

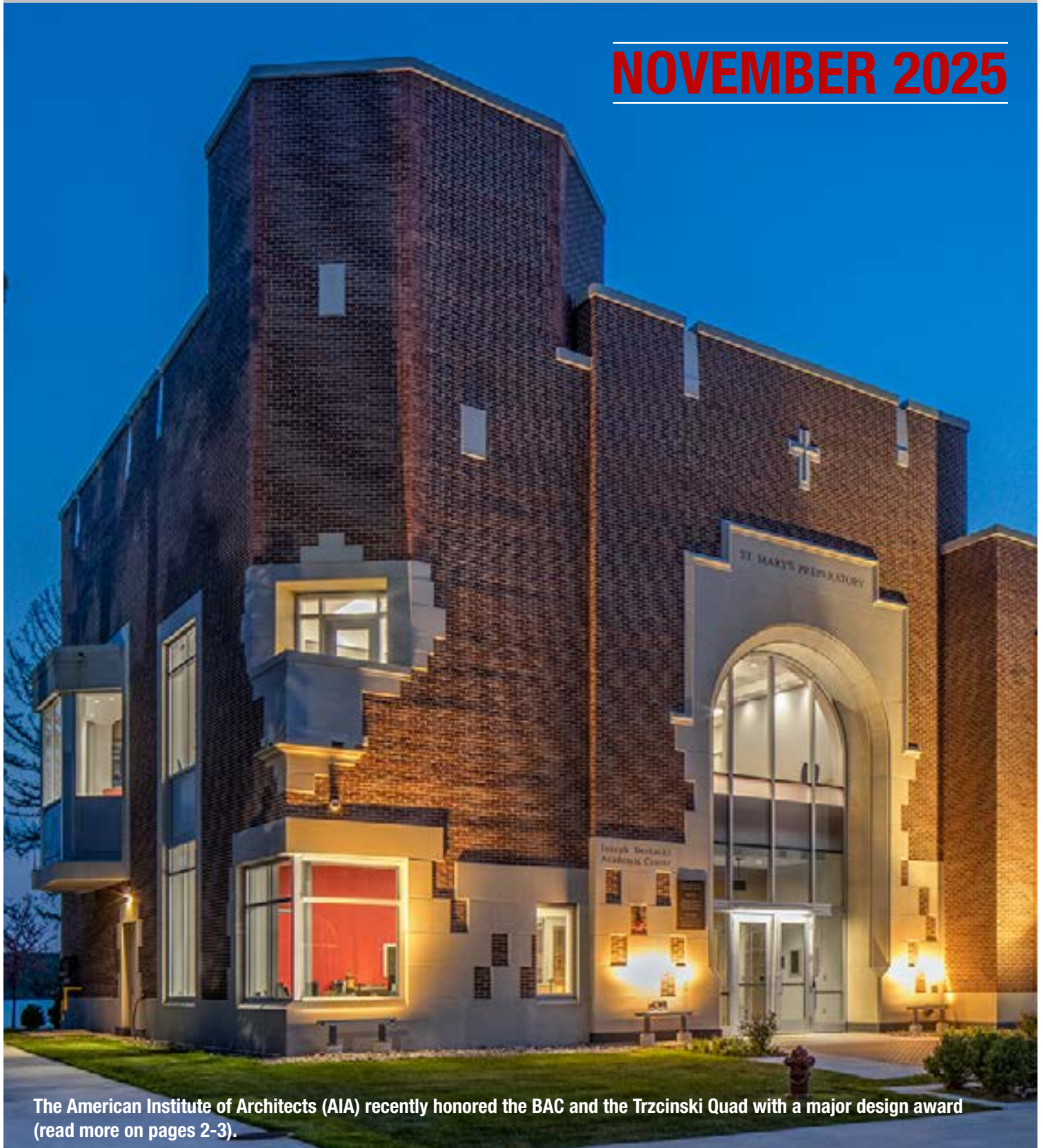
O R C H A R D L A K E S C H O O L S

CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR

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

"Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live" ~ St. John Paul II

NOVEMBER 2025



The American Institute of Architects (AIA) recently honored the BAC and the Trzcinski Quad with a major design award (read more on pages 2-3).

Burkacki Academic Center and Trzcinski Quad Earn
AIA DESIGN AWARD:



The **Burkacki Academic Center** and the **Richard and Mary Trzcinski Quad**, key components of St. Mary’s enrollment growth and campus transformation, have earned notable recognition for their design and planning.

with a **2025 AIA Masonry Award**, part of an annual program that celebrates outstanding achievement and excellence within the architectural profession. The award was presented to **Niagara Murano** and the **Orchard Lake Schools** on **October 17** at the Bonstelle Playhouse in Detroit. “Each year, the AIA award winners are evaluated on a broad range of exemplary activities that elevate the general quality of architectural practice and set a standard of excellence for the profession,” said **Delia Rodi**, CEO of **Niagara Murano Architecture**.

The **American Institute of Architects (AIA)** honored project architects **Niagara Murano Architecture**

David Barczys, President of Niagara Murano, praised the entire team involved in the project,



ON THE COVER

On May 18, 2021, the campus community broke ground on the Burkacki Academic Center, and just over a year later, the doors opened to Prep students, faculty, and staff. On October 6, 2022, we dedicated and blessed the new classroom building, the Joseph Burkacki Academic Center, and its renovated Quad, The Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad. Last month, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) honored the BAC and the Quad design (read more on pages 2-3).

including **Clark Construction**, numerous vendors, and representatives from the **Orchard Lake Schools**. “This award is a reflection of great collaboration from beginning to end, and we are honored to share it with St. Mary’s and the countless people who made it all possible,” Barczys said. Rodi and Barczys emphasized that the mark of successful architecture is not merely visual appeal, but the creation of **beautiful and inspirational** spaces where people live, learn, and thrive. “Congratulations to Niagara Murano,” said **Todd Covert**, Chief Executive Officer of **Orchard Lake Schools**. “It’s more than the beauty and dignity of the design and the way it flows seamlessly into our historic campus—it’s about the faculty and student experience that takes place every day and heightens the learning environment.”





EVER FORWARD!

ZAWSZE DO PRZODU!

STRATEGIC MASTER PLANNING PROJECT



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

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

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

CLUB RUSH

Brings Energy, Opportunity & Connection to Campus

Last month, the boys and girls Student Council representatives hosted the first annual Club Rush, a vibrant showcase of the many extracurricular opportunities that make the Prep experience so dynamic. Over 40 student-led clubs and organizations set up creative displays, handed out flyers, and shared their passion with fellow classmates. From service-based groups and spiritual life clubs to creative arts, athletics, and leadership organizations—there truly was something for everyone.

Club Rush will now be one of the most anticipated events of the fall semester for our students, offering them a chance to explore new interests, meet like-minded peers, and get involved beyond the classroom. “At St. Mary’s, we want every

student to experience a holistic, well-rounded high school journey,” said Candace Castiglione, Director of Enrollment and Student Engagement. “Extracurricular involvement is an essential part of that, and we actively encourage all our students—whether they’re freshmen, transfer students, or returning upperclassmen—to find a place where they can get involved, connect, and grow.”



2025-26 CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

CO-DIVISIONAL

- Animal Shelter Club
- Art Club
- Athletes for Christ
- Chess Club
- Community Cares Club
- Debate & Forensics Club
- Eaglet Times
- French Club
- Future Lawyers Club
- Gardening Club
- Hosa Club
- Mary's Minds Mental Health Club
- Model United Nations
- National Honor Society
- Pastoral/Advanced Liturgy Club
- Photography Club
- Pickleball Club
- Pillars of Formation Club
- Pro-Life Club
- Spanish Club
- World Culture Club

BOYS DIVISION

- Business & Finance Club
- Coding Club
- Engineering & Empathy Club
- Fishing Club
- Medical Club
- Rosary Club
- Sailing Club
- Skeet/Sporting Clays Club
- STEM Club
- Student Council

GIRLS DIVISION

- Art 4 Hearts
- Baking Club
- Book Club
- Career Club
- Dance Club
- Earth and Service Club
- Faith, Friends & Fitness Club
- Health & Nutrition Club
- Medical Club
- Sisters in Christ Club
- Student Council
- Women in STEM
- Women in Business Leadership



SPOTLIGHT

Preparing Emerging Leaders

Among the standout organizations at this year’s Club Rush was DECA, a global business and leadership club that prepares students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Led by business teacher, Dawn Aranoff, OLSM DECA empowers students to develop their

“DECA goes far beyond business. It cultivates confidence, creativity, and collaboration—skills that truly prepare our students for college, career, and life. DECA teaches them to think critically, communicate effectively, and present themselves with professionalism and purpose.”

- ANN BARTUS, OLSM College Counselor

entrepreneurial mindset, communication skills, and leadership abilities through real-world challenges and competition. Students involved in DECA will have the opportunity to participate in local, state, and national competitions, where they will present business plans, marketing strategies, and case studies to panels of judges. The program also connects them with mentors and alumni who share a passion for leadership and innovation. With strong participation already this fall, OLSM’s DECA chapter continues to grow as one of the most exciting and career-focused student organizations on campus—proof that at St. Mary’s, student engagement goes beyond the classroom and prepares our young men and women for success in college and beyond.

HOMECOMING & SPIRIT Week

Bring Prep Pride to Life

School spirit was shining bright at Orchard Lake St. Mary’s Prep during this year’s Homecoming and Spirit Week festivities! The week was filled with themed dress-up days, pep rallies, and friendly competitions between students in the boys and girls divisions respectively—all building excitement leading up to the big game and Homecoming dance.

One of the most memorable moments came during halftime of the Homecoming football game, when the 2025 Homecoming Court was introduced and this year’s King and Queen were crowned. Congratulations to the members of the court: **Giavanna Tanguay, Kaitlyn Pesta, Clare Donovan, Victoria Andreczak, Riley Higgings, John Ward, Luke Jasinski, Matthew Iacobell, John Kolarchick, and Derick Conrad. John Kolarchick and**

Giavanna Tanguay were crowned king and queen as voted by the student body and staff of OLSM.

The week’s events celebrated the spirit, pride, and unity that define St. Mary’s Prep—reminding us that school traditions are about more than just fun; they’re about community, leadership, and lasting memories.



John Kolarchick and Giavanna Tanguay were crowned Homecoming king and queen as voted by the student body and staff of OLSM.

FAITHFUL SERVICE

Thankful Hearts

This giving season, the Girls Division's **Community Care Club** has partnered with **Thankful Hearts** to provide 40 brand-new coats to needy children and adults in the metro Detroit area. This organization was founded by Ruth Gonzales Montague, the mother of Prep athletic director and varsity head football coach Jermaine Gonzales (P'99) and Prep strength and conditioning coach James Gonzales (P'00), to serve families with children aged newborn through 18 years old and adults. It is curated to put a smile on the faces of those in our community who need a little extra help, especially in colder weather. Gonzales relies on organizations like the Orchard Lake Schools to help her out. Please reach out by Monday, December 1st to rbacall@stmarysprep.com or cnaoumi@stmarysprep.com if you wish to donate a coat on behalf of St. Mary's Prep.



Giant Rosary

During October, the month of the Holy Rosary, Prep student members of the Rosary Club met in the Grotto to pray their giant rosary. Throughout the year, praying the rosary is a time to reflect and find peace in each bead and honor this tradition by embracing faith, hope, and grace each and every day.



Varsity Volleyball Builds Bags of Faith

Varsity volleyball held a team bonding night filled with food, fun, friendship and GIVING BACK! They made Bags of Faith – treat bags for families in need – the start of a new team service tradition. The Bloomfield Hills Ladies of Charity will distribute these bags through their food outreach program.



Sister Judie Outreach Food Drive

Each year, the OLSM Band Christmas Concert heralds the Christmas season with beautiful music, and the opportunity make the season brighter for others by giving to the Sr. Judie Outreach Food Drive. Check out the list of items in need on the next page and help those in need with gifts of food and household needs.





OLSM BAND

Christmas Concert

When: Thursday, December 11th at 7 PM

Where: Banquet Room (SMAC) in the Dombrowski Fieldhouse

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.





It's PLAYOFF SEASON!

Football

Varsity football came to play the Homecoming game, also the first home game of the season, by defeating Toledo Central Catholic (36-21) and closed out their home season on Friday, October 24th with a 24-3 win over River Rouge! MHSAA playoffs began on October 31st where the Eaglets took on North Farmington in District play (this issue was printed prior to results). Go Eaglets!

The following football players received league honors – **All Catholic:** Lorenzo Barber, Jabin Gonzales, Ryan Harrington, Luke Jackson, Camari Patterson; **All League:** Brandon Adams Jr., Treighjan Gibson, Reece Hurst, Greg Smith, Chad Willis; **All Academic:** Camren Glasker



Soccer

The following Boys Varsity Soccer players earned CHSL Honors: **All Catholic** – Charlie Bear, Tommy Rushwin; **All League** – Miller Burrows, Mason Lanfear; **All Academic** – Ethan Marshall



Cheer

What a senior night celebration for the cheer team, especially our seniors who wrapped up their last regular season football game on Friday, October 24th, filled with OLSM pride, gratitude, and amazing senior memories! Your school spirit helps all Eaglets soar!



Volleyball

Varsity, junior varsity, and freshman Girls Volleyball teams all went undefeated in League play this season and were awarded CHSL AA Division League Championships!

The varsity team won the CHSL Cardinal Championship in 3 sets over Lutheran North! The team is currently on a 19-match winning streak and will host MHSAA District play on November 3, 5, and 6. Mark your calendars and come out and support our team!

In addition, the following athletes received CHSL Honors: **All Catholic:** Avery Kapeller, Zoey Kapeller, Lindsey Schwegman; **All League:** Katelynn Dabish, Ava Merlo; **All Academic:** Michelle Surowiec

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



Crew

Crew powered through an incredible fall season. They say in every stroke, power meets precision. The boats may be hibernating until spring training, but the training never stops! This is the 50th season in the making. Watch what spring season brings for this rowing powerhouse.

Coach of the Year

Congratulations to St. Mary's Prep Ski Coach **Scott Hoose** on being named Division 2 Coach of the Year by the Michigan High School Ski Coaches Association!



ALUMNI Near and Far

On the run . . .



Stanley Burzynsk (P'62) proves training for and winning the 5k in the Men's 80+ Division Race (44:02) of the 47th Annual Whiskey Row Marathon in Prescott, Arizona, on October 11th at the age of 81 is an incredible victory, especially in the high altitude of 5,400 feet! It's challenging for

healthy runners, not to mention those like Stan who have serious asthma. Last year, he marked his 80th birthday year by finishing 1st in his class in the 10K.

In the water . . .

Nina DiFonzo (P'25) took her rowing skills to Duquesne University where this season she rowed in two varsity boats—a bow seat in the 8 and #2 in the double she partnered in with the senior captain!



"Every encounter rooted in faith reminds us that the seeds sown here bear fruit far beyond our campus. Our alumni embody the Gospel wherever they serve."

- FR. ZIEMBA

Around the BAC . . .



St. Mary's was honored to welcome back two distinguished alumni, **Deacon Daniel Whalen (P'18)** and **Seminarian Brendan Tabone (P'16)**, for an inspiring presentation that brought together students, faculty, and staff in the spirit of faith and community. Both pursuing their vocations as seminarians, Deacon Whalen and Brendan Tabone shared their journeys, experiences from their time at St. Mary's, and their discernment on the path to

priesthood. The speakers encouraged students to reflect on their own callings—whether in faith, service, or personal development. This special event was a testament to the strength of the school's Catholic mission and the power of alumni engagement in shaping hearts and minds.

Across the Country . . .

Lisa Gray, OLS Assistant Director of Development, recently visited her sister in Denver, Colorado, and was very moved by the Homily of **Fr. Witold Kaczmarzyk** in which he said, "God has a way of reaching us right where we are, often in ways we don't expect." She shared his column on the front page of the St. Thomas More Parish paper with her OLS colleagues who added that he is a SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary graduate of the Class of 2019! "Moments like this remind me that God's timing is perfect," said Gray. "Through the Orchard Lake family, we're continuously connected by gratitude, faith, and purpose which are comforting and beautiful gifts from God."



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,"
THAT SUPPORTS THE **HEART** OF THE ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

MEMBERS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SENATE ARE
DIFFERENCE MAKERS,
FUTURE THINKERS,
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

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

'Tis the Season to Shop the Marketplace

Q & A with Lisa Gray

Why is the Christmas Market such a special part of “Jingle All the Way”?

The tree lighting really is the heart of Jingle All the Way, it's the moment everyone looks forward to when the whole campus lights up and you can just feel the Christmas spirit in the air. The Christmas Market adds a little extra magic around it. It gives our guests something fun to do while they're here, strolling through the booths, picking up gifts, enjoying some warm food, and taking in all the sights and sounds of the season. It makes the evening feel even more festive and gives families a chance to really soak in the Christmas atmosphere before and after the big countdown.

Christmas markets have always been holiday traditions. How do you keep it fresh each year? How does it play to our Polish culture — music, food, something for everyone?

Each year, we love mixing in something new while keeping the traditions everyone looks forward to. Planning actually starts right after each event — reaching out to vendors, confirming returning favorites, and by June, we're already hunting for new ones to add a fresh twist to the market. Robin Goddard is always on the lookout for the latest and greatest lighting ideas, often visiting Frankenmuth for inspiration and picking up new lights along the way.

This year, we're excited to share the Polish Institute's curated Christmas and Winter Art Exhibit in the Galeria. The display will feature beautiful seasonal works, including several Szopki (Polish nativity scenes). You'll also find a mix of Polish and alumni vendors offering unique, handmade items that celebrate our Catholic faith and Polish heritage.

What time does everything start?

4:00 PM - Santa and his reindeer arrive.

4-8:00 PM There's something for everyone:

- Meet and pet the reindeer, camel, and donkey
- Kids' craft area full of holiday fun
- Visits and photos with Santa
- Elves handing out stockings to children
- Visit the Market & find unique gifts
- Explore the Grotto and enjoy the Christmas and Winter Art Exhibit.
- Food, hot chocolate, and desserts available all evening.

6:15 PM - Tree Lighting in the Richard & Mary Trzcinski Quad.
 - Enjoy live festive tunes from the group **Cancel Monday** to make the night even more magical!



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.

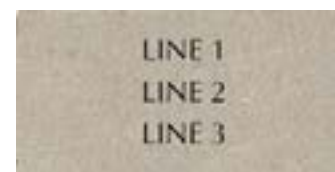
Construction of Phase 3 will begin in early November. Sales for Phase 4 (continuing towards the lake) begin September 15, 2025. There is plenty of space for additional commemorative bricks. Bricks purchased for Phase 4 are \$150 each and will be installed in November 2026.

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

REFLECTION

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

This year, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, commonly known as All Souls Day, that is celebrated on November 2nd, falls on Sunday and therefore Sunday's liturgy will be replaced with special prayers for the deceased. All Souls Day originated in the 11th century with St. Odilo of Cluny, who instituted it as a day for monks to pray for all souls in purgatory.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (numbers 1030-1031) provides the following explanation:

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect."

On Nov 2, 1997, during the Angelus, St. John Paul II addressed the crowds gathered at St. Peter's Square.

In the Words of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

The Church's tradition has always recommended prayers for the dead. The basis for this prayer of suffrage is found in the communion of the Mystical Body. As the Second Vatican Council stresses: "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in her pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honoured with great respect the memory of the dead" (Lumen gentium, n. 50).

Therefore, she encourages cemetery visits, the care of graves and prayers of suffrage as a witness of confident hope, amid the sorrow of being separated from one's loved ones. Death is not the last word on human fate, because man is destined for endless life, which finds its fulfillment in God.

For this reason, the Council emphasizes: "Faith, with its solidly based teaching, provides every thoughtful man

with an answer to his anxious queries about his future lot. At the same time it makes him able to be united in Christ with his loved ones who have already died, and gives hope that they have found true life in God" (Gaudium et spes, n. 18).



With this belief in man's ultimate destiny, we now turn to Mary, who experienced the drama of Christ's death at the foot of the Cross and then shared in the joy of his Resurrection. May she, the Gate of Heaven, help us more and more to understand the value of praying for our departed loved ones. May she sustain us each day on our earthly pilgrimage and help us never to lose sight of the ultimate goal of life, which is paradise.

ZAPRASZAMY

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

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

Sunday, Dec 7th • 1:00 PM

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



Polish Independence Day

MASS & CELEBRATION
Sunday, November 9 | 1 PM



Polish Luncheon after Mass in Campus Dining Hall

Cost | \$20 per person

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

Feast of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

Consistent with annual tradition, on October 18th, the Orchard Lake Schools St. John Paul II Liturgical Center commemorated the anniversary of Karol Józef Wojtyła's election to the papacy on October 16, 1978, as Pope John Paul II.

The celebration began with 5:00 PM Mass concelebrated by Bp. Walter Hurley, of the Archdiocese of Detroit, and Fr. Bernard Witek in the St. John Paul II Archdiocesan Shrine on campus. Mass was attended by about 100 faithful. The Filarets Choir performed in English and Polish during Mass.

In his homily, Bp. Hurley recounted many fond memories of St. John Paul II, including that he was and continues to be a profound influence in the Polish community and for very many Catholics at large and that his encyclicals are very inspiring. He was deeply moved by the Pope who personally gave him an eternal cross that he wears daily.

He was impressed that the Pope invited him to a breakfast in the papal dining room. He recalled the moving Mass that Pope John Paul II celebrated in Hamtramck and at the Pontiac Silver Dome, how Pope John Paul II was the people's Pope traveling throughout the world proclaiming Christ's message and encouraging peace, and that he particularly engaged with youth. Bp. Hurley stated that we are very fortunate to be able to walk on the same Orchard Lake Schools campus grounds that the Pope once walked on during his two visits here, a place he thought very highly of.

After Mass, the congregation moved to the Dining Hall for a traditional Polish dinner attended by about 80 people. Bp. Hurley was able to meet many people for the first time and appreciated the opportunity.



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.



"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.

Polish Institute

UPDATE

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



October was a remarkable month of celebration and remembrance as we marked Polish Heritage Month. We are deeply grateful to Governor Gretchen Whitmer for issuing a proclamation recognizing this important month in Michigan. It is an

honor to request it each year on behalf of the Polish community.

November carries special significance for Poles and Polish Americans. As we commemorate All Saints Day and All Souls Day, we pause to honor those who came before us. On Wednesday, November 6,

the Polish Institute, together with St. Mary's Preparatory, will once again spearhead a Day of Service at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Students and members of the Orchard Lake Schools



community will gather to tend the graves of Blue Army veterans, clergy, and academics, lighting votives and offering prayers for the deceased. If you would like to sponsor votives or support this meaningful effort, please contact info@picrol.org. We also look ahead to a beautiful month of culture and community:

SEMINAR: POLISH CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT
Saturday, November 8 | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
| Galeria

Presented by Richard Walawender, Hon. Consul of the Republic of Poland in Detroit, and Dr. Andrzej Kiedrzyń, Senior Counsel at Miller Canfield. Hosted by the Kosciuszko Foundation Michigan Chapter in partnership with the Polish Institute.

FINE ARTS COMPETITION CLOSING CEREMONY
Saturday, November 16 | 12:00 – 4 :00 PM | Galeria
Featuring Best in Show artist Nancy Kozłowski.

OPERA CONCERT: "ECHOES OF EUROPE: ARIAS AND SONGS FROM POLAND AND BEYOND"
Sunday, November 30, 2025 | Doors 2:30 PM, Concert 3:00 PM | Reception to follow | Galeria
Dominika Zamara, soprano

We also proudly recognize November 11, Polish Independence Day (Narodowe Święto Niepodległości), a date of profound meaning for Poles around the world. On this day we give thanks to those who secured Poland's freedom and celebrate that gift together.

October was filled with unforgettable moments, from the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan seminar to a special visit from the Polish Consulate, and the vibrant opening of the Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition. As we carry that momentum into November, we invite you to join us, volunteer with us, and help sustain these traditions and programs that keep our heritage alive.

Pamięć, wolność i wspólnota są sercem naszej misji. Dziękujemy, że jesteście jej częścią.

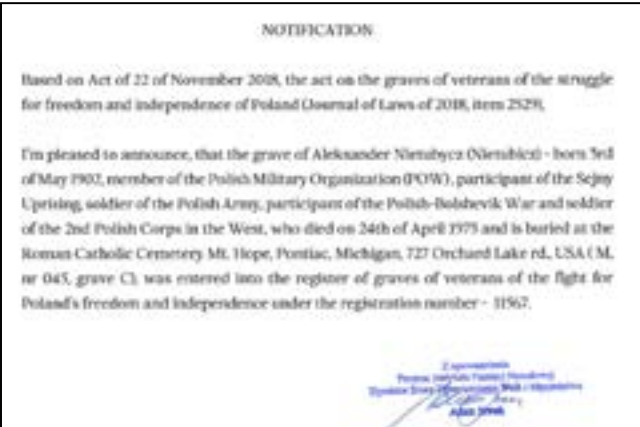
IPN Recognizes

Grave of Polish VETERAN

The Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) in Poland has officially recognized the grave of Aleksander Nietubyc, a veteran of the struggle for Poland's freedom and independence. He is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Pontiac, just minutes from our campus.



Aleksander Nietubyc was the father of St. Mary's Preparatory alumnus, Zygmunt Nietubyc (P'49), and this recognition is a meaningful reminder of the deep ties between the Orchard Lake Schools and the history of Polish independence.



Polish CONSULAR VISIT

at Orchard Lake

We were honored to welcome representatives of the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland on October 24 and 25. We are grateful for their visit and the opportunity to assist members of our community with passport services and citizenship matters.

Events like this strengthen the connection between Poland and the Polish American community in Michigan, and we are proud to host them here at Orchard Lake.

FIND THE CAMPUS COMMUNICATOR ONLINE AT:
www.orchardlakeschools.com/campus-communicator
AND IN OUR ON-CAMPUS NEWS BOXES FOUND IN THE:
SMAC Lobby • Campus Bookstore • Prep Office
Dining Hall Lobby • Shrine Chapel

ECHOES OF EUROPE

Arias and Songs from Poland and Beyond



DOMINIKA ZAMARA, SOPRANO



VANESSA KWIATKOWSKI, PIANIST

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Doors open at 2:30 PM | Concert at 3:00 PM

Reception to follow

TICKETS \$20

**GALERIA AT THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE & RESEARCH AT ORCHARD LAKE
3535 COMMERCE ROAD | ORCHARD LAKE, MI 48324**

**FOR INFORMATION OR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
INFO@PICROL.ORG OR 248-836-1284**

Polish Institute
of CULTURE
& RESEARCH
AT ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS

Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition

Returns to GALERIA



The 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition made a vibrant return to the Galeria at the Orchard Lake Schools, drawing nearly 80 guests to the opening reception. The exhibition features 74 works by 21 artists from across Metropolitan Detroit, showcasing a range of mediums including oil and acrylic painting, sculpture, photography, embroidery, and more.

FPA President Brian Malski reflected on the competition's 40-year history and thanked the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL) for helping revive the event after a decade-long pause. Juror Professor Martin Skalski engaged

the audience with an inspiring talk on the creative process, while Elijah Majeski and the PICROL team were recognized for the exhibit's professional presentation.

Nancy Kozłowski received Best in Show for Rzepak, while Ann Marie Curley earned the Best Polish Theme award for Poletown: Song, Procession, Protest. Additional awards recognized the talents of Terry Nagle, Agnieszka Przyborowski, Karolina Spiewak, Grace Leonard, Alexander Clegg, and Kathy Phillips.

Guests enjoyed a lively reception with hors d'oeuvres and wine. The exhibit remains on view at the Galeria through November 16.



Photos by Alicja Karlic and Alina Klin

COMPETITION CLOSING CEREMONY

Join us for the Closing Ceremony of the 29th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition

Saturday, November 16 | 12:00 - 4:00 PM | Galeria

This free public event will feature Nancy Kozłowski, the Best in Show winner, along with the closing of this year's exhibition celebrating artistic expression and Polish cultural heritage.

Presented in partnership with:

Friends of Polish Art and the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake.
Galeria | 3535 Commerce Rd. | Orchard Lake, MI

For more information visit: info@picrol.org

47th Annual

Genealogy Seminar



The 47th Annual Genealogy Seminar, co-hosted by the Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan (PGSM) and the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake (PICROL), was an outstanding success. We welcomed a full room of in-person participants and an engaged online audience from across Michigan, all eager to explore their family histories and Polish roots.

Attendees asked thought-provoking questions, shared their own stories, and connected with experts throughout the day. We extend our sincere thanks to Srodek's and Irena's Pastry & Bistro for their generous and delicious support, which added a warm touch of Polish hospitality to the program. Our deep gratitude goes to the exceptional speakers whose presentations inspired and informed:

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. Józef Dąbrowski: Pioneers in Polish American Education



The highlight of the day was a walking tour of the Orchard Lake campus, which brought history to life and reminded participants of the enduring role of Orchard Lake in preserving Polish heritage. This successful seminar reflects a growing partnership between PGSM and PICROL and a shared commitment to celebrating and preserving Polish American history.



Seminar: Polish Citizenship by Descent

Interactive Workshop
(applications - eligibility - documents)

Saturday, November 8, 2025
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

The Galeria
3535 Indian Trail
Orchard Lake, MI 48324

Presented by
RICHARD WALAWENDER
Hon. Consul of the Republic of Poland in Detroit
DR. ANDRZEJ KIEDRZYN
Senior Counsel at Miller Canfield

KF members- free admission
Non-members- \$20.00 at the door
Advanced registration required at:
michiganchapter@thekf.org



Day of SERVICE

On Wednesday, November 6, the Polish Institute, together with St. Mary's Preparatory, will once again spearhead a Day of Service at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Students and members of the Orchard Lake Schools community will gather to honor lost souls and tend the graves of Blue Army veterans, clergy, and academics, lighting votives and offering prayers for the deceased.

If you would like to sponsor votives or support this meaningful effort, please contact info@picrol.org.



THE GALERÍA -OPEN HOURS-

The Galeria will be open to the public on the following dates:

November 2 | 12:00 – 4:00 PM
November 16 | 12:00 – 4:00 PM
November 30 | 2:00 – 6:00 PM

THE CURRENT EXHIBITION FEATURES WORKS FROM THE FRIENDS OF POLISH ART FINE ARTS COMPETITION.

VISITS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT. TO SCHEDULE, PLEASE CONTACT info@picrol.org OR CALL 248-836-1284



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake offers meaningful sponsorship opportunities for upcoming cultural programs, concerts, lectures, and community events. Your support helps preserve history and promote Polish heritage across Michigan.

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

To learn more about sponsorship levels and benefits, please contact info@picrol.org or call (248) 836-1284.

November 2025

upcoming EVENTS highlights

- 1 All Saints Day
Cross Country MHSAA Finals @ MIS TBD
- 2 All Souls Day
Polish 1st Sunday | 1:00 PM Mass & Polish Meal to Follow
Galeria Open | 12-3:00 PM
- 3 Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Districts | TBD
- 7 Varsity Football MHSAA Districts @ TBD | 7:00 PM
- 8 Polish Citizenship by Descent @ the Galeria | 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
- 9 Polish Independence Day Mass & Celebration | 1:00 PM
OLSM Extracurricular & Athletic Open House | 2-4:00 PM
- 11 Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Regionals @ TBD
- 14 Varsity Football MHSAA Regionals @ TBD | 7:00 PM
- 18 Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Quarterfinals @ TBD
- 20 Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Semifinals @ TBD
- 21 Polish Institute Christmas/Winter Exhibit (goes through mid January)
- 22 Varsity Football MHSAA Semifinals @ TBD | 7:00 PM
Girls Varsity Volleyball MHSAA Finals @ TBD
- 23 **Jingle All the Way Christmas Tree Lighting** | 4-8:00 PM
- 26-28 Thanksgiving Recess (NO SCHOOL)
- 27 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 28 Varsity Football MHSAA Finals @ Ford Field @ TBD
- 30 Echoes of Europe Opera Concert @ the Galeria | 2:30 PM



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

LOOKING FOR AN IMPACTFUL CAMPUS DEDICATION OR NAMING OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAVE A LASTING CAMPUS IMPRESSION FOR GENERATIONS TO ENJOY?
CONTACT: CHRIS CZARNIK AT CCZARNIK@ORCHARDLAKESCHOOLS.COM

MONTHLY ENROLLMENTS

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

GUISEPPE BARTOLOTTA	VINCENT GERACI	JACK D. NINEMEIER
RON BENIGO	ELEANOR JAROSZ	JOHN SIDOR
MARY BESKO	LYNETTE LABONTE	LINDA & JERRY SIMON
GRANT BISCOK	PENNY MACUGA	(ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY)
PATRICIA ANN BOLCZAK	MICHAEL ANGELO MALONE	DYLAN ANTHONY ZETOUNA
MARY ANN CICHON	JOHN MANSOUR	
FABIO DALLO & FAMILY	TIMOTHY MCEACHERN	

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

MASS schedule November 2025

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | ALL SAINTS DAY

9:00 AM FR. WITEK | POLISH* ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 | ALL SOULS DAY

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 1st Sunday

1:00 PM FR. WITEK | POLISH* ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

9:00 AM MSGR. BROWNE | LATIN ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

11:00 AM FR. WITEK | ENGLISH ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

Polish Independence Day

1:00 PM FR. WITEK | POLISH* ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 | FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

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

9:00 AM FR. MCDONELL | LATIN ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

11:00 AM FR. WITEK | ENGLISH ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 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

*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

EXTRA-LITURGICAL DEVOTIONS

1ST SATURDAY 11/1 MASS | 9:00 AM | DEVOTIONS * FR. WITEK ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

1ST THURSDAY 11/6 MASS | 7:00 PM | DEVOTIONS * FR. WITEK ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

1ST FRIDAY 11/7 MASS | 7:00 PM | DEVOTIONS * FR. WITEK ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

THURSDAY 11/20 BIBLE STUDY | 7:45 PM SEMINARY CHAPEL

FRIDAY 11/21 DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS | 7:45 PM ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

KRAĞ BIBLIJY | 8:00 PM SEMINARY CHAPEL

CONFESSIONS

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

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