lions
2012 | David Talley | Green Bay Packers
2013 | Sean Harrington | Toronto Argonauts
2015 | **Van Jefferson** | Los Angeles Rams
2016 | **James Ross** | San Diego Chargers
2016 | **KJ Handler** | Denver Broncos
2017 | **Josh Ross** | Baltimore Ravens

OLSM Alumni Currently in

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS

BASEBALL
2021 | **Alex Mooney** | Cleveland Guardians
2022 | **Nolan Schubert** | Cleveland Guardians
2022 | **Ike Irish** | Baltimore Orioles
2022 | **Brock Porter** | Texas Rangers
2022 | **Ciaran Caughey** | Washington Nationals
2022 | **Nolan Higgins** | Toronto Blue Jays

FOOTBALL
2017 | **Ralph Holley** | Toronto Argonauts
2021 | **Tommy Doman** | Buffalo Bills

REFLECTION

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

The last Sunday of the liturgical year is dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This year it is celebrated on November 22nd. Jesus was proclaiming God's kingdom distinguishing it from early kingdoms by saying that His kingdom "is not of this world" (John 18:36). One of the invocations of the prayer that he taught his disciples is "Thy kingdom come" (Matthew 6:10). In the preface to the Eucharistic prayer during this solemnity, it is described as "an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace." Let us read excerpts from St. John Paul II's homily on this solemnity, November 22, 1998:

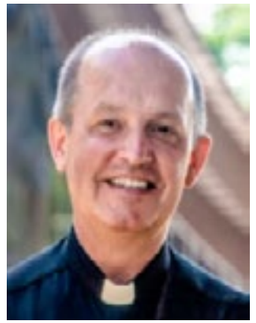
In the Words of
ST. JOHN PAUL II



"Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews". This is the title put on the cross. Shortly before Christ's death, one of the two condemned men crucified with him said to him: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom". What kingdom? The object of his request was certainly not an earthly kingdom but another one.
The good thief speaks as if he had heard the words exchanged earlier between Pilate and Christ. Indeed, it was before Pilate that Jesus had been accused of wanting to make himself king. Pilate had questioned him about this: "Are you the King of the Jews" (Jn 18:33). Christ had not denied it; he had explained: "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world" (Jn 18:36). Jesus had replied directly to Pilate's repeated question as to whether he was a king: "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice" (Jn 18:37).
Today's Liturgy speaks of the earthly kingdom of Israel by recalling the anointing of David as King. Yes, God had chosen Israel; he sent it not only prophets but even kings, when the Chosen People insisted on having an earthly ruler. Of all the kings who sat upon the throne of Israel, the greatest was David. When the first reading of this celebration speaks of that kingdom, it does so to recall that Jesus of Nazareth was of the line of King David, but also, and above all, to emphasize that the royalty proper to Christ is of a different kind.
The words which Mary heard at the Annunciation are significant: "The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 1:32-33). This kingdom, then, is not only the earthly kingdom of David, which came to an end. It is the Kingdom of Christ, which will never end, the eternal Kingdom, the Kingdom of truth, of love and of eternal life.
The Good Thief crucified with Jesus came in some way to the heart of this truth. Indeed, in a certain sense he became a prophet of this eternal Kingdom when, hanging on the cross, he said: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Lk 23:42).
Christ said in reply: "Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23:43)

THANK YOU, FR. WITEK

We continue to thank Fr. Witek for his SERVICE & DEDICATION



Tell us, again, about your arrival at Orchard Lake. I arrived on April 13, 2022, the Wednesday of Holy Week and the following day, on Holy Thursday, I started the celebrations of the Holy Triduum in the Seminary Chapel for a small group of people. Generally, I'm not making expectations in advance before reaching a place. What is there, I find upon my arrival.

What did you learn as a child and throughout your years leading up to your priestly ordination that continues to guide you? In my youth, my favorable book was the Bible. I chose it as my specialization during my studies and I continue studying it. The Bible is essential for spiritual growth of anyone, especially for priests and the religious!

What were your impressions of establishing the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center and serving as the Director? When the idea of establishing the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center came to mind for pastoral work on campus, I saw that there was a need for it. Therefore, I introduced regular Masses, confessions, and various devotions. Since then, the number of regular participants has been growing.

Tell us about the projects you feel have shaped your leadership here — including the Altar Project - and will help carry on the mission and vision of Fr. Dabrowski today and for future generations? Shortly after my arrival, I heard about the project that was not completed concerning the Divine Mercy altar. In fact, the left side altar featured the Black Madonna image, the St. John Paul II statue, and his relic, but the right side was empty. Knowing that St. John Paul II was very instrumental in promoting the devotion to the Divine Mercy, I was convinced the right side of the altar needed to be completed. The project expanded to include additional items, especially the beautiful new permanent main altar which, in fact, was very needed.

Now that you've been called back by your Provincial Superior to the Salvatorian Fathers and will be departing us the end of January 2027, what impressions and spiritual life lessons have you learned, and how will you share these in your next assignment? My next assignment should be in Merryville, Indiana. During my stay here, I came across the devotions called Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a private revelation to Elizabeth Kindelmann in Hungary from the early 1960s. I promoted it here and plan to in my new assignments. It goes hand in hand with Divine Mercy. We need Divine Mercy to be forgiven, but we need the Flame of Love to be sustained by a special grace so not to fall into sin.

What message(s) would you like to leave with OLSM students, faculty, staff, the campus community, and Polonia with? "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides" (Matthew 6:33). It means that our lives should be Christ centered. Modern godless society is affecting all of us. One of the problems in our times is lukewarmness. We can be convinced of being deeply religious while religion is limited to cultural customs and external acts, but the heart is not there. To center life on Christ, we must build a very personal relationship with Him through daily prayers, regular participation at Mass and other sacraments, reading the Bible and deepening our faith.

What can you share about this new assignment, including how we can follow you throughout your journey? God, through my superiors, will show it to me, when the time arrives. I will continue my biblical research, and you can find out more about it on academia.edu . On my YouTube channel (@BernardWitekSDS), I publish short biblical reflections for Sundays, in Polish and English.

Shrine Chapel Faithful Honor

FR. BERNARD WITEK

BY **JOE MAJCHER**
ST. JPII LITURGICAL CENTER CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

On Saturday, October 16, 145 residents of the Greater West Bloomfield Township area who regularly attend religious services at the Archdiocesan Shrine of St. John Paul II gathered at the Royal Palace Hall at 6123 Haggerty Rd. to honor Fr. Witek, wish him success in his upcoming new assignment (February 2027), and say goodbye. He will depart the Orchard Lake Schools the end of January 2027. This reception was an outpouring of gratitude to Fr. Witek for his 4+ years of ministry to the local community.

It was organized by Patricia Minor, St. Mary's College alumna and benefactor, and Nella Mati, regular religious service attendee.

This was a significant demonstration of the degree to which local residents value and appreciate the religious services made available to them by the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center of the Orchard Lake Schools. It also demonstrates how well Fr. Witek is appreciated and valued by them. Many attendees expressed hope that another priest will replace Fr. Witek in the same capacity.



ZAMPRASZAMY

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

A SPECIAL MASS AT THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS TO PRAY FOR POLONIA

SUNDAY, DEC. 6, 2026 | 1:00 PM
Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, December 2nd.

SUNDAY, JAN. 3, 2027 | 1:00 PM
Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, December 30th.

- Polish Dinner after the Mass in the Dining Hall – Cost: $20
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com

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

~ SHRINE ALTAR PROJECT UPDATE ~

Thank you to all those who have steadfastly supported the Shrine Altar Project. The ambos (sides of the altar) to finish this blessed work have arrived and will be here on campus for installation very soon.





'Tis the Season

TO VISIT THE BOOKSTORE.

HOURS: MON - FRI | 7:00 - 4:00

(HOURS CHANGE WHEN SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION.)

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 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.

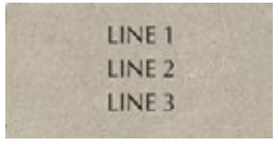
Construction of Phase 4 will begin in early November. Sales for Phase 5 (continuing towards the lake) begin September 15, 2026. There is plenty of space for additional commemorative bricks. Bricks purchased for Phase 5 are $150 each and will be installed in November 2027.

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 14, 2027

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

Polish Institute

UPDATE

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

With the school year well underway, we enter a meaningful season at Orchard Lake. September brought remembrance of Poland's wartime history and our commemoration of St. John Paul II's 1987 Michigan visit. October, Polish American Heritage Month, celebrated a heritage we proudly preserve year-round.

November begins with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. On November 2, the Polish Institute and Orchard Lake St. Mary's will hold our annual Day of Service at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Preparatory students, joined by Headmaster Leonard Karschnia, Regents, faculty, and staff, will clean the graves of Blue Army veterans, Orchard Lake clergy, professors, and staff.

The Blue Army holds a profound place in our history. During World War I, thousands of Poles living in America, including many from Michigan, answered the call to liberate their homeland after 123 years of partition. They trained at Camp Kościuszko in Niagara-on-the-Lake before departing for war.



General Józef Haller visited our campus twice. Though separated from Poland by an ocean, these men never lost their devotion to her. Many made the ultimate sacrifice for her freedom. Through this day of service, students honor their legacy and experience the meaning of remembrance, mercy, and gratitude.

November 11 marks both Veterans Day in America and Polish Independence Day, reminding us of the sacrifices made in defense of freedom. On November 8, the Polish Scouting Organization in Michigan will host its annual Bal Niepodległości at Our Lady of Częstochowa Church in Sterling Heights. We are deeply grateful to its leaders for nurturing Polish history, language, faith, and traditions among our youngest generations. Thank you for all you do! Dziękujemy!

Our 30th Annual Friends of Polish Art Fine Art Show, co-hosted by PICR, remains on display through November 22. Artwork is available for purchase, benefiting artists and supporting both organizations. The Galeria will be open during the November 22 campus tree lighting. Private Galeria and archives tours are also available by appointment.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we give thanks for our families, faith, freedoms, and the supporters who sustain our mission.

Please join us for our November 7 Polish Citizenship Seminar and November 9 Literary Salon featuring Sister Halina Pierożak, MChR, presenting *Z nadzieją na przetrwanie*. Register at **www.picrol.org** as space fills quickly.

Advent then invites us to prepare for Christ's birth. Polish Christmas traditions, especially Wigilia, connect faith, family, and generations. PICR is pleased to sponsor the Friends of Polish Art Wigilia on December 12 at the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy.

Watch for new programming announcements and explore our comprehensive Polonia Calendar for cultural and community events throughout Michigan and Ohio. At Orchard Lake, we are privileged to be part of that enduring story.

Pamiętajmy o tych, którzy byli przed nami, pielęgnujmy nasze tradycje i przekazujmy polskie dziedzictwo kolejnym pokoleniom.

World Premiere Opera Concert

Honoring ST. JOHN PAUL II

On September 19, nearly 300 guests gathered at the historic Sweetest Heart of Mary Church in Detroit for a special opera concert commemorating the 39th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's visit to Michigan on September 18-19, 1987. Presented by the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake, the concert celebrated the Pope's enduring spiritual and cultural connection to Michigan's Polish American community.

The evening featured internationally acclaimed Polish soprano Dominika Zamara, joined by pianist and organist Christine El-Hage Walters, soprano Gina Aula, and tenor Patrick Walters. The program brought together sacred music, classical compositions, and contemporary works honoring Saint John Paul II, including music by composers Antonio Bellandi, Tiziano Bedetti, and Wiesław Rentowski.

A highlight of the evening was the world premiere of two compositions written in honor of Saint John Paul II: Bellandi's *Ave Verum for John Paul II* and Rentowski's *Sanctus for John Paul II*. Their performances provided a fitting tribute to a pontiff whose historic visit remains an important chapter in the history of Michigan Polonia.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Sweetest Heart of Mary Church and its pastor, Father Greg Tokarski, for co-hosting this special evening. Our appreciation also goes to the musicians, volunteers, and nearly 300 attendees whose presence made the concert a memorable celebration of faith, music, and Polish heritage. Special thanks to *Józef Lędziński* for documenting the evening through video and photography, and Jurek Różalski of *Polish Varieties* for his interviews, coverage, and continued support of our Institute and its mission.





From Texas to Orchard Lake:

A Visit with PROFESSOR JIM MAZURKIEWICZ



The Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake welcomed Professor Jim Mazurkiewicz of Texas A&M University, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Texas, for a weekend focused on education, Polish American history, and strengthening ties between Michigan and Texas Polonia.

Professor Mazurkiewicz addressed nearly 150 Orchard Lake St. Mary's students, faculty, and staff, discussing the historical connections between Texas and Michigan, particularly the contributions of Father Leopold Moczygemba and Father Józef Dąbrowski. The presentation prompted thoughtful questions from students, including several considering Texas A&M University.

During his visit, Professor Mazurkiewicz toured the Orchard Lake campus, Galeria, and Archives, learning more about the institution's history and research collections. Discussions with Institute leadership also explored opportunities for future collaboration.

The Institute also hosted a Polish-American Business Roundtable, co-sponsored by the Consulate of the Republic of Poland, the Kosciuszko Foundation, and Polish American Professionals. Moderated by Director Dr. John Radzilowski, the panel featured Professor Mazurkiewicz, Richard Walawender, Honorary Consul of Poland in Michigan, and Beata Bernady Chochla of ZielonyGo. The discussion focused on Polish American business relationships and opportunities for cooperation between Poland and the United States.

Professor Mazurkiewicz also visited several Polish-American institutions throughout metropolitan Detroit, including the American Polish Cultural Center in Troy, where he attended the Polish American Congress's 250th Anniversary Gala, Wawel Restaurant, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Sterling Heights, and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

A recording of the business roundtable is available on the Polish Media Center's YouTube channel.

We thank Professor Mazurkiewicz for his visit and look forward to continued cooperation between the Polish Institute and our colleagues in Texas.



A LITERARY SALON

with Anna Fink

What began as a conversation during Anna Fink's visit to Orchard Lake last year inspired a new project documenting the Polish churches of metropolitan Detroit. Having previously explored Chicago's Polish churches, Ms. Fink was encouraged by the Polish Institute to turn her attention to Detroit with a simple question: "Why not here?" On September 25, we were delighted to welcome Ms. Fink back for the launch of her new book, *33 Churches: 33 Kościoły*, as part of our Literary Salon Series. The event drew a wonderful turnout, bringing together community members to celebrate Detroit's rich Polish American heritage.

The author of, which documents Polish churches in the Chicago area, Ms. Fink shared insights into her research and the history of these treasured places of worship. Dr. John Radzilowski reflected on their enduring significance as expressions of faith, identity, and community. The evening concluded with a reception and book signing. Ms. Fink's books are available on Amazon, and her original artwork depicting churches can be found at fine-art shows and book signings.







VISITING SCHOLARS

at the Polish Institute

Beyond preserving Polish and Polish American heritage, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake serves as a research center for visiting academics, students, and writers. Our archival collections continue to support scholarship across a range of historical disciplines. Recently, we welcomed three researchers:



BARTOSZ CHRAMIEC, an undergraduate history student at the University of Notre Dame, researching Polish Catholics in Chicago during the era of Cardinal George Mundelein. His work is supported by the Franco Family Institute for Liberal Arts.



FR. RAFAŁ KOWALSKI, of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław, conducting research on historical sermons preserved in our Archives.



DR. DOMINIK BIEŃ, a political scientist at the University of Gdańsk, whose research focuses on opposition movements in communist Poland, particularly the Workers' Defense Committee (KOR).

Under the guidance of Archivist Sister Genowefa Potaczała, MChR, and Director Dr. John Radzilowski, our collections remain an important resource for researchers examining Polish history and the Polish American experience. We are pleased to support scholarship that brings new perspectives to the historical materials entrusted to our care.

Upcoming POLISH CONSULAR VISIT

to Orchard Lake!



The Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake is pleased to welcome representatives of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Chicago for a consular visit on Saturday, November 14, 2026.

Location: Galeria, Orchard Lake Schools Campus
3535 Commerce Road, Orchard Lake, MI 48324
Time: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with a scheduled break

During the visit, individuals will have the opportunity to submit Polish passport applications and address certain consular legal matters. Advance appointments are required! Passport appointments must be scheduled by telephone on November 3-4, 2026, between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM Central Time, or until all appointments are filled. Call: 312-337-8166, ext. 1 Please review the required documentation and eligibility procedures before scheduling your appointment. For passport information, visit: **www.gov.pl/web/usa/paszporty**

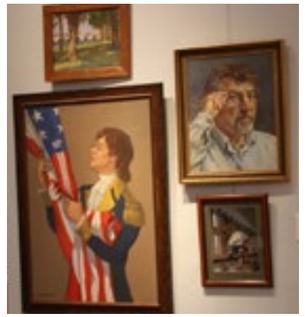
We are pleased to welcome the Polish Consulate to Orchard Lake and help make these important services accessible to our Polonia community. Please share this announcement with anyone who may benefit from these services!

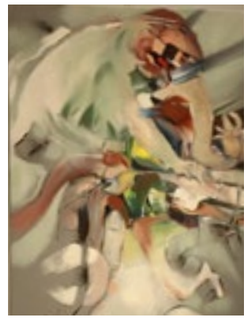
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

of Artistic Excellence at Orchard Lake!

There's still time to experience the 30th Annual Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Exhibition, on display in the Galeria through November 22, presented in collaboration with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake! Rooted in the longstanding tradition of the Kubinski Competition, this year's exhibition features more than 80 works by 21 artists, showcasing painting, photography, sculpture, textiles, and mixed media.

Congratulations to Craig Bingham, recipient of the Best in Show (see photo) and Richard Kubinski Awards for Nerve Finds His Duck (2025), and John Jackowski, recipient of the Polish Institute's Award for Best Work on a Polish Theme for Battle of Kircholm (2025). The exhibition celebrates artistic excellence while honoring the Polish American cultural heritage that inspired its beginnings. Artwork is available for purchase, with proceeds benefiting participating artists and supporting the missions of Friends of Polish Art and the Polish Institute. The Galeria is open during scheduled events and by appointment for private viewings. We invite you to visit and enjoy the remarkable talent of our local artists!





A Piece of Polish American History Goes Digital:

NIEDZIELA (1891–1902)

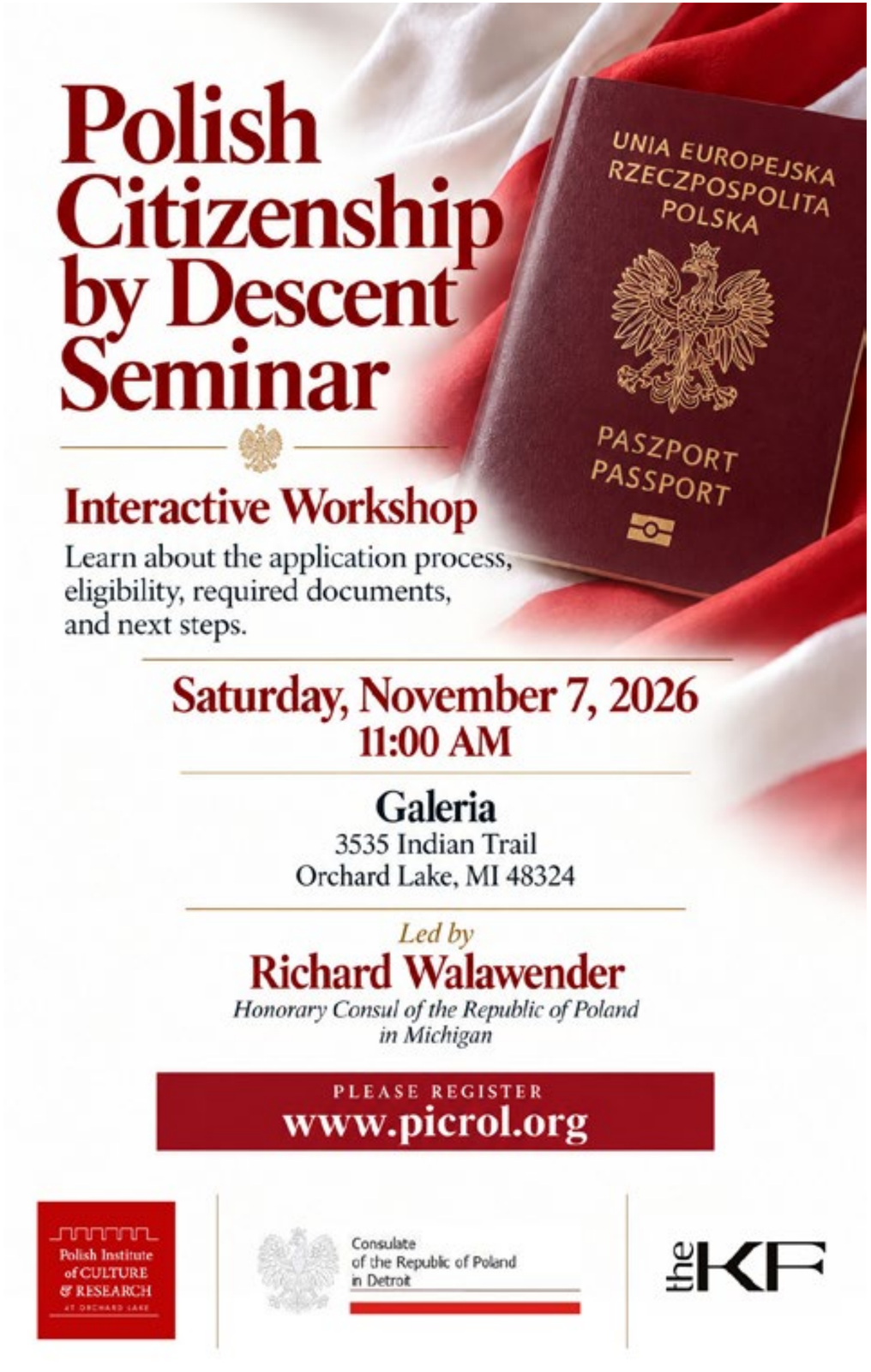
The Polish Institute of Culture and Research at Orchard Lake is pleased to announce that *Niedziela*, the first publication of the Polish Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius, is now available online through the Digital Michigan Newspapers collection at Central Michigan University.

First published in 1891, *Niedziela* was established to promote the education and moral development of Polish immigrants in America. Featuring articles on religion, science, history, and literature, the periodical served as an important connection between the Seminary and the growing Polish-American community.

"*Niedziela* was the first publication of the Polish Seminary for the public. It was our first effort at public outreach to Polonia. Fr. Dąbrowski wanted to use the educational and cultural resources of what would become the Orchard Lake Schools to serve the whole community to uplift both our hearts and minds. It began a tradition of public engagement that continues today," said Dr. John Radzilowski, Director of the Polish Institute of Culture & Research.

Thanks to the efforts of the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University and the Digital Michigan Newspapers project, all surviving issues in our collection from 1891 to 1902 have been digitized. This marks a historic milestone: *Niedziela* is the first Polish language newspaper to be included in the Digital Michigan Newspapers database. We are grateful to our partners for helping preserve and share this important piece of Polish American heritage with researchers, families, and future generations.

Explore the collection:
Read *Niedziela* Online – Digital Michigan Newspapers.



Polish Citizenship by Descent Seminar

Interactive Workshop

Learn about the application process, eligibility, required documents, and next steps.

Saturday, November 7, 2026
11:00 AM

Galeria
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Led by
Richard Walawender
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Michigan

PLEASE REGISTER
www.picrol.org

Polish Institute of CULTURE & RESEARCH AT ORCHARD LAKE

Consulate of the Republic of Poland in Detroit

the KF

THE
POLISH INSTITUTE
LITERARY SALON SERIES

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT LITERARY SALON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026 | 7:00 PM

HALINA PIEROŻAK, MChR



EVENT WILL BE IN POLISH

Z NADZIEJĄ NA PRZETRWANIE

A moving account of those who endured exile to the depths of Siberia and who, through faith and resilience, remained emigrants forever.



EVENT IS FREE.
REGISTER AT
www.picrol.org

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

BOOKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON SITE.

RECEPTION WITH THE AUTHOR AND SIGNING TO FOLLOW.

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 September and October.

SEPTEMBER

RON CLANCY
JOSEPH A. FISCHETTI
PATRICIA GAJEWSKI
KEN GOSSMAN
CHARLES F. KESLING
TIMOTHY MARTIN
LARRY MILAVEC
JOSEPH O'SHEA
CRYSTAL SAVAYA

OCTOBER

KAREN BARCKMAN
JOSEPH BRUZ
COLLEEN CASTALDO
MRS. VAL CHAMPINE
MARK DZIEDZIAK
PATRICIA ANN GAJEWSKI
DEACON KEVIN HUGHES
GEORGE MARSH JR.
MARYE MILLER
AUGUST NICOSIA
CAROLYN TOPOR

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

IN MEMORIAM . . .

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

JOSEPH BRUZ (P'52)
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 ~ Age 91
Waterford, Michigan

LAWRENCE (LARRY) F. HARRIS (P'57)
AUGUST 24, 2026 ~ Age 86
Twinsburg, Ohio

+ 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



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

November 2026

Upcoming **EVENTS** highlights

1	All Saints' Day Polish 1st Sunday | Galeria Open 12:00-3:00 PM
1-22	30th Annual Friends of Polish Art Fine Art Show | Galeria | By Appointment
2	All Souls' Day Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Districts | TBD
4	Boys Varsity Soccer MHSAA Semifinals | TBD
5	OLSM TEDx Talk: Protecting Their Future | Dining Hall | 5:30-8:00 PM
6	Varsity Football MHSAA District Final vs. Lakeview High School | 7:00 PM
7	Polish Seminar by Descent Seminar | Galeria | 11:00 AM Girls Hockey vs. Liggett/Regina | 5:30 PM Boys Varsity Soccer Finals | Grand Ledge HS | TBD Cross Country MHSAA Finals | TBD
8	Extracurricular & Athletic Open House | 12:00-2:00 PM
9	Polish Institute Literary Salon Series: Author Haline Pierozak | Galeria | 7:00 PM
10	Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Regionals | TBD
11	Veterans Day Polish Independence Day
13	Varsity Football MHSAA Regionals | TBD | 7:00 PM
15	Polish Independence Day Mass & Luncheon | 1:00 PM Mass @ Shrine Chapel | Luncheon | Dining Hall (Immediately Following Mass)
17	Girls Varsity Volleyball Quarterfinals | TBD
19	Boys Varsity Hockey vs. Cranbrook | TBD Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Semifinals | TBD
21	Varsity Football MHSAA Semi-Finals | TBD | 7:00 PM Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Finals | TBD Boys Varsity Hockey vs. Port Huron North | TBD
22	Jingle All the Way Christmas Tree Lighting | Trzcinski Quad | 4:00-8:00 PM 30th Annual Friends of Polish Art Fine Art Show (Final Day) | Galeria 4:00-8:00 PM
25	Boys Varsity Hockey vs. Brighton | TBD
25-29	Thanksgiving Recess
26	Thanksgiving
27	Varsity Football MHSAA Finals | Ford Field | 7:00 PM
30	Classes Resume

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

December 2026

Upcoming EVENTS highlights

1	Boys Varsity Hockey vs. De La Salle | TBD
6	Polish 1st Sunday | Galeria Open 12:00-3:00 PM
	St. Nicolas Day
10	Girls Hockey vs. Northville | 4:15 PM
	Orchard Lake Senate Recognition Event | Galeria | 5:30 PM
11	End of 2nd Card Marking
	Boys Varsity Hockey vs. U of D Jesuit | TBD
	Girls Winter Formal (Jr/Sr) | 6:30-9:30 PM
14-18	Midterm Exams
19	Girls Hockey vs. Livonia | 5:30 PM
24	Christmas Eve Vigil
25	Christmas
31	New Year's Eve
Dec 19 - Jan 3	NO SCHOOL | Christmas Recess





November 2026

MASS schedule

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | ALL SAINTS DAY

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK | POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	MSGR. 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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | ALL SOULS DAY

7:00 PM	FR. WITEK | ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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, NOVEMBER 22 | FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



*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

EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS

1ST THURSDAY 11/5	MASS | **7:00 PM** | FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1ST FRIDAY 11/6	MASS | **7:00 PM** | FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1ST SATURDAY 11/7	MASS | **9:00 AM** | FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
THURSDAY 11/19	BIBLE STUDY AFTER MASS | **7:45 PM**	SEMINARY CHAPEL
FRIDAY 11/20	DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS | **7:45 PM**	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
	KRĄG 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

December 2026

MASS schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 | FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

11:15 AM	FR. WITEK – ENGLISH	SEMINARY CHAPEL
5:30 PM	FR. WITEK – POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
7:00 PM	FR. WITEK – ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK | POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
9:00 AM	MSGR. 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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 | VIGIL FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK | DAILY MASS	SEMINARY CHAPEL
10:30 AM	FR. WITEK | POLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
MIDNIGHT	FR. WITEK | ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 | FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 | VIGIL FOR MARIAN FEAST

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK | DAILY MASS	SEMINARY CHAPEL
MIDNIGHT	FR. WITEK | ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

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"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

EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS

1ST THURSDAY 12/3
MASS | **7:00 PM** | FR. WITEK
ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

1ST FRIDAY 12/4
MASS | **7:00 PM** | FR. WITEK
JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

1ST SATURDAY 12/5
BIBLE STUDY AFTER MASS | **7:45 PM**
ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

TUESDAY 12/15
KRĄG BIBLIJY | **8:00 PM**
SEMINARY CHAPEL

WEDNESDAY 12/16
BIBLE STUDY AFTER MASS
7:45 PM
SEMINARY CHAPEL

FRIDAY 12/18
DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS
7:45 PM
ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

CONFESSIONS

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

SATURDAYS
8:00 – 8:55 AM
ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE