

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

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me" ~ Philippians 4:13

JUNE 2026



CONGRATULATIONS, ST. MARY'S PREPARATORY CLASS OF 2026!



“When you look back, you’ll see that every situation God has brought you through has either changed you, helped you grow, made you stronger, taught you a lesson or made you a better person. Everything He does has a purpose if you trust God’s plan . . .”

~ These words are often attributed to Mother Theresa but it has been said they do not appear in her official writings as seen here. ~



GRATEFUL for Orchard Lake

The Orchard Lake campus is not newly beautiful. It's been such for more than a century, and, in a quieter glory, for millennia before that. But it is constantly seen by new eyes and new perspectives.

Shortly before graduation, Tom Szczepanski from the Prep Class of 1977 visited for a meeting. As he awaited others to join, Tom stared out the window and contemplated students passing in the Trzcinski Quad, backdropped by the Castle and the morning sun on the lake. "Can you imagine going to school here?" Tom said, reintroducing himself to moments he spent as a resident student. Years have passed, but the experience has never left him.

Later that day, Tom's thoughts were shared with one of our staff members, along with the sentiment that we hope we never take OLS for granted. It's easy, after all, for the ordinary in our lives to become invisible. The discussion turned to how, in roles as educators or parents, making investments of time and love and talent, and being satisfied that the results of those efforts may take years to emerge.

Our staff member was becoming visibly emotional before taking out her phone and saying she wanted to share something.

She read a series of text messages out of nowhere from her son, who is part of the Class of 2026. "I can't believe I only have 2 more days here," he wrote his mom. "I love Orchard Lake so much." She texted him back to say how happy she was he felt that way.

"This is the best thing you could have ever done for me, Mom," he responded. "Thank you!"

And in that moment, we can all see our own children, our own parents, all of the teachers and coaches and staff members—the friendships forged at Orchard Lake that have helped to get us where we are going.

In the end, hope and truth, and appreciation and gratitude win out over pessimism and grievance. These experiences matter, and Orchard Lake has a lasting effect on all of us who are privileged to experience it.

"These experiences matter, and Orchard Lake has a lasting effect on all of us who are privileged to experience it."

There's so much work taking place here focused on what it will mean to be great in the future. The Tower. The Shrine. The Galeria. The Dombrowski Fieldhouse renovations. And it's going to be beautiful. But it's a beauty rooted in so much that has come before.

So, for all of you who make it possible, please know it matters. We are grateful for your role in ensuring that the wide-ranging beauty of Orchard Lake never becomes invisible. In every role we play, we share in resisting the static and embracing the beauty of what is to come.

THANK YOU

Mom and Dads Club Representatives

BY JAMIE STEWART
PRESIDENT | MOM AND DADS CLUB



On behalf of the OLSM community of parents and students, I would like to take a moment to express our most sincere gratitude to the honored representatives of the Moms and Dads Club who are leaving us

this school year. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to our amazing Club VP, Dana Ignaciak. Her incredible dedication, leadership, heart, and tireless work behind the scenes to support our teachers, students, and community events have been invaluable.

Our two Auction Chairs, Kristin Wheeler and Kari Poxon managed the scope of a school auction, a daunting task. It requires tireless leadership, a passion in organizing, the ability to unite the community. The incredible work of these two ladies and the direct impact it has had on the experiences at our school cannot be underestimated.

Being a class rep is no small undertaking. Our Senior Class Parents, Noelle Essig and Tracy Neil, made enormous sacrifices of their time through their constant communication, skillful coordination, and a penchant for community building. These ladies have dedicated themselves with a passion for keeping their class families connected for four years and are an absolute credit to our graduating class.

Each of these amazing women has commanded their role with the heart of a servant and served our community with a heart of a Queen. The light of these individuals shines as an inspiration to us all. We offer up our heartfelt gratitude and wish them every happiness all the long days of their lives.

2026

Honors Convocation Award Winners

BOYS DIVISION

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

CASE CAMPBELL

SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR

MICHAEL KOSCO

JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

MARVIN MANSOUR

ANTHONY & STELLA KOZMA AWARD

ADAM PAWCZUK

PAUL ZIEMBA AWARD

DANIEL RAMOS, CIAN CAFFREY

GIRLS DIVISION

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

ANNA CORSETTI, SIENA FREEMAN

SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR

LEAH ROE

JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

JOSIE ANDRZEJCZAK

ANTHONY & STELLA KOZMA AWARD

ELEANOR LEMMER, ARLEIGH HALE

MAUREEN GROSS "MARY PROJECT" AWARD

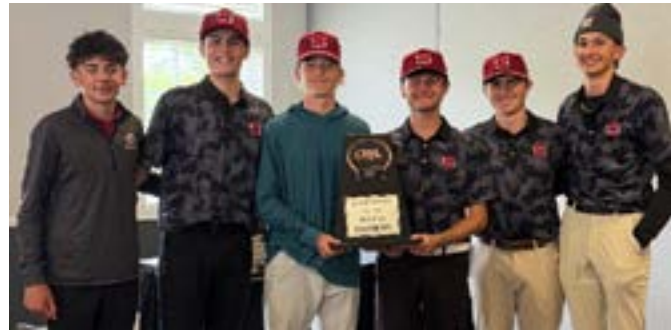
REESE KNIGHT



Catholic League CHAMPS!

Boys Golf

OLSM's Boys Varsity Golf won the 2026 CHSL Bishop Conference Championship! League honors were awarded to: All League - Mikey Karwaski; All Academic - Blaise Krol; All-Catholic - Mikey Karwaski, Dominic Prezzato, Will Matyus, Jude Yono.



Girls Soccer

Girls Soccer clinched the CHSL District title by defeating Gabriel Richard (2-1)! What an O-Lake amazing season, Eaglets!



Girls Track & Field



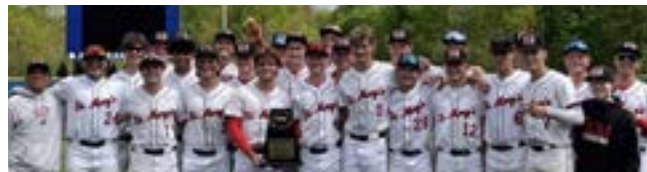
On Friday, May 8, the Girls Track & Field team won the Catholic League Championship and the following athletes earned honors: All Catholic - Josie Andrzejczak*: Shot Put, 4x100,4x200 – Tori Andrzejczak*: Long Jump, 4x200, 4x400 – Corinna Craddieth: 300 Hurdles, Vonessa Gonzales*: 200, 4x100 4x200,4x400 – Hailey Henderson: 300 Hurdles, Reese Knight*: 4x100 – Kaelyn Kurtzhals: High Jump, Binta Mensah: High Jump – Carina Ogle*: 400, 800, 4x200, 4x400 – Peyton Raynish: 100 Hurdles, 300 Hurdles, Grace Robison*: 100, 4x100, 4x400 – Ella Selakowski*: Discus, Shot Put, All League - Chloe Cochrane: 4x800 – Eva D'Agostino: 400, 800, Ellie Lemmer: 4x800, Evie Sarigiannis : 4x800 – Athena Sinkular: 4x800 *Qualified for MHSAA State Championship

Girls Softball

OLSM Girls Softball captured the CHSL League Championship title! Congratulations to the following Softball Players on their CHSL Honors: All Catholic – Riley Higgins, Alivia Covert, Kaydence Hinkle; All League – Izabella DeGroat, Juliana Kucinski, Isabella Mittlestat; All Academic – Izabella DeGroat

Baseball

Look what Varsity Baseball did! They won the 2026 Catholic High School League Bishop Division Championship!



Boys Track & Field - REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!

OLSM Boys Track & Field soared to become the 2026 Regional Champions! Go Eaglets, on your way to States! Congratulations to our Freshman Ben Socia for his PR performance in the 800m at the Novi JV Invitational (ran a 2:00.47) earning him a spot at the 2026 New Balance Nationals held at the University of Pennsylvania!

OLSM Rowing

STATE CHAMPS! Nationals Bound!

OLSM Rowing is celebrating their 50-year legacy with the State Championship trophy and qualifying four crews to race for the National Championship in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The Frosh Men's 4x, Varsity Men's 4+ and the 1st and 2nd Women's Varsity 8+ will make the trip south! Congratulations to the following: Harrison Blair, Max Dombrowski, Patrick Pan, Aiden Jenkinson, Charlie Aspinall, Evan Cadieux, Colin Stempien, Mario Marougi, Alex Fox, John Brown, Chloe Filiatraut, Maddi Curtin, Nika Ladosenszky, Sadie Ross, Evie Ross, Grace Koczara, Ava Gallegos, Sydney LeButt, Avery Daniels, Julia Mathias, Lily Hermiz, Amelia Abraham, Sidney Smerecki, Layla Berger, Maggie Goodman, Delaney Aspinall, Caroline Kroneman and Grace McElyea.



STRIKE UP the Fun

The 6th Annual Mother & Son Bowling event at Wonderland Lanes ushered in some lasting memories for our Prep boys and their moms. Organizer Katie Roberts shared a few thoughts from our Eaglets:

"It was fun to spend time with mom and do something I don't usually do." (Luke Gadlage P'29) | **"This is a great event. I love hanging out with my mom and friends."** (Landon Stoller '28) | **"I get to spend time with my mom."** (Vaughn Kellenberger P'27) | **"Nice to spend time with my mom."** (Thomas Reeber P'26)



The Rise of Girls Flag Football at OLSM

From VISION to VICTORY



Photo by Tara Johnson | Art Teacher | OLSM

What began as a vision for opportunity has quickly evolved into one of the most exciting new programs at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Preparatory. The Girls Flag Football program launched with a simple but powerful goal: to create a space where female student-athletes could compete, grow, and lead in a rapidly expanding sport. What has followed is the first season defined by energy, development, and achievement.

Building Something New. The foundation of the program was built on belief—belief in the athletes, the school community, and the future of the sport itself. “This started with a simple goal—to create opportunity,” said program founder and team manager Tracie Robinson. “I knew if we built it with intention, passion, and structure, the girls would show up and make it something powerful.”

Raising the Level of Competition. One of the most unique aspects of the program is its commitment to preparation through high-level competition. The team regularly scrimmages against the school's two-time back-to-back state championship boys' varsity football program, providing an unmatched level of intensity and development. In addition, the program has competed against elite external

competition, including the Brave youth girls flag football national championship team, giving athletes exposure to top-tier play. Coaches emphasize that this level of competition has accelerated player growth and readiness. “Iron sharpens iron — these athletes are learning fast because they are constantly challenged,” said Head Coach Haley Dutton.

The OLSM Girls Flag Football Roster & Position.

This inaugural season is led by a strong and growing roster of student-athletes representing OLSM with pride: (1) Sophia Bourasaw (RB/OLB), (2) Delaney Walstad (RB/OLB), (3) Victoria Kakos (OLB), (6) Cerina Lieberman (WR), (7) Whitney Whitaker (WR/CB), (8) Dempsey Walstad (WR), (9) Olivia Willoughby (WR/LB), (10) Addison Ross (C), (11) Layla Mintzer (WR/CB), (12) Carley Stevens (WR), (16) Ava Janeczek (WR/CB), (19) Reese Holton (QB/S), (20) Claire Beltz (QB/LB); Head Coach Haley Dutton | Assistant Coach Lindsey Davis | Assistant Coach Matt Walstad | Team Photographers Tara Johnson & Jill Willoughby | Team Manager Tracie Robinson

Recognition in the First Season. Reese Holton and Olivia Willoughby have been nominated for and awarded MVP honors and Player of the Week selections through *Hometownlife.com*, as well as recognition through the *Detroit Lions Player of the Week* program. “We were very impressed by the job you all did hosting and how your team played for a first-year team. You’re doing it right at OLSM and best of luck the rest of the season,” shared the Detroit Lions Nik Sandona.

Thank you to Headmaster Len Karschnia, Girls Athletic Director Don Buchanan, and Boys Athletic Director Jermaine Gonzales for saying “YES!” and team photographers Tara Johnson and Jill Willoughby. A special thank you to the Detroit Lions Organization, including Detroit Lions Football Education and the Detroit Lions Foundation for the incredible support we received throughout our inaugural season.



OLSM Athlete Trainer

20th Anniversary

We’re excited to share that OLSM Athletic Trainer Kelly Garbig, an Orchard Lake Schools 2025 Honorary Alumnus, is celebrating 20 years of service here at Orchard Lake! She began in 2005, caring for student-athletes with expertise and compassion. In the last two decades, she’s earned the trust of alumni and families, alike, and is a cherished and enduring part of the school community!

Happy 100th Birthday

MR. CONSTANTAKIS (P'44)!



On Wednesday, May 13, 2026, we were blessed to celebrate Prep Class of 1944 alumnus Clarence Constantakis's 100th Birthday in the Galeria here on campus.

He, like all alumni, embodies what it truly means to have an appreciation for St. Mary's and the Orchard Lake Schools community. In addition, the Clarence & Lillian Constantakis Prep Classroom Building is named in his and his late wife's honor for his commitment to the present and future of his alma mater.

Education and the environment, including beautiful Orchard Lake, are very important to Clarence. This year, Prep seniors Luke Jasinski and Audrey Buckley were the first recipients of the Clarence & Lillian Constantakis Legacy Award given to a senior from each Division who demonstrates a deep and abiding love for St. Mary's, expressed through sustained dedication to the school and its community, while embracing learning with intellectual curiosity and a commitment to continual growth.

We've started construction on the Lillian DeRose Constantakis Center for Eaglet Student-Athletes within the Dombrowski Field House, with a special emphasis on creating new, dedicated spaces for the Girls Division, a fitness center for both Divisions, and an enhanced Boys Division locker room. This work was made possible by a lead gift from Clarence. His generosity reflects his belief that St. Mary's was a life-changing experience and his desire to sustain its mission for current and future students.



Photos by Tara Johnson | Art Teacher | OLSM

Honoring our

2026 Alumni Awards Recipients

We are proud to announce the 2026 Orchard Lake Schools Alumni Awards honorees and celebrate their outstanding achievements and lasting impact on their professions, communities, and beyond. We invite you to explore their accomplishments and learn how each of them embody the enduring values of faith, leadership, and service that have defined the rich tradition of the Orchard Lake Schools for generations. Read more at: www.orchardlakeschools.com/alumni-awards



**2026 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
JOSEPH MAJCHER (P'66)**

He earned Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate, and MBA degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Detroit Mercy. He proudly served in the US Army and attained the rank of Captain. He retired from General Motors after 37 years as an executive engineer. He is also the former mayor and current councilman of the City of Orchard Lake, Michigan. He is a licensed Michigan residential builder with extensive construction experience.

Joseph is currently vice-chairman of the Board of Regents and Chairman pro-tem of the St. John Paul II Liturgical Center. He has been active in Orchard Lake Schools leadership, serving as a Regent since 2015, Former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Polish Mission, former member of the Seminary Board of Trustees, Facilities Committee Chair, and By-Laws Committee member. He has spent significant time planning campus facilities. He worked with Niagara-Murano Architectural Firm on the design of the Burkacki Academic Building and modernization of the Prep Class Bldg., and with the general contractor on the Prep Class Bldg. modernization. He began restoration of the Galeria and personally erected the General Haller monument on campus.

He is a practicing conservative Catholic and active member of Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish in Sterling Heights, MI. He is fluent in English and Polish. He has been married to his wife Mary for 46 years. He has three adult children, Thomas, Mary Anne, and Monica, and three grandchildren: Maximilian, Gabriel, and Alina.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
PETER FACIONE, PHD, (P'62)**

This Distinguished Alumnus grew up in Detroit, graduated from St. Mary's Preparatory and Sacred Heart College, and earned his PhD from Michigan State University. He is internationally known for his work on assessing and teaching critical thinking, and he has been a lead strategic planning consultant since 2007. He is managing partner of Measured Reasons LLC, a Los Angeles-based research and consulting firm supporting excellence in strategic thinking and leadership decision-making. Pete has served as a dean at Santa Clara University and as the provost at Loyola Chicago. He founded Insight Assessment, which provides reasoning tests for employers, schools, universities, hospitals, and government agencies worldwide. His favorite professional sports teams are the Lions, Red Wings, Tigers, and the Pistons. At his OLSM Honors Convocation, he was given the Kowaleski award, which in those years was given to the most all-around senior.



Honoring our

2026 Alumni Awards Recipients

Continued

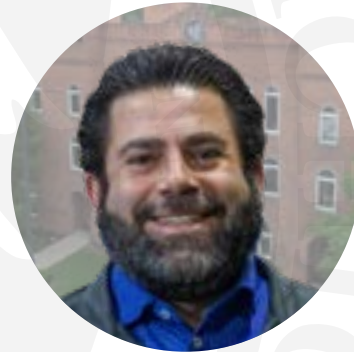


DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
STEVE FACIONE (P'70)

The current Prep Board Trustee and former Regent has built a distinguished career marked by professional achievement and dedicated service to his alma mater. After earning a master's degree from the University of Michigan and working five years in the public sector, he spent most of his 40-year career with Olympia Entertainment, managing Detroit's Joe Louis Arena and Cobo Arena. He also helped lead the restoration of the Fox Theatre and contributed to the construction of Comerica Park. Named to Crain's Detroit Business "40 Under 40" in 1992, he later worked in development for Prep classmate Richard Trzcinski's Primerica Development and finished his career as Vice President of Franchise Development for Big Boy Restaurants.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
JESSE VENEGAS (P'99)

Venegas is President of Ideal Group, a Detroit-based family enterprise spanning manufacturing supply-chain services, construction, and facility protection technologies. Under Venegas's leadership, the company has grown into a nationally recognized business serving major industrial and automotive clients. He is active in civic leadership, serving on the Detroit Opera Board, the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (past Chairperson), and the Michigan Hispanic Latino Commission, and contributing to the Rise Higher Detroit initiative. He supports Orchard Lake St. Mary's through scholarships, athletics, and alumni engagement, and aids Detroit Cristo Rey High School. He was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2025 for Michigan and Northwest Ohio.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
REV. ANDREW WOTTA (P '20, C '22, S '26) POSTHUMOUS

Fr. Wotta was a priest, math and science teacher, and the second principal of St. Mary's Preparatory. The graduate of OLSM and accomplished basketball player returned to the Prep in 1922 as a teacher and later coached the Eaglets to their first Class C State Championship in 1933. He also served as Dean of Men and contributed to documenting the history of St. Mary's College. His lifelong dedication to the formation of young men and to the mission of Orchard Lake reflects the enduring spirit of service and leadership the Schools seek to instill in every graduate. Fr. Wotta passed away in 1990. The Fr. Andrew Wotta Center, originally built in 1891 and later renovated for multiple campus uses, bears his name. Like its namesake, the building reflects a legacy of faith, education, and commitment to student growth.



2026 HONORARY ALUMNI
BARBARA SZYMANSKI

Barbara Szymanski is an Extraordinary Ambassador and Orchard Lake Schools Senator. Her late husband Walter, who passed away in 2019, was a proud member of the Prep Class of 1970 and the couple was married 46 years. Walter was a dedicated and active advocate for Orchard Lake, and Barbara continues to contribute to the values of family and friendship in his honor. Her spirit and humility are deeply appreciated by the Orchard Lake Schools.



2026 HONORARY ALUMNI
VINCENT DIFONZO

Since the summer of 2017, OLSM has been a second home to Vince DiFonzo and his family, beginning with his son's football camp and continuing through his son's 2021 graduation. He also supported numerous crew events, state title celebrations, and his daughter's Class of 2025 graduation activities. Though this alumni parent still can't believe how quickly the years passed, Vince will always cherish the friendships he made and is grateful and proud to be part of the Orchard Lake Schools family.

2026 HONORARY ALUMNI
LISA HEALY

Storytelling has long defined Lisa Healy's career, from automotive journalist and newspaper columnist to PR Chair for the OLSM Moms and Dads Club and, since 2014, Communications Liaison for the Orchard Lake Schools. Guided by her Polish heritage, faith, family, and early childhood Detroit roots, this alumni parent of two OLSM graduates (and a daughter who graduated a few years before the inaugural Girls Division) helps share the enduring story of our campus's 141-year history.



2026 HONORARY ALUMNI
SEAN HENDRICK

Since 2010, Sean Hendrick has proudly taught mathematics at Orchard Lake St. Mary's, recently stepping into the role of Head of the Math Department. In addition to teaching, he has coached cross country, baseball, and track, helping lead our track program to back-to-back state championships. He is passionate about building a lasting impact on students and creating a positive, hardworking culture both in the classroom and in athletics.



2026 HONORARY ALUMNI
GREGORY SCHOP

For more than 25 years, Gregory Chester Schop has dedicated himself to Catholic education, including many meaningful years at Orchard Lake St. Mary's. He holds a master's degree in English, has taught both high school and college, and authored four books under the name G. C. Schop, while also pursuing work in writing, business, and entrepreneurship. A proud father of two Orchard Lake St. Mary's graduates, Gregory is honored to receive this recognition.



2026 HONORARY ALUMNI
MARCUS WEBSTER

Coach Webster joined the Orchard Lake St. Mary's community in 2007 when his son, Evan (P'10) enrolled. He began supporting the boys varsity basketball program as a volunteer video coordinator in 2008 and was appointed assistant coach in 2015, working alongside Head Coach Todd Covert. His role as Co-Founder / Executive Director of REACH Youth Programs of Detroit contributes to his over 40 years of leadership in youth development and athletics.



REFLECTION

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

At the November 2025 Plenary Assembly, the Bishops of the United States voted to consecrate the U.S. to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in recognition of the nation's 250th birthday. That consecration is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026, which is the

eve of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus celebrated (June 12). We will join this consecration on June 11 during our 7:00 PM evening mass in our Shrine Chapel. Here are some excerpts from the Letter of St. John Paul II "on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Divine Heart of Jesus" (June 11, 1999):

In the Words of

ST. JOHN PAUL II

The consecration of the human race to the Heart of Jesus was thus presented by Leo XIII as "the summit and crowning of all the honours which have been customarily paid to the Most Sacred Heart". Such a consecration, the Encyclical explains, is owed to Christ, Redeemer of the human race, for what he is in himself and for what he has done for human beings. Since in the Sacred Heart the believer encounters the symbol and the living image of the infinite love of Christ, which in itself spurs us to love one another, he cannot fail to recognize the need to participate personally in the work of salvation. For this reason every member of the Church is invited to see consecration as the giving and binding of oneself to Jesus Christ, the King "of prodigal sons", the King of all who are waiting to be led "into the light of God and of his kingdom" (Formula of Consecration). Consecration thus understood is to be joined to the missionary activity of the Church herself, because it answers the desire of Jesus' Heart to propagate in the world, through the members of his Body, his total dedication to the kingdom, and to unite the Church ever more closely to his offering to the Father and his being for others...

the right path; darkness has overshadowed our minds, and the gloom must be dispelled by the light of truth; death has seized upon us, and we must lay hold of life". Is this not the programme of the Second Vatican Council and of my own Pontificate? ...



I wish to express my approval and encouragement to all who in any way continue to foster, study and promote devotion to the Heart of Christ in the Church with language and forms adapted to our times, so that it may be transmitted to future generations in the spirit which has always animated it. The faithful still need to be guided to contemplate adoringly the mystery of Christ, the God-Man, in order to become men and women of interior life, people who feel and live the call to new life, to holiness, to reparation which is apostolic cooperation in the salvation of the world, people who prepare themselves for the new evangelization, recognizing the Heart of Christ as the heart of the Church: it is urgent for the world to understand that Christianity is the religion of love.

The consecration of the human race in 1899 represents an extraordinarily important step on the Church's journey and it is still good to renew it every year on the feast of the Sacred Heart. The same should be said of the Act of Reparation which is customarily recited on the feast of Christ the King. The words of Leo XIII still ring true: "We must have recourse to him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. We have gone astray and we must return to

CELEBRATE SUMMER

at the St. Mary's Bookstore!

SUMMER HOURS:
T, W, TH | 9:00 - 3:00
248.392.9964
CLOSED: JUNE 29 - JULY 13 (HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)




ZAPRASZAMY

You are invited to join us for Polish 1st Sunday!
A special Mass at the Orchard Lake Schools to pray for Polonia

Sunday, July 5th • 1:00 PM

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




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.



Polish Institute

UPDATE

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



Constitution Day. May holds a special place in the hearts of Poles and Polish Catholics alike. It is a month shaped by devotion, patriotism, Marian traditions, and gratitude for the sacrifices that preserved faith and nationhood through generations. This

year, Polonia around the world commemorated the 235th anniversary of the Constitution of May 3, 1791, while the United States prepares to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Both milestones remind us of the enduring importance of liberty, civic responsibility, and national identity. For more than a century, Poles and Polish Americans have journeyed to Orchard Lake to celebrate this sacred and patriotic occasion. At Orchard Lake, these traditions remain alive and strong. Dziękujemy za wspólne świętowanie i za obecność w Orchard Lake. *Read more on the next page.*

Consular Services and Exhibit Tours. During the month of May, we were also honored to welcome representatives from the Polish Consulate for consular services and to continue hosting tours of our current exhibition, *The Story of Poland in Posters*. The exhibition has drawn visitors from across Michigan and beyond, highlighting the remarkable visual history of Poland through generations of poster art. We thank all who visited and encourage guests to stay tuned for announcements regarding our upcoming exhibition season.

Polish Intelligence During WWII. On May 13, the Polish Institute hosted Dr. John Radzilowski's lecture, *The Last Great Secret: Polish Intelligence and the Allied Victory in World War II*, presented

in partnership with the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas. Guests joined us both in person and via Zoom for a compelling discussion on Poland's extraordinary intelligence contributions during the war. While the breaking of the Enigma code is now widely recognized, Dr. Radzilowski explored the broader and often overlooked story of Polish human intelligence operations across Europe and around the world.



Launch of Literary Salon Series. On May 15, we proudly launched the inaugural event of the Polish Institute Literary Salon Series with Michigan author Amanda Barratt and her novel, *The Warsaw Sisters*. Research for the book was conducted in part through the archives of the Polish Institute and the World War II Museum, making the evening especially meaningful for our community. *See page 18.*

Acclaimed Ukranian Pianist. On May 23, we welcomed acclaimed Ukrainian pianist Tetiana Shafran to the Galeria in partnership with the American Romanian Festival. A First Prize winner of the Olga Kern International Piano Competition, Ms. Shafran presented a beautiful and varied program featuring works by Beethoven, Lysenko, Busoni, Enescu, and Chopin. Her performance brought together audiences from many communities for an afternoon centered on artistic excellence and cultural exchange.

June Devotions and Historic Moments. June devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus remain an important tradition throughout Poland and Polonia communities worldwide. The month also recalls historic moments in modern Polish history, including the 1979 pilgrimage of St. John Paul II to Poland

and the Poznań protests of 1956, reminders of the enduring Polish pursuit of faith and freedom.

A Big Founder's Day Welcome. We look forward to welcoming guests back to campus for Founders Day on Saturday, June 6. The Galeria will also be open for Polish First Sunday on Sunday, June 7, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For those returning to Orchard Lake, welcome back. For those visiting for the first time, witamy serdecznie.

North American Documentary Premiere.

On June 20, the Polish Institute will host the North American premiere of *Covenant of Blood: The Last Soldiers of World War II*, featuring filmmaker Patrick Ney as well as view 947 Days in Auschwitz, Patrick Ney's newly selected festival documentary produced with the Home Army Museum in Kraków. The Polish Institute is committed to preserving and presenting difficult but essential chapters of Polish history. *Read more on page 18.*

Poland's Children's Choir Comes to Michigan.

Looking ahead to July 10 at 7:00 PM, we are excited to welcome *Scholaris Minoris pro Musica Antiqua* from Poland during its only Michigan appearance. This distinguished children's choir specializes in Renaissance and Baroque sacred music and is celebrated for preserving the rich traditions of early European choral performance. Their visit promises to be a joyful and memorable evening! *Read more on page 20.*

Call for Submissions. The Polish Institute is also pleased to announce the 30th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition. This milestone competition continues a proud tradition of supporting artistic excellence and celebrating the enduring relationship between Polish heritage and the arts. *See page 19.*

Dziękujemy za Państwa obecność, wsparcie i życzliwość. Do zobaczenia w Orchard Lake.

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY

on Campus

This year's Orchard Lake celebrations carried special significance as the 235th anniversary of the Constitution of May 3 paralleled the approaching 250th anniversary of the United States, reminding us of the enduring democratic ideals shared by both nations. Hundreds gathered on campus for Holy Mass, the student Akademia, the Vivat 3 Maja 5K Run, the student art competition awards, and the Galeria exhibition, *The Story of Poland in Posters*.

Every 5K participant received a symbolic prize, a commemorative medal sponsored by the Polish Institute of Culture & Research. The fastest runners received beautiful trophies sponsored by the Polish American Congress, Michigan Division.

Congratulations to all the participants of the 3rd Annual Polish Language Student Art Competition. This year's theme, "Poland & America: Stories That Connect Us," encouraged students to reflect

on heritage, identity, history, and the lasting ties between the two nations. Honorees include:
Group I - Ages 6–11. 1st Place — Maya Płuciennik; 2nd Place — Anita Kosowski; 3rd Place — Alexander Rzedzian; Honorable Mention — Jake Mikulski;
Group II - Ages 12–18. 1st Place — E. Paszek; 2nd Place — Ella Selakowski; 3rd Place — Summer Doyle; Honorable Mention — Luke Mathie.



Literary Salon Series Launches with Michigan Author Amanda Barratt's

THE WARSAW SISTERS



On May 15th, the Polish Institute of Culture & Research launched the Literary Salon Series by hosting acclaimed Michigan author Amanda Barratt who presented her internationally recognized historical novel, *The Warsaw Sisters*. Developed in part through research conducted within the archives and World War II Museum of the Polish Institute, the novel explores the experiences of two sisters navigating the devastation, courage, and resistance of wartime Poland.

Barratt noted the profound impact Orchard Lake had on her research process while writing *The Warsaw Sisters*. "Researching at Orchard Lake was an

unforgettable experience," Barratt shared. "To work among preserved archives, artifacts, and personal histories connected to Poland's wartime experience brought tremendous depth and authenticity to my writing. Places like the Polish Institute are vital because they preserve stories that might otherwise be lost."

"The Literary Salon Series reflects exactly what the Polish Institute strives to be: a living cultural center where history, scholarship, storytelling, and community come together," said Ania Bieciuk, Associate Director for Polonia Affairs at the Polish Institute of Culture & Research at Orchard Lake. "We hope these gatherings inspire curiosity, meaningful conversation, and a deeper appreciation for the richness of Polish and Polish American experiences across generations."

FATHER'S DAY at the Galeria:

Covenant of Blood North American Premiere with Patrick Ney

Looking for the perfect Father's Day outing? Join us on Friday, June 20 at 7:00 PM at the Galeria for the North American premiere of *Covenant of Blood: The Last Soldiers of WWII*. We are thrilled to host filmmaker Patrick Ney for this powerful evening exploring the story of Poland's "Cursed Soldiers," the underground resistance fighters who continued battling Soviet-imposed communism after World War II. Through historical records, survivor testimony, and years of independent research, the film uncovers stories erased for decades under communist rule. A Meet & Greet with the filmmaker will follow.

As a special addition to the evening, guests will also view *947 Days in Auschwitz*, a 15-minute companion documentary produced with the Home Army Museum in Kraków. The film examines the Polish resistance movement within Auschwitz and the courageous efforts made to alert the world to

the atrocities taking place inside the camp. There is no charge for this event. A free will donation is appreciated. For registration information visit: www.picrol.org



Open Call for Submissions



30th Friends of Polish Art Fine Arts Competition

In Partnership with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research



Detail of painting by Richard Kubinski

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

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

Opening Reception
 September 12, 2026

Closing Reception
 October 24, 2026

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

SAVE THE DATE!

A SPECIAL EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SCHOLARIS MINORES pro Musica Antiqua

FROM POLAND

Renaissance & Baroque Sacred Music



FRIDAY
JULY
10

7:00 P.M.

THE FIRST STOP
ON THEIR
MICHIGAN
ONLY TOUR!

GALERIA
ORCHARD LAKE SCHOOLS
3535 INDIAN TRAIL
ORCHARD LAKE, MI 48324

CONCERT & FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FROM POLAND,
TOGETHER THEY PRESERVE
THE BEAUTY OF
EARLY EUROPEAN MUSIC
FOR TODAY.

This distinguished children's choir and early music ensemble from Poland specializes in Renaissance and Baroque sacred music performed on period instruments. Through authentic costumes, historical instruments, and remarkable musical artistry, the group brings centuries-old European traditions to life with passion, precision, and youthful joy.

FOUNDER'S DAY | ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF OUTING THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!

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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



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 GROTTTO.**



3 WAYS TO DONATE:

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



SCAN CODE

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

All donations are tax deductible. EIN: 82-5453994

June 2026

Upcoming EVENTS highlights

5	Alumni Reunion Weekend Begins Limited Tee Times at Pine Knob Golf Club
6	FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION Family 5K Run/Walk 8:00 AM Alumni Soccer Game Red Turf Field 9:00 AM 7-on-7 Alumni Football Game Red Turf Field 11:30 AM Founder's Day Mass Grotto 4:30 PM Founder's, Alumni & Friends Trzcinski Quad 5:30 PM
7	POLISH 1ST SUNDAY
14	FLAG DAY
18	A Champions Tribute Wabeek Country Club 6:00 PM
19	Juneteenth
20	"Covenant of Blood: The Last Soldiers of World War II" Documentary Galeria 7:00 PM
20-21	WIANKI (Summer Solstice Celebration in Poland)
21	FATHER'S DAY First Day of Summer
28-July 5	Campus Offices Closed for Holiday Break
June-Aug	Orchard Lake Schools Summer Camps

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

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 April.

JEANETTE BLESSING	GERALDINE A. MADISON C'1989	JOHN H. RENDZIO
ANNA COSENZA	GERALD M. MAIER	TRISH SPENGLER
CHARLES M. GARRY	ANITA MCCABE	PAMELA WILLIAMS
JULIE KENRICK	BUD OHSIEK	DARLENE JOAN WOLFBAUER
GEORGE KINNA	WALLY OZOG	
MATTHEW LANDINO	FELECIDADE PEREIRA	

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 +

STEVEN JUGAN (P'72)

April 17, 2026 ~ Age 72
Redding, California

+ 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

June 2026

MASS schedule

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 | CORPUS CHRISTI

9:00 AM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	SEMINARY CHAPEL
8:30 AM	FR. MCDONELL LATIN	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
11:00 AM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1:00 PM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

TUESDAY, JUNE 9 | HEALING MASS

7:00 PM	FR. AUGUSTINE ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
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THURSDAY, JUNE 11

| CONSECRATION OF THE U.S. TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

7:00 PM	FR. WITEK ENGLISH	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
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SUNDAY, JUNE 14

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, JUNE 21 | FATHER'S 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
1:00 PM	FR. WITEK POLISH*	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE

SUNDAY, JUNE 28

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/
@orchardlakeschools9385/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@orchardlakeschools9385/streams)

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

DAILY MASSES

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

SHRINE OPEN HOURS

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

1 ST THURSDAY 6/4	MASS 7:00 PM *FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1 ST FRIDAY 6/5	MASS 7:00 PM * FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
1 ST SATURDAY 6/6	MASS 9:00 AM * FR. WITEK	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
THURSDAY 6/18	BIBLE STUDY AFTER MASS 7:45 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
FRIDAY 6/19	DIVINE MERCY PRAYERS 7:45 PM	ST. JOHN PAUL II SHRINE
	KRAŁG 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